

Sawbridgeworth Town Council Newsletter



Issue 13, Spring/Summer 2013

Message from the Mayor

My year as your Mayor will end on 28 May 2013 and this newsletter will be my last.

I have had a fantastic and eventful year, my wife and I have enjoyed the many functions and events that we have attended.

Some of the highlights that spring to mind are the lighting of the beacon at Leventhorpe School for the Queen's Jubilee; the visit to Bry-sur-Marne in September 2012 which I reported on in the last newsletter; the Christmas lights switch on; the opening of the new Scout Hut; my visits to schools and especially observing the speeding project organised by Herts Police at Spellbrook School.

I was also very honoured and proud to open the new civic building on 20 March 2013 in the presence of many honoured guests.

This year has been extraordinary as many of the aspirations contained in the Town Action Plan have come to fruition as reported at the Annual Town Meeting on 15 April and for those of you who were not able to attend the meeting there is a copy of my report in this newsletter which sets out the various projects and outcomes that the council has invested in. This year the council invested nearly a million pounds in the capital infrastructure of the town.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you all, to my fellow Councillors and to the council staff for the outstanding support and kindness they have shown to my wife and I throughout our mayoral year.

Cllr Barry Hodges JP
Town Mayor



Inside this issue

P2	Farmers Market Sawbobus 2 Hailey Centre
P3	Report by the Mayor
P4	Town Clerk's Report to the Annual Town Meeting
P5	Pear Festival and Bowls Club
P6	Contact your Councillors

Sawbridgeworth Town Council and Leventhorpe present:
Sawbridgeworth Summer Proms
& Firework Extravaganza

4 - 10 pm
Saturday 6th July 2013
Leventhorpe
130-Piece Orchestra / Licensed Bar / Bring Your Own Food & Refreshments

Adult £10 / Concessions £7 / Table of 4 group ticket £28
Tickets available from Sawbridgeworth Town Council & Leventhorpe from 3rd June 2013
Designated Charity

Adult £10
Concessions £7
Table of 4 group ticket £28

Tickets are available from Sawbridgeworth Town Council, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street & Leventhorpe School from 3 June 2013

Volunteer Drivers Urgently Needed

The scheme for the CVS volunteer car service is taking off and they are getting an increasing number of calls from Sawbridgeworth people. They are urgently looking for additional volunteer car drivers for the service. Details are on the CVS website www.drivenbythecommunity.org.uk or by phoning them on 01920 466942.

HAILEY CENTRE CAMERA CLUB

Newly founded in February 2012, the Hailey Centre Camera Club currently boasts 13 enthusiastic members, all at different skill levels and with a variety of digital cameras. Our aim is to provide a relaxed and fun atmosphere in which members can develop their hobby to whatever extent they wish.

We usually meet for 2 sessions a year, one in the Spring and the other in the Autumn. Each session comprises of 6 to 8 meetings held once every 2 weeks. The meetings are held at the Hailey Centre in Sawbridgeworth on a Thursday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. In addition to our meetings we also run field trips to local places of interest to provide further opportunities for members to practice photography with help if required. There is a small charge to cover both the hire of the hall and the minibus.

The Club is run by Alan Reed, President, and Ralph Reed, Secretary/Treasurer. Alan is a long time photography enthusiast and Ralph is a much more recent convert.

If you are interested to find out more then please do contact the Hailey Centre manager, Linda Cullum, on 01279 721221 who will pass your enquiry on to Alan or Ralph.

We welcome people at all levels. Why not come along and have a cup of tea and see what we do?

Sawbridgeworth Farmers' Market

2013 Market Dates

Saturday 01 June

Saturday 06 July

Saturday 03 August

Saturday 07 September

Saturday 05 October

Saturday 02 November

Sunday 15 December

We've had record numbers attending the last two Farmers' Markets which are now being held on the first Saturday of EVERY month. We've got new traders, new sponsors and are working in conjunction with "All About Sawbridgeworth" to promote our town.

A new innovation is the start of a "Park and Ride" service on market days. This facility is in co-operation with the Leventhorpe School. Park your car at the school and hop onto the minibus which will be doing regular runs to the market and back throughout the morning. And it's FREE!

