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BROADSTAIRS & ST. PETER'S
TOWN COUNCIL



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BROADSTAIRS & ST. PETER'S TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

This is the first anniversary edition of the Town Council Newsletter. Over the past year, it has been well received and it has definitely given me an opportunity to promote the work that is being undertaken behind the scenes, especially keeping residents informed and up-to-date with the refurbishments of Pierremont Hall and Retort House. Hopefully, everyone has now started to see the changes first hand around the town?

I can guarantee that even more improvements are planned over the coming year...

Danielle Dunn, Town Clerk

Precept and Income

This year, the elected Councillors of Broadstairs & St. Peter's have voted to keep the precept at the same level as last year. This means that the Town Council element of your Council Tax will not increase.

We have been able to achieve this by raising income through other streams, mainly the letting of assets

recently taken over the Council, and through the negotiation of new and existing contracts.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to Thanet District Council and is waiting to be examined by an Independent Examiner. Once the examination has concluded and any findings and recommendations agreed, the Plan will need to undergo a referendum.

All people eligible to vote in an election will be able to take part in the referendum and it would be really great for the town if we had a high turn-out. The plan provides a number of planning policies, including policies to protect the green wedge areas and design policies to help the town retain its special character; it also sets out the short and long-term business plan of the Town Council. Having a Neighbourhood Plan in place is really important, especially in order to protect the area from unwanted development pressure.

Please sign up to our social media pages in order to be the first to hear the dates of the examination and referendum.



Danielle Dunn:
Town Clerk

Pierremont Hall and Buildings

After many months of hard work behind the scenes; planning, surveying, working on finances and submitting planning applications, hopefully everyone can now see that work has started on the Pierremont Hall site? We are pleased that the Community Hall and Park Hall have now been demolished, as this project has really opened up the park and now provides an improved setting to the Pierremont Hall building. We are now in the stages of appointing a contractor to undertake the groundwork's and make good the areas where the buildings once stood. The Community Hall site will be grassed over and the Park Hall site resurfaced with tarmac and

dressed with planters. The groundworks will also include the provision of some additional parking spaces elsewhere in the park.

The main Pierremont Hall building has also seen the installation of a new 'lead-free' roof, which has made the building water-tight for the first time in some years! The external painting works are due to begin next week, which is probably the job I am most excited about. It really will be lovely to see the building looking its best once again.

Work is currently underway to complete the Music Room and The Cottage, so that the Town Council can start having an income stream from rentals.



We are now in the very final stages of completing the internal specification of the building, and listed building consent has been obtained for ground floor toilets, including a disabled toilet, and for a new kitchen. An advert will be placed on the Government Contract Finder website for all the internal work imminently. The Town Council really is excited about providing this new bookable community facility for the town.

Retort House

If you have walked past Retort House recently, you may have seen that building work has started on the commercial escape rooms. Well, it won't be long before work

starts on the community side of the building too.

Not long now....



Shortly after I published the December 2018 newsletter, we received the news that our planning application for the new porch, kitchen and bin store had been granted. We are currently waiting to receive the quotes from building firms who have expressed an interest in completing the building work and we have also agreed a contractor to fully waterproof the roof.

These upgrades, along with the new disabled facilities, are really important as they will ensure all members of the community can access and enjoy the facilities in the building and ensure their longevity for future generations.

We are extremely grateful to Kent County Council for providing us with a £6000 capital sports grant to help pay for the disabled toilet. However, I am continuing to source funding and financing to help with other planned upgrades, if anyone sees any suitable grant schemes, please feel free to send them my way!

Working with Community Payback

The Town Council has been working with the Kent, Surrey and Sussex

Community Rehabilitation Company, better known as 'Community Payback' over the past year to renovate the bandstand area and to undertake some cleaning and clearing at Pierremont Hall. The work at the bandstand has included painting railings, benches and toilet doors, with the Town Council paying for the materials and the Community Payback team undertaking the work. I am sure that everyone has seen an improvement in this area. I can definitely say that the people on the scheme have worked really hard and gone 'above and beyond' to make the area look its best. I am currently in discussions with them to see if we can improve the clock tower shelter, watch this space as we just need to iron out the logistics to deliver this piece of work.

Security

Many of you may have seen that a private security firm has now been employed to help look after the Pierremont Hall site. In some ways, it was sad to make this decision as it was acknowledging that the anti-social behavior had got to such a bad state in this location that we had to do something to resolve it, the final straw being a number of children climbing the scaffolding only three hours after it was installed!

However, I can report that after the third month of patrols the area has really improved and the anti-social behavior has declined rapidly. We are so pleased with the results that we have budgeted to keep the patrols for the next financial year. We will continue to monitor the use of the service and whether patrols are required elsewhere in the town.

Decorative Lighting

We hope that all residents and local businesses enjoyed the Christmas

lights in Broadstairs High Street this Christmas? I can confirm that this year the Town Council will be focusing on improving the decorative lighting in St. Peter's, which will complement the tree lights that we installed on the St. Peter's Christmas tree a couple of years ago. The Leisure and Tourism Sub-Committee will be looking into this project and updates will be provided in future newsletters.

Broadstairs in Bloom

Abigail Barton is now leading on everything 'In Bloom' related and she is working hard to liaise with our supplier and think of ways that the town can be improved with flowers.



