

Sawbridgeworth Town Council Newsletter



Issue 2, April 2010

Message from the Mayor

Dear Resident,

At last the wintery weather is behind us and we can begin to enjoy the change of season as once again we witness the miracle of springtime with the blossoming of flowers and the greening of trees. The Town Council has once again budgeted to increase the number of floral displays sited around the town. The Town Council also acknowledges with grateful thanks the colourful hanging baskets adorning the local hostelrys, provided by local publicans, which will further enhance the floral beauty of our town.

Recently we have seen the installation of new signage which directs people to the key areas of town. The signage is of the highest quality and totally in keeping with the timeless nature of Sawbridgeworth.

One of my last duties as Mayor will be presenting the Citizen and Young Person of the Year Awards together with cheques to my chosen charities. This event will be taking place shortly after publication of this the second issue and I sincerely hope we will have had a good number of candidates from whom to choose for these special awards for special people.

This quarterly Newsletter is one of the ways by which the Council will be updating residents on future developments, along with information on our website www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk, as a means of communication. Residents are also welcome to call at our office in Bell Street with queries or questions where staff will be pleased to help.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Mrs. Angela Alder
Town Mayor

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Sawbobus

The service will have been running for five months by the time you receive this edition of the Newsletter. We carry between 60 and 70 passengers a day. It's not perfect but it has generally been acclaimed as a success given the financial restrictions we have been working under. Thanks go to Cyril and Ken, the drivers, for taking on the job so efficiently.

We've listened to comments from passengers and drivers alike and we plan to change some of the routes slightly. We also hope to make the service more frequent to the Bullfields area where most of our passengers come from. Expansion of the service is also on the cards for later on this year, but depends on whether we can obtain funding for running on extra days.

Farmers' Market

Bell Street Car Park,
Sat 5 June 2010
9.30am-1.30pm

Events

Tell us about your event and we will add it to our online events calendar for all to see. Our contact details are on page 4.



Police in Sawbridgeworth



Hate Crime

POLICE in East Herts are improving the ways in which the public can report hate crime

We now have 9 hate crime reporting boxes in locations across East Herts allowing any member of the public to report a hate incident. In Sawbridgeworth we currently have one of the boxes situated in the Library.

Hate crime is harassing, victimising, intimidating or abusing someone because of their race, faith, religion, disability or because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

Adrian Pomfrett from the Eastern area hate crime unit, said: "The hate crime boxes allow anyone to make a report either as a victim or as a witness, with the opportunity to stay anonymous. We take hate crime very seriously and treat this as a priority. What you tell us is confidential."

For more information please visit www.hertsiaq.co.uk

Neighbourhood Priorities

The three most topical issues that local people have asked us to deal with. New priorities are set regularly, or can stay on the list until we have successfully dealt with the issue. If you would like a say in deciding what the Neighbourhood Priorities should be please call, email, write to us, or come to one of our „surgeries“, around the town or at the Police Office, that are listed on our website www.herts.police.uk (click on „Safer Neighbourhoods“ and type in your postcode or select the ward where you live)

- 1. You said: „anti-social behaviour“:** Tackling anti-social behaviour including off road bikes and alleged drug offences in Bullfields, Bell Street, and St Mary's Church Grounds including the Bowling Green Park and the area behind The Crest.
- 2. You said: „speeding/driving issues“:** Tackling speeding and other motor offences, including heavy goods vehicles, on the roads in Sawbridgeworth, Spellbrook, and High Wych including Allens Green.
- 3. You said: „burglary“:** Tackling all types of burglaries in Sawbridgeworth, High Wych and other rural areas in the locality. The above are priorities that we are specifically targeting to improve the local area for everyone.

The next locality meeting is on Wednesday 16th June 2010 at 19.30pm at Bishops Stortford Police Station. This is open to all members of the public and is where the Police give feedback regarding what they have been doing to tackle the 3 priorities in the area over the past 3 months.

We are aware that there may be smaller issues that are also causing residents problems and would welcome any feedback to advise us of any issues that may be concerning them.

PC 1367 Tina Mustoe

Citizen of the year Awards

As you may have seen, notices have been up around the town asking you to vote for Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook's Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the year for 2009/10. The deadline for voting was Friday 16 April 2010 and the awards will be presented at the Annual Awards evening on 14 May 2010.

