

# TownTalk



## News and views from Bury St Edmunds Town Council

7 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1UZ

☎ 01284 725111

✉ [info@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:info@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk) 🌐 [www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

**BURY ST EDMUNDS  
TOWN COUNCIL**

Volume 2 : Issue 2

**April 2010**

### Chairman's introduction



The Town Council is now 'embedded' in its new premises on Angel Hill and there have been very few 'hiccups' so far. Gradually, the whole building will become fully occupied and restored as a civic amenity centre. This is only fitting given the history and location of what was formerly the home of the Bury St Edmunds Borough Council, and from 1974, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, until the move to Western Way a year ago.

The reoccupation of the Angel Hill offices just before Christmas coincided with heavy snowfalls and weeks of disruption right across the British Isles. Town councils like ours were inundated with requests for salt/grit bins and we responded as quickly as we could. Our stocks of bright yellow bins were distributed across Bury, mainly in cul-de-sacs on a slope where the county council lorries didn't visit. New bins have been ordered and our staff are busy visiting sites where bins have been requested to assess their suitability. We intend to keep up this rolling programme until the demand is satisfied. The next time it snows heavily again, there may be a bin somewhere near you.

### Allotment update

If you are a plot holder, you will by now have received your invoice for the

coming year. This year we are asking you to pay the rent directly into the bank, rather than to us. The reasons for this are several: to avoid you a wasted journey to the office if staff are not available to take your money, to avoid us having to pay extra banking costs out of your council tax, to reduce the administration, and to help prepare us all for the eventual phasing out of cheques. If you have any queries about this, do feel free to contact us, or look on the website (all details below).

The leaflet 'Frequently Asked Questions' has been sent out to plot holders with their invoices, and should help clarify issues that arise regularly.

The new allotment site at Cotton Lane has unfortunately been delayed further as we understand that a wildlife survey has to be undertaken before the land can be cleared.

We will soon be starting our weekly visits to allotment sites to check that plots are being cultivated. We are aware that we have a long waiting list and so will continue to ensure that all plots are being well used and worked.

The Council plans to hold another allotment competition this year, with a similar format to last year's. Watch this space for further details!

### St Edmund's Day

St Edmund's Day is 20 November. The Council has decided to reinstate the awards it gave in 2005 and 2006, which were for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Details of this year's awards and how to nominate someone will be available in the next couple of months. The story

of St Edmund is fascinating, and there is a good summary of his life and death on

[www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/visit/stedmund.cfm](http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/visit/stedmund.cfm).

### You asked, we did..

At each Council meeting we have an item on the agenda entitled 'Public Forum' at which we invite any members of the public present to raise issues of concern to them.

Recent queries raised with us include:

*I am concerned about the eyesore of wheelie bins on our streets and have designed a poster encouraging people to hide them away.*

We sent a copy of this poster to St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Havebury Housing Partnership and requested that they send a copy to each household.

*Could a notice board be placed in each ward area of the town to better advertise Town Council activities?*

This was discussed and it was felt that, due to the high costs of notice boards, this was not a cost effective way of disseminating information and that our current methods (notice boards in the Cornhill and our offices; copies to the library, community centres and voluntary organisations, press, Borough and County Councillors) is sufficient.

*There is too much traffic using St Andrew's Street South, which makes it difficult, and dangerous, for pedestrians to cross the road. The signs are unclear and misleading.*

We took this up with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and put pressure on them to take appropriate action.

*Parking regulations around the war memorial on Angel Hill are not being enforced sufficiently by the police.*

We wrote to the police Safer Neighbourhood Team requesting that they enforce the parking rules more rigidly. We understand there is disagreement with St Edmundsbury Borough Council as to whether the signage is adequate regarding parking restrictions in this area. We will continue to put pressure on to get this sorted out.

*Can a part of the market be devoted to selling organic food?*

It was felt by Councillors that enough provision is already in place.

### Keeping you informed

You can find information about the Town Council on the website, [www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk). But we also appreciate that not everyone has access to, or wants to use, the internet. Everything that we provide online can be provided on request in hard copy. We welcome suggestions, feedback and comments.



The website each month features a topic written by Councillors or staff. March's for example is about the Town Council's crest and its history.

#dial 01638 before this number  
 • no code required

There is currently a vacancy in Southgate ward, for which a by-election has been requested, scheduled for 20 May. Polling cards will be issued to remind you to vote.

The members of staff are:

Town Clerk and Proper Officer:

Jen Larner

Tel: 01284 757139

Email:

[jen.larner@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:jen.larner@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible

Finance Officer:

Sue Hindry

Tel: 01284 725111

Email:

[susan.hindry@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:susan.hindry@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

### Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting provides another opportunity for you to come along and have your say. This is a meeting that must be held once a year between March 1 and June 1. It is a meeting of all the local government electors for the town. That means that if you are on the electoral register, you can speak or vote on any matter. Anyone not on the electoral register is welcome to attend but not to speak or vote. It is NOT a council meeting. Please do come along and tell us your thoughts. This year it will be on 19 May at 6.00 at the Town Council offices in Angel Hill.



### 'Don't bury your head in the sand'

A new leaflet has been drawn up to highlight the role of the Town Council and Councillors, and to encourage people to get involved in the local democratic process. This is available at the Town Council offices, libraries, on our website and at community centres. If you would like a copy please let us know.

### How to make contact

All Town Councillors can be contacted via the telephone numbers below (all numbers have 01284 as their dialling code unless specified otherwise), or by e-mail. Some have mobile or business telephone numbers as shown on [www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk).

- <sup>1</sup> **Roy Bebbington** 706981
- <sup>2</sup> **Keith Bird** 763689
- <sup>3</sup> **Patrick Chung** 761120
- <sup>4</sup> **Robert (Bob) Cockle** 756249
- <sup>5</sup> **James Dinsdale\*** 07940 536269
- <sup>6</sup> **Paul Farmer** 768777
- <sup>7</sup> **Allan Jones** 756415
- <sup>8</sup> **VACANCY**
- <sup>9</sup> **Edward Lockwood** 711698<sup>#</sup>
- <sup>10</sup> **Michele Lockwood** 711698<sup>#</sup>
- <sup>11</sup> **Stefan Oliver** 706172
- <sup>12</sup> **David Nettleton** 702212
- <sup>13</sup> **Richard Rout** 767494
- <sup>14</sup> **Paul Simner** 768202
- <sup>15</sup> **Clive Springett** 753120
- <sup>16</sup> **Patricia Warby** 704138
- <sup>17</sup> **Kevin Waterson** 764804

- 1, 15 and 16:** Moreton Hall ward
- 2 and 5:** Westgate ward
- 3 and 17:** Minden ward
- 4 and 10:** St Olaves ward
- 6 and 13:** Abbeygate ward
- 7 and 8:** Southgate ward
- 9:** Northgate ward
- 11:** Eastgate ward
- 12 and 14:** Risbygate ward

Administrative Assistant:

Paula Gladwell

Tel: 01284 725111

Email:

[paula.gladwell@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:paula.gladwell@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

### Schedule of Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Town Council offices on Angel Hill. Notices and agendas are displayed on the notice boards at Cornhill, in the office, the library and at St Edmundsbury Borough Council offices a few days before the meeting.

The remaining meetings for the current year are:

14 April

6.30 Planning and Licensing committee  
 7.00 Finance, Policy & Resources committee

28 April

6.30 Planning and Licensing committee

12 May

6.30 Planning and Licensing committee  
 7.00 Finance, Policy & Resources committee

19 May

6.00 Annual Town Meeting  
 7.00 Annual Meeting of the Council