



W-s-M Town News

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

made to the Annual Town Meeting at the
Blakehay Theatre on 1st June 2009

OPENING REMARKS BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW HORLER, TOWN MAYOR 2008/2009

Camilla and I would like to thank all involved in our year as Mayor and Mayoress of Weston super Mare. We were both incredibly privileged and honoured to share in the many different types of events from all areas and all aspects of the community. A massive amount of good work is taking place in Weston involving volunteers, charities, clubs and organisations that really make our town a fantastic place to live. Weston is a thriving town, its community has a huge heart and much is done without thanks or recognition. Without the thousands who volunteer, who give up their time, Weston would not be quite so super! Once again thank you.

The purpose of this report is for us to let you know what the Town Council has been doing and to gain feedback from you about what we could be doing better, what you would like to see us do and hopefully what we are doing well. In this issue we will expand on the work of the Town Council throughout the year, we will also expand on our plans for the future. The water play feature on the Sea Front, improvements to the Blakehay, continued works on the Cemetery and its Chapel, improvements to play areas and much more. The Town Council, its councillors and staff are there for you. Please contact one of us, call, email or write to us if there is anything on your mind or if we can help you in anyway possible. I am passionate about Weston and I am sure if we all work together we can continue to make it a better place to visit, work and live.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE 2008/2009 COUNCILLOR DR MIKE KELLAWAY-MARRIOTT

You will already know from the last edition of the Town News, that the Council contained its increase at Band D level to 1.1% in the current year with our Band D tax base at 1st April amounting to just £44.85 per year. I set out a summary of our budget on page 3. During the year the budget was reformed in order that it could be more easily understood and could be related directly to individual committees, which have the power to spend within their budget without reference back to Council. As is normal, the work of the Policy and Finance Committee covers a diverse list of duties, one of the most important of which, in my view, is that of providing grant aid to Community Organisations. In 2008/2009, a total of 59 grants were given to organisations at a total cost of £68,154. From the report given by the Town Mayor for last year, you will notice that that money is well spent, as the organisations continue to expand and serve our community.

WATER PLAY

You will have read from earlier Newsletters and in the press, that the Council is committed to the provision of a water play park on the sea front at the former Park Place Putting Green. I am pleased to say that earlier this month we received planning permission for the facility and that we are currently pursuing grant aid in order to keep the cost down to taxpayers. The result of our application will be known at the end of September. I should point out that the facility will go ahead even if grant aid is not received, but it is hoped that a sum of almost £150,000 will be forthcoming to assist us with the project costs, so that it is worth waiting in hope!

THE BLAKEHAY

The Blakehay Theatre is also high on our plans for improvement. Originally it was felt that a major refurbishment would be undertaken, but when the credit crunch arrived, Members felt it would be unwise to proceed with that level of expenditure when we are all having to tighten our belts. We are currently pursuing a policy of undertaking essential improvements such as the provision of new toilets, together with soundproofing works which will enable the various rooms within the Blakehay to be utilised by different organisations at the same time. In addition it is our intention to redecorate throughout and provide a proper bar facility within the building. It is hoped that local contractors can be used to undertake this work.

FINANCIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

The Council has strengthened its corporate performance during the year by introducing and updating its financial and administrative procedures. As stated earlier, the budget was completely reorganised in order to reach greater accountability which, in turn, enables Members to more closely monitor income and expenditure.

New Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, coupled with the introduction for the first time of a Corporate Performance Plan, have allowed Members to set targets and monitor performance. The Council is committed to the principles of best value and has adopted an annual programme during which it will independently assess its services as part of best value requirements.

The new Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils was adopted from 1st January 2009 as Members are committed to openness and integrity in all their dealings.

As I leave the Chairmanship of the Committee to take up my new Civic Duties, I should like to take this opportunity of placing on record my sincere thanks to all the Town Council staff who have performed so admirably in the past year.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE 2008/2009
COUNCILLOR CHARLES HEARD

The Planning and Transportation Committee meets every three weeks on Wednesday evenings at Grove House. The primary function is to consider all planning applications for the town. From 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 these totalled 536, ranging from home extensions, property changes and conversions to major new developments such as the new Grand Pier.

Your comments as parishioners are welcomed by the Committee; this can be in person, by attending meetings or by written observations to Grove House. Recommendations on the planning applications are made by the Committee on behalf of the Town Council and whilst these do not carry the power of the final decision, North Somerset Council, as the Planning Authority, accords them due consideration via their delegated decision process, the West Area Committee and, in some instances, the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

The Committee aims to ensure that the character of Weston-super-Mare is preserved and, if possible, enhanced. The impact of any planning application on the people who live in the area must be considered. The Town Council will continue to take into account local opinion when presenting recommendations to North Somerset Council and, in particular, will oppose the conversion of properties into unsuitable multi-occupancy dwellings, the creation of additional drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres, and the installation of telecom masts close to residential developments and public facilities. Recommendations include re-planting where trees are proposed for felling and the encouragement of secondary shopping sites to become vibrant trading areas.