Dates for Diary



Farmers' Market

Saturday 01 June & 06 July

Bell Street Car Park

9am – 1pm

Bingo - Sawbridgeworth Town Twinning Association

Saturday 08 June

7:30pm

Contact Sally Pribul 01279 724482 or email

sally@pribul.co.uk

Police & Armed Forces Open Day

Saturday 29 June

10:am – 4pm

Bishop's Stortford: British Legion Club/Police Station

Free Entry – Everyone welcome.

Music in the Garden

Sunday 30 June

2:30 – 6:30pm

Tickets £8 from Nisa/Tuck Shop For further details

call: 01279 722496 or email

roger@rogerbeechning.com

All proceeds to local charities & Sawbridgeworth Orphanage in Sri Lanka

Sawbobus 2



The bus continues to be a popular and well used facility provided by the town council. We are planning our routes for this year and we are starting an additional service from 14 May to serve the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Herts and Essex Hospital. This service, which will depart from and arrive back at the Bell Street car park adjacent to the Town Council Offices, will initially run on Tuesdays and Fridays only.

Timings for the Sawbobus services can be found at the Town Council, on the Town Council web-site, on the town notice boards, at the GPs surgery, the Rivers Hospital, the library and at Budgens. The fare for the service will be £3 one way or £5 return, wherever you get on or off.

Report by the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Cllr Barry Hodges JP, reported on the Activities of the Council in 2012/13.

- This year has been extraordinary as it has seen the town council invest nearly a million pounds in the capital infrastructure of the town.
- First of all the conversion of **The Cottage** and the building of the new council chamber, with associated offices. This is the first time the Town Council has had a permanent home, up to now we have been itinerant tenants in various parts of the town.

The project which has been completed - under budget - at a total cost of £660,000 has been funded entirely from the proceeds of the sale of redundant allotment land at Millfields. It provides first rate facilities for the town and we hope that it will be put to full use over years to come.

We will be welcoming our local police officers to the first floor and the East Herts Citizens Advice Service to the ground floor on Monday mornings.

- We have a link door to the **Hailey Centre** – and we have signed a 999 year lease on the Centre which will secure its current use for the foreseeable future. It also means that the town council takes over the responsibility for its maintenance which should show an improvement to the exterior looks and integrity of the building.
- We promised to support the repair and refurbishment of the **Memorial Hall**, again using funds from the sale of the Millfields land. So far we have handed over £138,000 for the project and this has shown a remarkable transformation of the building and ensured that its life has been extended for the benefit of the community.
- We agreed to share the cost of enhancing the **Vantorts play area** in partnership with the District Council. Despite some initial reservations it has proved to be a great success and has received many favourable comments. The Town Council's contribution was £40,000 using funds from the sale of the Millfields land.
- We planned for and executed the complete refurbishment of the **West Road play area** at a cost of £30,000 again using funds from the sale of the Millfields land. It is already proving a tremendous success and is an asset to the community.
- We also contributed £25,000 to the **Scouts** new headquarters

- We managed six **Farmers Markets** throughout the year. They continue to be popular and bring people into the town on market days. We spent £8,000 on our own market gazebos and equipment which are a great improvement on the stalls we previously used. For the next year the markets will be monthly and this was launched with radio adverts and community activities earlier this month. We had over 1,200 visitors!
- Last year's **Christmas Lights** were bigger and better than ever, we had a street market and over 3,000 people attended this community event.
- Business Association - we initiated a new version of the Business Association, but in this format this has not taken off. Recently the town council has supported "**All About Sawbridgeworth**" – a marketing consortium of retailers and businesses, this promises to go from strength to strength
- **Sawbobus** – continues to go from strength to strength and is a well appreciated service. We carried over 2,200 passenger journeys during the year. The routes changed slightly to reflect passenger demand. Thanks to all our sponsors. In May, with the support of the County Council we are launching **Sawbobus 2** which will start out by carrying passengers to the hospitals in Harlow and Bishops' Stortford.
- **Community Buses** – we have continued to operate the small community bus for hire by local registered groups. During the year we added another 15 seater to the hire fleet which has been greatly used. This offers really economical transport for local groups with their own drivers.
- We introduced a parking scheme in the **Bell Street car park** to allow for the first hour's parking to be free. This was an experiment for six months from August now extended to March 2014 as it has proved a real hit with retailers and visitors alike. It does however cost the town council £22,000 a year to subsidise.
- As far as our role in **Planning** is concerned – we have given an opinion on 75 planning applications this year taking into account both the East Herts Adopted Local Plan and the Town Action Plan.
- The **Town Cemetery** development – the new extension has been grass seeded, rolled and is being prepared for future use.