Note from the Town Clerk

Issue Number 2! Thanks to all of you who gave us feedback about the first issue of the Newsletter. Most of you gave it the thumbs up, but we did have some criticism about it not being printed on recyclable paper. This issue is! We got a very special deal from the printer for the first edition. Please tell us if you know of anyone who didn't get a Newsletter delivered – we need to feed this information back to our distributor.

Autumn Show

No time to lose – start planning now for this exciting event to be held on Saturday 4th September in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall. Growing on the success of last year's show this year will be even bigger with 72 classes to enter. To give you a flavour of the show there are categories for Flowers, Preserves, Vegetables, Fruit, Floral Art, Handicraft, Children's section with 6 classes including pasta collage, model making, pressed flowers, plus more. If you grow delightful Dahlias, curly Chrysanthemums, plump Potatoes, make marvelous marmalade, chutney, jam or apple pies then you need to contact Ken Kilbey 01279 722907 ken.kilbey@tinyonline.co.uk so that he can rush you a copy of the show schedule. This event is being organized by Sawbridgeworth Allotments Association.



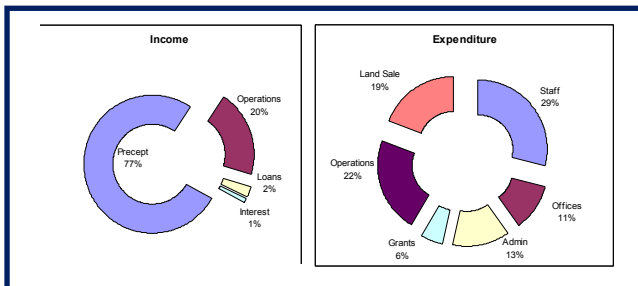
Clerk's Report to the Annual Town Meeting

At the Annual Town Meeting the role of the Clerk is to report on the finances of the Council for the year just ended.

In the year 2009/10 the Town Council maintained its Precept demand at the same level as for the previous year at £145,000.

The Council also derives income from its operations for the benefit of the community, such as the Town Cemetery, the four allotment gardens and the Community Bus service. It has also received repayments against the community loans it has made and some small amount of interest on cash balances. The Council's total income for the year was £190,638.

Income is shown in the diagram on the left. The Council is aiming to develop Operations Income to minimise the need to raise the Precept.



We have used the available resources in the way shown in the diagram on the right.

We spent a total of £218,681 this year.

Staff costs amounted to 29% of this; we took on one additional administration officer to handle the web-site, newsletters, management of the community bus and as a receptionist for our new Bell Street location.

Our operations costs included management of the Town Cemetery, the four Allotment Gardens, the Community Bus Service (Sawbobus), the Town Ranger, provision and maintenance of floral displays and the Christmas Lights.

Our administration costs included our responsibilities as a Statutory Consultee on planning matters, the production and publication of the Town Action Plan, Town Council Newsletters, subscriptions, insurances and other matters relating to the administration of the Council including meetings, committees and representation on outside bodies. The Council made grants and donations totaling £15,000 to seven different local organisations during the year.

The excess of expenditure over income of £28,000 is entirely attributable to costs associated with preparing for sale the land adjacent to Millfields. This has been met from reserves which will be reinstated when the land sale is completed in mid-May 2010. This expenditure and projected income was budgeted in the year just completed; regrettably delays experienced at County and District Council level caused the sale to be put back by over six months, and completion now falls into the new financial year. Proceeds from the land sale, as previously reported, are earmarked for the development of a new Civic Centre for the town.

Societies, Groups & Business

If you are a Sawbridgeworth business, support group, club or society and would like to have your contact details displayed on our website for all of the community to see please let us know. You can submit your details by clicking "contact us" on the homepage of our website www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk, alternatively you can provide us with your details by post, email or telephone.

Our contact details can be found on page 4.

The Town Cemetery

You will probably have seen a report in the press which said that we are doing some improvement works to the roadways in the Town Cemetery at Three Mile Pond. This will improve access for visitors to the area. We take great pride in how the Cemetery looks and we have people coming from miles around because it is seen as a haven of peace and tranquility.