Support is given especially for re-development of key tourist and seafront sites and the visual impact of access routes into the town. As a key stakeholder, the Council is consulted on future plans for the Town and current consultations include the Core Strategy, Weston Area Action Plan and Pier Square. Further information can be obtained direct from North Somerset Council's website. www.n-somerset.gov.uk

I am delighted to announce that we have achieved our aim to become 'greener' by viewing the planning application electronically via the internet, as opposed to the current system of receiving paper plans at a financial cost to the North Somerset Council and an environmental cost to our planet.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 2008/2009
COUNCILLOR CLIVE WEBB

Like the other Committees, the Community Services Committee has been very busy in the last year. The Committee deals with recreational facilities, Milton Road Cemetery, work within the Community including the Newsletter and the Website, and street furniture, and from next year, it will also be dealing with grants to local organisations. Whilst on that subject, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Council if you think we can support your organisation – the worst we can say is "No".

The major change to the work of the Community Services Committee in the last year has been an increased focus on working with our Community Groups. During the year, we held our first Community Groups Meeting, a feature which we hope will become established by meeting regularly with all of the Groups. We aim to better assist their work, which is greatly appreciated by our residents, as well as by the Town Council. Our retiring Mayor has already paid tribute to the work they undertake and I would like to add my thanks, as these Groups are the heart of our town.

BARCODE

Our Barcode Youth facility is currently expanding its usage. The young people have themselves taken part in outreach work, including a performance at the Town Quarry by Barcode's Music and Street Dance group and a "No Messin" weekend at Hutton Moor during which children and their parents were given information on Barcode in order to improve attendances. In addition, schools have been visited for the same purpose and one or two schools have already held end of term celebrations at Barcode.

In the very near future, a ramp to enable better access for disabled people will be built at the front of the building.

NEWSLETTER

Our Newsletter was launched in November last year and the reports which are made to you this evening will form the basis of our third edition. I am happy to say that the Newsletter has been a great success, with responses from the general public helping us with our knowledge of their requirements.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Town Council is also embarking upon a programme of community events, both large and small, and we see these as an opportunity, both to entertain our residents and to give Community Groups the opportunity to publicise themselves.

WEBSITE

Our new website will give Community Groups the opportunity to communicate with the public as well as to expand greatly on the information we currently give on the existing website. The launch date is imminent.

MILTON ROAD CEMETERY

I should like to pay tribute to our Groundstaff at Milton Road Cemetery. Massive improvements have been carried out in the last year, with the intention of eventually returning the Cemetery to its former glory.

The Chapel has been closed for a long period in order that works to the Bell Tower can be carried out. At the same time, interest has been shown in the history of the Cemetery and those who are buried there, some of whom are very famous. For that reason, a Friends of Milton Road Cemetery Group has been formed and if any of you would like to join, please contact the office as soon as possible.

The intention is that the Group will hold exhibitions and informative talks in order that the history will be recorded for future generations. In that regard, we are already working with schools which have shown an interest.

We are currently also undertaking works of improvement to the public toilets in the Cemetery.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

During the year, the Millennium Green was opened and now provides a very attractive facility for the South Ward of the town. The Council was delighted to work with the South Ward Neighbourhood Management Partnership to provide this facility which we are sure is already valued by residents.

NOTICE BOARDS

A programme of replacement of existing Notice Boards is currently underway. If you feel there is a need for a Notice Board in an area where there is currently no information, please contact the office.

BUS SHELTERS

The Council had hoped to work with an advertising company in providing new shelters but, in the present financial climate, that has proved not to be possible. However, we are pressing ahead to provide two or three new shelters and are programming repairs to existing shelters owned by the Town Council. For identification purposes, the blue shelters belong to the Town Council.

WESTON IN BLOOM

Once again, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the magnificent work undertaken by the Working Party responsible for working on Weston in Bloom. A team of volunteers, led by Richard Knowles, work tirelessly for the Community in ensuring that our town is bedecked with flowers and I believe that this is the proper time and place to thank them on behalf of all the residents. Their plans are already well advanced for the current year.

ALLOTMENTS

Our allotments are fully booked and the Town Council has a long waiting list. For that reason, it is constantly looking for land which could be used for this purpose. You will, of course, appreciate there is very little land available, with all the building works taking place within the town. If you know of a suitable area, please contact the office.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL 2008/2009

GEORGINA HUDSON

The Youth Council have achieved much in the past year, and have renewed their membership to the British Youth Council. On 4th June, Members of the Youth Council took a trip to the Houses of Parliament to vote on "The 16 Bill", with discussions with Members of Parliament on the implications on changing the voting age to 16 years.

