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TOWN COUNCIL



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Broadstairs & St. Peter's Town Council Newsletter



Danielle Dunn
Town Clerk

This issue brings with it mixed emotions, as

writing the March edition was the first job I undertook following the Covid-19 lockdown and I am now writing the June 2020 edition, still sat around the dining room table! I have definitely learnt the art of adapting to rapid change over the last three months!

However, the Town Council has still been open for business, despite all the staff working from home. Monthly virtual Council meetings have been established and some major projects have started. This Newsletter will bring you up-to-speed with what's being going on.

Danielle Dunn, Town Clerk

An update from our Broadstairs & St. Peter's Tree Warden – Karen McKenzie

April marked the end of my first year of being the Broadstairs and St. Peter's voluntary tree warden. I am pleased that we were able to plant some trees in this first year.

If you missed it in the local press, we planted ten semi-mature trees; nine limes and one red maple. We also trialled an innovative new planting technique with some interesting results.



Memorial Park

The test tree for the new technique was in Memorial Park on November 13th. Two experts from Greentech came down to show us how to use an underground anchoring system, that would mean there would be no need for staking around the tree as it would be firmly held underground.

This first lime went in very successfully and has already started to establish itself.



Mockett Drive

Another seven lime trees were planted on Mockett Drive, using the same technique. Thanet District Council once again helped with the pit digging and planting.

Chestnut Drive – Wimpey Estate

The final tree of the group of nine limes was planted near to Chestnut Drive on the Wimpey Estate on 18th December.

Spring 2020 - A Big Setback

The high winds of this winter and early spring took their toll on all the trees. The limes on Mockett

Drive suffered the worst. After the succession of storms in February, the underground anchoring could not cope on this exposed site and a number of the trees had moved quite badly. So, we had to run an emergency job to stake and tie the trees. A later job will be to remove the underground guying and loosen the ties, which is planned for next year.

If that wasn't enough for the poor trees, we have now had well over a month with no rain and continued high winds. The tree champions and I have been busy watering, but the trees have suffered more because of the drying winds than the lack of rain. We continue to do regular watering and hope they will pull through. The two trees in Chestnut Drive and Memorial Park are not suffering so much because these sites are not so exposed.

Holmes Park

In April, I was delighted to be offered a maple tree from Thanet Trees & Woods Initiative and we quickly found a home for it in Holmes Park on 22 April. Trees planted in spring are even more difficult to establish, but we couldn't look a gift horse in the mouth. Despite watering by myself and the tree champion, this too has been suffering from the high winds and the heat. We hope with continued attention from me and the tree champions it will pull through.

Would you like to help the trees?

I am always looking for Tree Champions to join our little band of enthusiasts who will look out for an adopted tree and help with planting schemes and other tree-related initiatives. If you are interested in giving me a hand please drop me a line on:

treeward@broadstairs.gov.uk

Covid-19 Grants



As many of you will know from frequent social media posts and local media coverage, the extensive Broadstairs events calendar has been particularly hard hit, with most events having been cancelled for the 2020 year. The Town Council is a major sponsor of many of these events and subsequently has decided to redirect this funding towards the Covid-19 response. Since the last newsletter the Town Council has awarded grants to the following charities :

£5000 to the Thanet District Council Covid-19 appeal, which has been used to purchase toiletries for shielded groups and food banks and £2000 was also awarded to the Gap Project.

The following charities have all received funding up to £500: Service by Emergency Response Volunteers (The Southeast Blood Runners), Fareshare, AgeUK Thanet, Salvation Army Ramsgate, Salvation Army Margate and Marie Curie Cancer Care Thanet.

If your charity or group is directly supporting the Covid-19 effort, either directly or through a project to help the Broadstairs & St. Peter's Community return to the 'new normal', please contact the Town Clerk to see what assistance is available.

Covid-19 funding will be available until the 31st of December 2020. Any unspent Covid-19 grant funding will be redistributed to the groups whose events have been cancelled in the New Year, as we are aware that many have already

incurred costs and are already looking towards planning their 2021 events.