Continued on page 4

- We have opened up a new area for use by families who prefer kerbed memorials. During the last year we hosted 52 interments at our Cemetery which is regarded as one of the best kept in the area.

Mayors visits – during the year I attended many functions of various types. The highlights were: The Queen’s Jubilee, visit to Bry-sur-Marne, the Christmas lights switch on event, the opening of the new Scout hut and visits to schools.

TOWN ACTION PLAN – THE SIX KEY ISSUES

Elsewhere there is a review of progress against the Town Action Plan that was created in 2009. Members have decided not to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, called for under the Localism Bill to complement the District Plan, this because it would cost in the region of £40,000 to produce and would not see a payback from any enhancement of Community Infrastructure levy that it would entitle us to.

Instead we will lead the creation of a new Town Action Plan for 2014-18.

The Town Action Plan identified six key issues:

- Roads and Transport -
- Plan Housing Sensibly -
- Car Park Charges -
- Support for the Voluntary Sector -
- Support for Local Businesses -
- Replacement Scout Hut -

**Town Clerk’s Report to the Annual Town Meeting
15 April 2013**



Town Clerk: Richard Bowran BSc.(Hons) MILCM

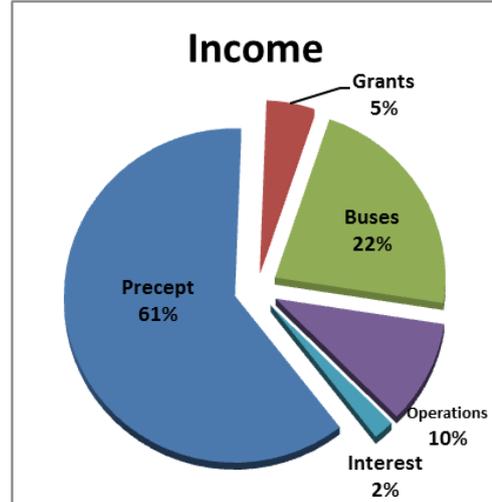
At the Annual Town Meeting the role of the Clerk is to report on the finances of the Council for the year just ended.

In the year 2012/13 the Town Council’s Precept was £180,000, this was 61% of the Council’s total income.

The Council derives other income from its operations in the town, such as the Town Cemetery, the four Allotment Gardens and the Community Bus services. Income relating to these other activities amounted to £114,274; and so the Council’s total income for the year was £294,274.

At the start of the year the Council also held in reserve the net proceeds of the sale of a parcel of land east of Millfields which amounted to £977,184. These monies were ring fenced for capital projects in 2012/13 for the benefit of the community

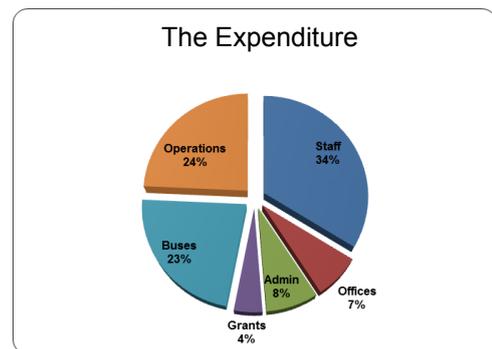
Our ordinary income is shown in the diagram below. The Council is aiming to continue to develop Operations Income to minimise the need to raise the Precept.



We have used the available resources in the way shown in the diagram below. We spent a total of £313,534 this year on items not including our capital projects programme.