The Youth Council has also taken the opportunity to hold a question and answer session with John Penrose MP who attended a meeting at Grove House in November 2008.

Along with this, workshops have been held on Communication and Advocacy and the Youth Council have created and implemented their own ground rules. At the end of 2008 the Youth Council were given the power to distribute grants up to £500.00 for good causes which involve young people, without referral to the Policy and Finance Committee.

Members of the Youth Council were actively involved with the Tackling Drugs Week in May 2008 and promoted the Youth Council at the Rail Safety Weekend, "No Messin". A presentation of the Youth Council was held at the first Town Council's Community Group Meeting in January 2009, providing information to all community groups who attended.

Weston super Mare Town Council budget 2009/2010

<u>Budget 2009/2010</u>			
Cost Code	Expenditure	Income	Net
Allotments	16,165	2,500	13,665
Barcode	244,677	131,516	113,161
Blakehay Bar	3,000	5,000	- 2,000
Blakehay Theatre	151,069	43,000	108,069
Capital Projects	65,000		65,000
Civic Support	63,879		63,879
Community Services	189,573	10,000	179,573
Democratic Representation	80,351		80,351
Milton Road Cemetery	144,445	16,000	128,445
Other Costs & Income	137,679	12,000	125,679
Parks & Play Areas	143,771	25,000	118,771
Planning	28,316		28,316
Strategic Planning	106,651		106,651
Street Furniture	35,782		35,782
Youth Activities	10,894		10,894
TOTAL	£ 1,421,251	245,016	£ 1,176,235
PRECEPT 2009/2010			£ 1,176,235

WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCILLORS

CONSERVATIVE

Andrew Horler— Leader and Councillor of Ashcombe Wood
Geoff Bunn—Central
Robert Cleland—Ewart
William Collins—Hutton Moor
Clive Darke—Worle Central
Steve Edwards—Castle Batch
Charles Havill—Mead Vale
Charles Heard—Bleadon Hill
David Hitchins—Summer Lane
Jocelyn Holder—Ellenborough
Phil Judd—Worle East
Mike Kellaway-Marriott—Central
Chris Kimitri—Birmbeck
Keith Morris—Broadoak and Uphill
Dawn Parry—Ashcombe Wood
Marcia Pepperall—Ebdon
Lisa Pilgrim—Worlebury
Ian Porter—Worlebury

Len Purnell—Earlham
Clive Webb—Clarence
Roz Willis—Milton

LIB DEM

Mark Canniford— Grove
June How—Wyvern
Christopher Howell—Summer Lane
Paula Howell—Worle East
Edward Keating—Worle South

LABOUR

Cyril King—Oldmixon
Ian Parker -Bournville and
Coronation
Rose Warwick—Bournville and
Coronation

INDEPENDENT

John Ley-Morgan—Broadoak and Uphill

To contact a Councillor please phone the Council Office on 01934 632567.

The Blakehay

The month of June kicks off with the Town Council's Annual Town Meeting, a chance to celebrate many of the local societies and community work currently supported by the Town Council.

The Blakehay is fortunate to have two music groups - the Weston Youth Orchestra and The R.A.F.A Band both of whom use the venue for rehearsals and the R.A.F.A Band's next concert is on Sat. June 6th at 7.30pm so why not pop along and listen to one of the South West's top bands. Other dates to look forward to are an acoustic night on 13th June at 7.30pm and on Saturday 20th June what promises to be a magical version of The Wizard Oz, performed by Rising Stars, a group of enthusiastic young entertainers.

The next day Sunday 14th it's the turn of the local guides and brownies with an entertaining show for all ages. Finally a big welcome back to the Spanish students who will be at the Theatre on mornings during the summer months.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Planning Committee - 3rd and 24th June at Grove House.
Community Services - 8th June 7pm at Grove House.
Policy and Finance - 15th June 7pm at Grove House.
Barcode Management Sub Committee - 29th June 7pm at Barcode.
Youth Council - 29th June 5.30pm at Barcode.
Blakehay Man. Sub Committee - 6th July 7pm at the Blakehay.
Planning Committee - 15th July 7pm at Grove House.
Town Council Meeting - 20th July 7pm at the Town Hall.
Community Services - 27th July 7pm at Grove House.
Policy and Finance - 17th August 7pm at Grove House.
Planning Committee - 5th and 26th August 7pm at Grove House.

The public are welcome to attend any meeting held by the Town Council.



Councillor Dr Mike Kellaway-Marriott was elected as Town Mayor for 2009/2010 at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Thursday 21st May.