Another innovation is the introduction of a green burial area. From this spring we will be using the north-east part of the cemetery for Meadowland Burials. We have left this area for a year now and sown it with wild flowers. For people who favour a green burial they can now opt for this approach. The area will have no visible marking, but will have electronic tags to keep a record of individual graves.



A suitable Location for a Skate Park in the town

One of the key things that came out of the preparation of the Town Action Plan was the call for Sawbridgeworth to have its own skate park. This reinforced previous surveys of what young people in the town wanted to see most. This idea has been raised before and the biggest hurdle to overcome is where to site it.

Lots of suggestions have been made, some of which were publicised in an article in the Observer not so long ago. Every location that has been mentioned has had practical difficulties or has been met with significant opposition from people who live in the neighbourhood.

We are running out of ideas and the project will not get off the ground until we find somewhere for a skate park to go. So this is an appeal to you to help our young people and let either a Councillor or the Town Clerk have your suggestions for possible locations, however unlikely they may appear to be.

Contact your Town Councillors

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|---|---|--|--|
|  | <p>Cllr Mrs Angela Alder (Mayor) "Orion" London Road, Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford Herts. CM23 4AX Tel: 01279 722360 Aalder4277@aol.com</p> |  | <p>Cllr Barry Hodges 10 Buttersweet Rise Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 9HD Tel: 01279 723189 Barry.hodges@ntlworld.com</p> |
|  | <p>Cllr Eric Buckmaster (Deputy Mayor) 23 Rowney Gardens, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0AT Tel: 01279 725428 ericandruthbuckmaster@yahoo.co.uk</p> |  | <p>Cllr Adam Lowe 40A Bell Street Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 9AN Tel: 01279 723224 awlowe@yahoo.co.uk</p> |
|  | <p>Cllr Steve Butler 23 Parkway, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 9NR Tel: 01279726579 steve@stevebutler66.plus.com</p> |  | <p>Cllr Brian Rochester 20 Reedings Way Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 0DZ Tel: 01279 832753 brianrochester@virginmedia.com</p> |
|  | <p>Cllr Pat Coysten 128 Sheering Mill Lane Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 9ND Tel: 01279 723435 Patcoysten@hotmail.co.uk</p> |  | <p>Cllr Paul Rose 9A Cambridge Road Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 9JP Tel: 01279 722208 paulrose@peopleport.co.uk</p> |
|  | <p>Cllr Stan Dixon 6 Falcon Close Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 0AX Tel: 01279723557 stanley.dixon@btinternet.com</p> |  | <p>Cllr Mrs Joyce Vincent 10 Brook Road Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 9HA Tel: 01279 723649 jandm@vincent10.fsnet.co.uk</p> |
|  | <p>Cllr Derek Filler "Kingsbury" Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath, Herts. CM22 7BQ Tel: 01279 730146 deirene@btinternet.com</p> |  | <p>Cllr Andrew Wincott 20 Rowney Gardens Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0AT Tel: 01279 726062 Andrew.wincott@tesco.net</p> |

Contact Your Town Council

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| <p>Sawbridgeworth Town Council</p>  <p>49-51 Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. CM21 9AR Tel: 01279 724537 Email: stc@sbwtowncouncil.org Website: www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p> <p>Opening Hours Mon-Fri 9am-4pm</p> | |
| <i>Town Clerk</i> | Richard Bowran richard.bowran@sbwtowncouncil.org |
| <i>Admin Officer</i> <i>(Planning & Cemetery)</i> | Gill Abbott gill.abbott@sbwtowncouncil.org |
| <i>Admin Officer</i> <i>Finance & allotments</i> | Sue Adams sue.adams@sbwtowncouncil.org |
| <i>Admin Officer</i> <i>(Reception, Community Bus, website, Newsletter & Mayor's Administration)</i> | Laura Shepherd stc@sbwtowncouncil.org |
| <i>Town Ranger</i> | Richard Jenkins |

County & District Councillors

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|---|
| <p>County Cllr Roger Beeching "Quince"4 Newports, High Wych Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0HP Tel: 01279 722496</p> |
| <p>District Cllr Nigel Clark Yewtree House, High Street, Hunsdon, Herts. SG12 8NT Tel: 01279 841297</p> |
| <p>District Cllr Tony Dodd "Fairwinds" 34 Pishiobury Drive, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0AE Tel: 01279 722390</p> |

Issue 3 will be published in July