The deficit of £19,260, mainly due to the cost of delays in moving to our new civic hub, has been met from reserves.

Staff costs amounted to 34% of our expenditure; we have two full time employees, three part time administration officers, the town ranger and two part time bus drivers. All other services are carried out by contractors.



Our operations costs were 47% of our spend, and included management of the Town Cemetery, the Allotment Gardens, the two Community Minibuses, the Sawbobus Community transport service, recreation areas, footpaths, the Town Ranger, provision and maintenance of Floral Displays and the Christmas Lights.

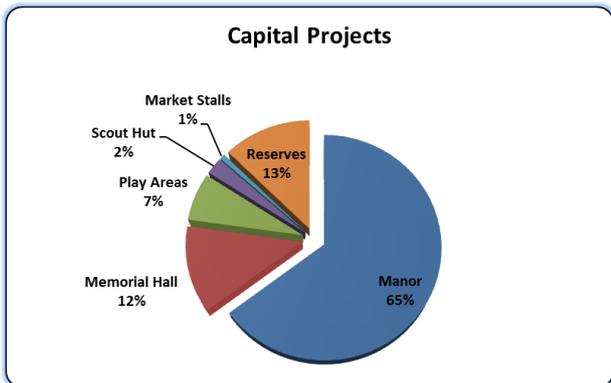
Our administration costs at 8% of the total included our responsibilities as a Consultee on planning applications and matters relating to the town, monitoring and action against the Town Action Plan, Fly Posting, Town Council Newsletters, Civic Events, Community Transport, Floral Decorations, Promoting the town, subscriptions, insurances and other matters including meetings, committees and representation on outside bodies including liaison with the County and District Councils.

Our office costs, 7% of the total, related to our use of 49 Bell Street until January 2013. These have been ended now we have been able to give up that temporary tenancy.

During the year, the Council expanded the operation of Sawbobus, which was financed by commercial sponsorship. It planned the start of Sawbobus 2 which will provide a link to hospitals in Harlow and Bishops Stortford. It continues to manage the Farmers Market which will be expanded in 2013/14 to be a monthly market and community event and the two Community Minibuses, both of these activities are self-financing although take up significant administration time.

The Town Council continues to step in to preserve services to the community when other organisations are unable to continue.

The Council made grants totalling £13,400 to five different local organisations during the year, these were the Citizens Advice Service, Bullfields Allotments Association, Sawbridgeworth and Stortford Street Pastors, the War Memorial refurbishment fund and the Memorial Hall dedication ceremony. In addition they made donations totalling £6,000 to support the activities of the Town Twinning Association, the Hailey Centre and the Young Peoples Recreation Centre.



The main capital projects for the year have been the conversion and extension of Sayesbury Manor Cottage into a new centre for the community and a permanent home for the council. We also gave substantial assistance for the repair and development of the Memorial Hall, we redeveloped the West Road play area, and contributed to the development of the Vantorts Park play area, the new Scout HQ and new market stalls. We have some earmarked reserves for the completion of the Civic Centre and Memorial Hall projects.

For this coming year the precept has been increased marginally to £187,500. The increase will make a contribution to the estimated cost of £22,000 that will be payable to EHDC to subsidise the one free hour parking scheme. The rest of the subsidy is made up of economies and savings made elsewhere. Extra income from other operations will continue to be around £100,000, this keeping the precept to parishioners at the lowest level of any town in East Hertfordshire.



Pear Festival

A week of 'Pear' related events will be running throughout the town this autumn to celebrate the world renowned **Conference Pear**. The pear was first announced by Thomas Rivers at a Pear Congress in 1885 but the event had been advertised as a Pear Conference, hence the name.

30th September to 5th October 2013

More information to follow and will be publicised on All About Sawbridgeworth Facebook Page over the coming months.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH BOWLING CLUB

Have you ever visited the Bowling Club?
Have you ever considered Bowling?