Once again, the Town Council will be offering gardening grants to community groups, schools, nurseries and care homes in the CT10 postcode area to help promote Broadstairs in Bloom and to make Broadstairs and St. Peter's look even more beautiful. The maximum that can be applied for is £300 and all schemes need to be visible to the general public. The deadline for applications is the 31st March 2019, so please download an application form from our website and send it in as soon as you can.

Elsewhere, the project will see the number of lamp column planters increasing and we will also be subsidising the cost of hanging baskets for businesses in the area. If you are a local business and are interested in one of the hanging

baskets please look out for further information that should be coming through your door, alternatively please contact the Town Council for further information.



Please visit the Broadstairs in Bloom webpage for details and forms for all projects.

http://www.broadstairs.gov.uk/Broadstairs_in_Bloom_11466.aspx

Grants

Notification letters have now been sent out to all groups and organisations who applied for a grant for the period 1st April 2019-31st March 2020. A full list of successful recipients can be found at the end of this newsletter. The grant making timetable for the 2020-21 Civic year will be on the Town Council website shortly. It would be really great if groups and organisations who have never applied for grant funding before decided to apply. The Town Council considers each individual application on its own merit, so it is really important that you submit an application, you never know you might be successful next year.



Town Trail and Digital Discoveries in Broadstairs

The Broadstairs Chamber of Commerce is continuing to lead on the Town Trail project, and has been working with the Town Council as funding partner to deliver the new trail. Yes, it is unbelievable to think that the current boards were actually installed in the year 2000, so they are definitely due a facelift! I can confirm that the CT10 Charities has kindly granted permission for the old Vere Road trail board (it is currently in the Pierremont Hall basement after being driven over!) to be installed on the Culmer's Amenity land and this will be installed as soon as a contractor is sourced.

You may also see some digital discovery boards being popping up around Viking Bay very soon. This is a project being run by Thanet District Council and will give the user the ability to use their smart phone to find out detailed information about interesting elements of Broadstairs history.

Bandstand

The new schedule of bandstand concerts for the 2019 season is busy being prepared. Please check the following webpage for the full program once available:

http://www.broadstairs.gov.uk/Bandstand_and_Entertainment_Programme_13750.aspx

Defibrillators

Work will soon begin on renovating the Chandos Square red phone box and all of the specialist components to renovate the box have now been ordered. The work on this has taken slightly longer than expected as sourcing a defibrillator that could be installed with the existing phone box electricity supply has been

more difficult than anticipated, who knew there were so many different types of defibrillator on the market! Please also look out for a future listed building consent application, as we are planning to install a defibrillator at Pierremont Park too.

Tree Works

The Town Council has continued to clear the backlog of tree maintenance on Town Council owned sites. This has included works to trees on The Pathway, adjoining the Culmer's Amenity Land, the removal of a diseased cherry tree at the Norman Road allotments and works to a number of trees in Pierremont Park. The decorative tree lights have been removed from the trees, deadwood removed and the lights re-installed. There will also be some self-seeded trees removed around Pierremont Hall in the coming weeks to facilitate the external paint works.

Town Forum

February's Town Forum, made up of groups and organisations in Broadstairs, was well attended and this reflects the change in format and improvements that we made following direct feedback from the attendees. The group now has a number of new organisations and

everyone has the opportunity to raise issues and asks questions of the Town Council. The next forum will be held on the 7th October 2019. Don't forget individuals have the opportunity to speak to the Town Council and raise issues at the Annual Town Assembly, which will be held on the 11th March 2019 this year.

Council Staffing

All Town Clerks are encouraged to complete the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), an NVQ Level 3 qualification provided by the Society of Local Council Clerk's. Having a CiLCA qualified Clerk ensures that all legal requirements and best practice is adhered to, and it helps to gain access to additional funding opportunities. I have now completed and submitted my CiLCA portfolio and I'm awaiting the results, fingers crossed! Christine Chappell, the Deputy Town Clerk, will begin her CiLCA journey at the end of March; we wish her luck with this.

Mayor's News

The end of January saw one of the largest Mayor's quizzes on record, not only was it well attended, with more tables having to be sourced, it

Congratulations to the following 2019/20 Town Council Grant recipients:

Broadstairs Bowls Club, Broadstairs Cricket Club, Broadstairs Food Fair, Broadstairs Lit, Broadstairs Summer Fireworks Events, Broadstairs Society, Busy Broadstairs, Chamber of Commerce Christmas Event, Dickens Festival, Folk Week, Friends of Mockett's Wood, Hi Kent, Horticultural Society, St. Peter's Old Boys, St. Peter's Memorial Hall, Sarah Thorne, Twinning Association, Visitor Information Kiosk, Water Gala, Zone Youth Club

also raised the most money. Over £750 was raised for the Mayor's charities- Prostate Cancer, Macmillan Cancer Trust and Pilgrim's Hospice. The next fundraising event will be the Spring Ball, tickets are selling fast so don't delay or you may risk disappointment.

On behalf of the Town Council, I would thank the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. Paul Moore and Mrs. Wendy Moore for their hard work representing the town over the past year.



2019 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th March Mayor's Spring Ball, 6:45pm for 7:30pm start. The Pavilion, Broadstairs - contact mayor@broadstairs.gov.uk for tickets

2nd May 2019 Local Elections

20th May, 7:30pm Statutory Annual Council meeting and Mayor Making, The Pavilion, Broadstairs

7th October, 7pm Town Forum - for Community Groups and Organisations, venue tbc.

5th November Fireworks, Viking Bay