Contacting the Town Council and Town Council Meetings over the coming months

The Town Council offices remain closed. However, we are still here to help and can easily be contacted via email or telephone, just use the contact details at the top of this letter. Please note that the office phone number is now re-directing to my mobile phone if someone isn't in the office, so if someone doesn't answer I am probably on another call. Please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I am able.

Town Council meetings have also resumed, virtually, with the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Council taking place on the last Wednesday of the month and the Planning Committee on the first Monday of the month. Further details can be found on the Town Council's web pages.

Viking Bay Punch and Judy Show

It is with a heavy heart that we have to inform the community that Professor Brent DeWitt, the Viking Bay Punch and Judy artist, has had to cancel his show this year. The current travel restrictions, in addition to the social distancing measures, have made it too difficult this year. He will, however, be back with his traditional show in 2021 and we look forward to welcoming him back to Broadstairs!

Pierremont Hall Events

Despite the lock-down, Leanne, Pierremont Hall's events and bookings manager has continued to work hard re-imagining events at Pierremont Hall and establishing the venue for next year. The latter part of this year will see the hosting of a Murder Mystery event on Halloween and a

Christmas party evening. Further information is available from <https://pierremonthall.co.uk/>

North Foreland Lighthouse Publication

The Town Council has been contacted by a local historian that has recently written and published a history of the North Foreland Lighthouse.

If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy of this publication, please contact the Town Clerk who will be able to pass on the details of the author. I also have a copy in the office which I am happy to circulate.

Pierremont Hall Update

Work continues on Pierremont Hall and the surrounding gardens. The new signage for the building is due to be installed on the 17th of June and it will be the first time in many years that the building will have its name displayed! It was only after working here for 3 years that I realised that there isn't a sign anywhere calling the building Pierremont Hall, it is amazing that everyone knows what it is called. The signage project will extend throughout the building and into the front garden.

Work will begin on transforming the old ground floor Town Council offices into a commercial suite, security office and lettable meeting rooms/workspaces at the start of July.

Retort House

Following the update in the March Newsletter. I can confirm that a potential solution has been identified that will help upgrade the electricity supply into Retort House.

The Town Council will keep everyone updated regarding when the community side of the building will open.

Beach Security

The Town Council's trial of Beach Security has been well publicised in the media and we are now entering the 3rd week of the trial covering Viking Bay and the other CT10 bays and beaches.

The Town Council decided to implement the 7 day-a-week scheme following ongoing issues on the beaches and following community feedback. The trial is being funded by our Covid-19 fund and the town-wide improvement budget, and to-date, has been well received. The security guards, from Marc-One Security and Probe Security, have reported back that they have received a warm and positive welcome from our residents and this has made the role easier. Thanet District Council is now also testing a similar scheme at Margate Main Sands.



As the scheme is a trial, we welcome feedback and actively encourage residents to email their comments to the Council. I will also be posting social media posts to gauge the views of residents over the coming weeks.

Festoon Lighting

The Town Council has now approved a contractor to replace the Festoon Lighting along the promenade. Unfortunately, due to the limitations of Covid-19 and the ordering times for the lighting, installation won't be until the latter part of this year. However,

once they are in place it will be an amazing improvement and we can't wait to share this project with the community.

Mayor's News

The Annual Council Meeting took place on the 27th May and I am pleased to confirm that Cllr Paul Moore has been elected as the Mayor of Broadstairs for a third term, Cllr Wendy Moore will remain as the Mayoress of Broadstairs.

It was a Mayor Making ceremony that will be well-remembered, as it was the first virtual meeting undertaken by the Town Council utilising the new emergency regulations. Cllr Paul Moore now enters the history books and receives the title of being the first Mayor of Broadstairs to be elected entirely over the internet!

Cllr Paul Moore has yet to decide on which charities he will be supporting for the 2020-2021 Civic Year, these will be published in the next Newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks to Marian Cleverley, who retired as the Mayor's Secretary in May. Marian had been in the role for 18 years and will be sorely missed by the team and all of the Mayor's that she has served. A retirement celebration will take place when restrictions on movements cease.

