

Bampton Town Council

Newsletter

August 2009

Your Councillors

Terry Knagg(Chairman)
332280

John Broom(Vice Chair)
332422

Fran Collier
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Colin Fagg
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Les Hartley
332155

Celia Hicks
332101

Lucie Moore
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Francis Stoner
332217

Pauline West
331006

Introduction

This newsletter is something of an experiment because we, Bampton Town Council, realise that most people in Bampton probably have very little idea about what the council does, or tries to do.

Among other things we have responsibility to try and maintain the public areas of the Town in a safe and tidy condition and to try and make improvements wherever possible. This includes Car Parks, Public Toilets and Recreation Areas.

The maintenance of the surface structure of the high-ways, i.e. roads and pavements are the responsibility of Devon Highways Department and the street cleaning and emptying of litter bins and dog bins is carried out by Mid Devon District Council.

We also have to respond to reasonable concerns and complaints from residents and to try to anticipate the future needs of the Town.

We scrutinise all planning applications before they go to Mid Devon Planning Authority who make the final decision whether to approve them or not.

In order to fulfil all our responsibilities we are given a small amount of money annually. Out of this budget we have to pay for almost everything that we do including the services of a Clerk which is a considerable expense but without a Clerk to deal with

Correspondence and accounts we could not operate as a Council. For the rest we try to get the best value that we can but we are not always able to do all the things we would like to on a very limited budget. Please bear in mind that any money spent by BTC or MDDC is paid for by the people of Bampton out of your Council Tax. The Council hopes that the information contained in this newsletter is useful. If so then please try to let us know.

It is our aim to be as transparent as we possibly can. We hope to issue a similar Newsletter about six times a year. There is a Public Forum before the Monthly Council Meetings which are on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Anyone who wishes to speak to the Council is welcome to come and tell us about their concerns. Of course if you wish to come and just tell us what a fine job you think we are doing you will be even more welcome but that does not happen very often. Also feel free to speak to any of the Councillors individually at any time and they will lend a sympathetic ear

The Present Council

The past twelve months have been particularly difficult for the Council. First we lost Robin Barwell who tragically died following quite a short illness. Robin was Vice Chairman of the Council and was an active and experienced Councillor. Shortly afterwards Kevin Bristow resigned as Chairman due to ill health. Kevin was also an experienced Councillor who Carried out many practical tasks on behalf of the Council. We understand that his health is now improving and we hope that he will be fully fit again in the near future. The final blow to the Council was when the Council Clerk resigned after more than twelve years' service. Most of the remaining Councillors were fairly new and inexperienced and consequently we had to face a steep learning curve.

I took over the Chairmanship knowing very little about the job but determined to learn quickly and do the best that I could to represent the Town. Fortunately we have been lucky enough to recruit an excellent new clerk in Mrs. Ann Guilfoyle, who although having no previous experience has made a splendid effort to learn the many skills required of a Council Clerk. We also have some dedicated Councillors and we all try to work as a team for the present and future good of Bampton. There are many improvements which we hope to make, the first of which is a properly structured Flood Plan which is long overdue but almost complete.

Other projects are in the pipeline and we are only constrained by a shortage of funds. However, we will keep everyone informed of any developments as and when they take place.

Terry Knagg (Chairman BTC)



NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
1st September, 2009 6th October, 2009

Correspondence: Ann Guilfoyle, Town Clerk, 28 Brook Street, Bampton EX16 9LY
Telephone 01398 331335 E-mail: bamptontownclerk@hotmail.co.uk

BAMPTON'S SECRET GARDENS

In spite of the Atlantic dumping yet more water on us £400 was made from the Bampton Secret Gardens Event at the end of July. There were twelve gardens to visit over the two days and thanks must be given to all who participated and to those stalwart visitors who, cheerfully, put up with very variable conditions and even enjoyed the experience!



CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IN STATION ROAD

The younger residents of Bampton will be pleased to see that the swings have been mended.

Bampton Town Council would like to renew the equipment in the playground and at present we are looking at ways to get funding for this project.

We will keep you informed with our progress.....

FLOOD PLAN FOR BAMPTON LATEST NEWS!!!!!!

The Flood Plan which began its development in January this year is now on its ninth draft, with much detail teased out in consultation with the Environment Agency. The idea is that the volunteer Flood Wardens will alert to other volunteer helpers to ensure that all that can be done will be done to protect people's vulnerable property in the case of a summer or winter flood alert. Apparently cars float in two feet of water! The vulnerable houses are of course those nearest to the river in Millhead, New Buildings, Bridge Terrace and the lowest parts of Briton and Brook Street. People who are able-bodied and reside in these properties are expected to co-operate with any alert given in order to protect their own homes. There will be an information exhibition set up in the Riverside Hall by the Environment Agency on Friday 4th September and posters advertising this will be displayed nearer the time. Meanwhile to encourage other parishes to work on a Flood Plan for themselves some councillors and residents will contribute to a broadcast being prepared by Radio Devon.

BAMPTON FAIR



2009

Although 29th October seems a long way off, the planning is already well under way for this years fair. The fairground and amusements are booked, the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance service informed. The traffic diversions are arranged with Devon Highways and the traffic cones ordered. The bus companies have been told and the portable toilets booked. The Insurance has been arranged and St. Johns Ambulance will be here. Electricity for the Riverside car park stallholders is arranged and stewards and PCSOs organised for an early start, We haven't managed to contact anyone to make sure it doesn't rain but there are plenty of Bampton Fair umbrellas for sale.

Wanted - A Very Special Person For a Very Special Job

Kelley Beeston has collected the Tolls from the stall holders at Bampton Fair for the past 3 years and has done a wonderful job in rejuvenating the Fair. She is now looking for someone to take over in 2010.

This is a really unusual and interesting job and more details can be obtained from the Town Clerk -

e-mail : bamptontownclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01398 331335

TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE

It hasn't been widely advertised but this substantial event involving "the world's top cyclists" is passing through Bampton. Even if you have no interest nor admiration for lycra, this will bring lots of visitors and the roads will be severely disrupted on this day. The date is Thursday 17th September with the cyclists passing through Bampton in the middle of the day. It is stage 6 of the race, which starts in Frome and ends in Bideford. The local Check Points are at Wiveliscombe, Devils Elbow and Winsford Hill.

More information on www.tourofbritain.co.uk

BAMPTON'S COAT OF ARMS

Does anyone know if there is a Coat of Arms in existence for Bampton or for one of the families connected with Bampton in the past - the Bouchiers perhaps? Parts of the Heraldic Arms of the Bouchiers are shown in the church (Reef knot and water bougets) but surely there must be a Coat of Arms. Any information please to the Town Clerk: 01398 331335