A full report will be included in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Stop Press

WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL STAFF CONTACTS

The Town Clerk - Mr Malcolm Nicholson
Town Clerk's Secretary - Miss Alison House
Responsible Finance Officer - Mrs Sarah Pearse
Planning - Mrs Tania Middlemiss
Grants - Mrs Helen Morton
Community Work, Parks and Weston in Bloom - Miss Rafika Aissaoui
Website, Newsletter - Miss Zoe Clements
Cemetery, Allotments and Weddings - Mrs Theresa Donald
Mayoral Engagements - Mrs Gina Powers
Youth Council and Disabled Parking Bays - Miss Sam Middlemiss
Town Guide and General Enquiries - Miss Julie Smith
The Blakehay Theatre - Mr Jack Edgar
Barcode Youth Café - Mr Kevin Lilwall
All staff can be contacted through the main Office number: 01934 632567



Coat of Arms
Granted to
the Borough
in 1960

Weston-super-Mare Town Council

Grove House
Grove Park
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 2QJ
Tel: 01934 632567
Fax: 01934 642794



Website: www.weston-super-maretowncouncil.gov.uk
Open Monday-Thursday 9am– 5pm, Fridays 9am-4.30pm

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. Please let us know your views. You can contact us on:- Tel 01934 632567.



Weston in Bloom Community Show

Saturday 20th & 21st June 2009

Beach Lawns (Opposite Tropicana)

Free Admission

Saturday 10am until 10pm - Sunday 10.30 until 5pm

Photographs With Your Favourite Cartoon Characters

Live Music on Stage From Local Bands

Displays by the Fire Brigade • Planter Competition

Fire Act • Community Performance

Community and Trade Stalls

Small Rides and Amusements • Inflatables

Multi-cultural Food Tent • Face Painting & Much More!



Book your Trade Stall Now!

Contact Rafika
(Community and Leisure Officer)
01934 632 567

SPONSORS



A weekend of fun and entertainment for all the family

TENONS

The Environmental Network of North Somerset
To be held at the Blakehay Theatre, Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare

Wednesday 17th June at 7.30 p.m: TENONS (The Environmental Network of North Somerset) Open Meeting – James Field, North Somerset Levels Biodiversity Officer, 'Otters and Water Voles in North Somerset

Sunday 20th September at 12.00 – 4.00 in Ashcombe Park, Upper Bristol Road – 'Sunday in the Park'. What's a Bogit? Come and find out on this day of 'green' fun activities for children. TENONS and North Somerset Wildlife Wardens will be joined by the Rangers and Goblin Combe.

Wednesday 21st October at 7.30 p.m : TENONS (The Environmental Network of North Somerset) Open Meeting – Power of Community – the film about Cuba and how they survived the oil crisis.

Saturday 24th October 10.00 a.m : 'Power from the Severn' : Presentations on Tidal Energy Generation

Wednesday 18th November at 7.30 p.m : TENONS (The Environmental Network of North Somerset) Open Meeting – Liz Macdonald of Riverford Organics 'Food for Thought'

For Further information please visit our website at www.tenons.org.uk or Tel 01934 623000



Picture courtesy
of the
Weston & Somerset Mercury

Macmillan Cancer Support

in

Weston Super Mare

Cancer affects 1 in 3 of us. Currently we are helping 1 in 2 of these. Our aim is to reach everyone affected. We are Macmillan Cancer Support and we can only do this with your support. We are already helping people like Sue. Sue was diagnosed in 2007 and has already received not only medical treatment but importantly, financial support from Macmillan. This enables her to support her family and live the way she should be able to.

Macmillan provides advice on accessing government benefits that **you** are entitled to as well as offering financial grants. Patients can be put forward for a Macmillan Grant by their Macmillan Professional to help ease the financial burden. It's simple and easy to do.

There are some superb support services right here in Weston Super Mare so if you are directly or indirectly affected by Cancer, your first port of call should be the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre in the Weston General Hospital.. Dawn Watt offers a warm welcome and friendly confidential advice at a time when you might not know who to turn to.

Weston-super-Mare Town Council is a keen supporter of Macmillan and lends its support to the local fundraising activities with the Macmillan Coffee Morning held annually at Barcode Youth Café. However this is also a unique opportunity for **you** to get involved and help us to make a difference.

We are looking for keen volunteers to support Macmillan and we are currently offering a variety of roles to suit all ages and abilities. Without the support of our volunteers we simply could not deliver our services and volunteering is a uniquely rewarding opportunity to give something back to your community.

Today over 822 people will be diagnosed with cancer. We want to help every single one of them through practical, medical emotional and financial support services. Please help us to help them by getting in contact and volunteering for 2009.

For more information call Ian on 0117 967 0975 or email idore@macmillan.org.uk

Macmillan needs you!