If the answer is "NO" then now is the time to decide on a firm "YES". The Bowls Club is part of Sawbridgeworth Sports Association and is situated off Bell St Car Park between the tennis and cricket clubs. The image of bowling has changed - it is a modern, young, competitive sport. All ages can compete as equals. To be an outstanding bowler great skill is required. However we don't all aim to represent our country so bowls is a sport which is enjoyed by all, regardless of aspirations. Why not come along and give the game a try? We have fully qualified coaches available to help you. Mondays 2.00 to 7.30 and Tuesdays 5.30 to 7.30 from May to September. If these times are not suitable please give one of the officers a ring and we will arrange a time mutually convenient.

All our details are on our website: www.sawbridgeworthbowlingclub.co.uk and please follow us on Twitter and Facebook

Contact your Town Councillors

No Picture Available	<p>Cllr Miss Jane Adams 61 The Meadows Sawbridgeworth Herts CM21 9RA Tel: 01279 315239 jane.adams@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p>		<p>Cllr Peter Mitchell 1 Milliners Green Bishop's Stortford Herts CM23 0AE Tel: 01279 654190 peter.mitchell@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Crime and Disorder</i></p>
	<p>Cllr Mrs Angela Alder – Deputy Mayor "Orion" London Road, Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford Herts. CM23 4AX Tel: 01279 722360 angela.alder@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Town Initiatives</i></p>		<p>Cllr Will Mortimer 24 Pishiobury Drive Sawbridgeworth Herts CM21 0AE Tel: 01279 722294 will.mortimer@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Young People</i></p>
	<p>Cllr Eric Buckmaster 23 Rowney Gardens Sawbridgeworth Herts CM21 0AT Tel: 01279 725428 eric.buckmaster@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Allotments</i></p>		<p>Cllr Brian Rochester 20 Reedings Way Sawbridgeworth Herts CM21 0DZ Tel: 01279 832753 brian.rochester@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Farmers Market, Footpaths and Open Spaces</i></p>
	<p>Cllr Pat Coysten 128 Sheering Mill Lane Sawbridgeworth Herts CM21 9ND Tel: 01279 723435 pat.coysten@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Floral Displays and Planters</i></p>		<p>Cllr Tom Reeks 32 Gilders Sawbridgeworth Herts CM21 0EF Tel: 01279 831830 tom.reeks@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>SYPRC - Youth</i></p>
	<p>Cllr Derek Filler "Kingsbury" Chelmsford Road Hatfield Heath, Herts CM22 7BQ Tel: 01279 730146 derek.filler@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Transport & Community Buses</i></p>		<p>Cllr Mrs Joyce Vincent 10 Brook Road Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9HA Tel: 01279 723649 joyce.vincent@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Cemetery</i></p>
	<p>Cllr Barry Hodges - Mayor 10 Buttersweet Rise Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9HD Tel: 01279 723189 barry.hodges@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Emergency Plan</i></p>		<p>Cllr Andrew Wincott 20 Rowney Gardens Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 0AT Tel: 01279 726062 andrew.wincott@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk <i>Memorial Hall</i></p>

Contact Your Town Council

<p>Sawbridgeworth Town Council</p>  <p>Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9AN Tel: 01279 724537 Email: info@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk Website: www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p> <p>Opening Hours Mon - Fri 9am – 4pm</p> <p>Town Clerk - Richard Bowran richard.bowran@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p> <p>Town Project Manager – Joanne Kenny (Projects & Mayor's Admin) joanne.kenny@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p> <p>Admin Officer (p/t) - Gill Abbott (Planning & Cemetery) gill.abbott@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p> <p>Admin Officer (p/t) – Laura Carter (Community Buses) laura.carter@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p> <p>Admin Officer (p/t) - Sue Adams (Finance & Allotments) sue.adams@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p> <p>Town Ranger – Steve Parrish</p>

County & District Councillors

<p>County & District Councillor Roger Beeching MBE "Quince" 4 Newports, High Wych Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0HP Tel: 01279 722496 Email: roger.beeching@hertsc.gov.uk</p>
<p>District Councillor Will Mortimer 24 Pishiobury Drive Sawbridgeworth Herts CM21 0AE Tel: 01279 722294 Email: will.mortimer@eastherts.gov.uk</p>
<p>District Councillor Eric Buckmaster 23 Rowney Gardens, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0AT Tel: 01279 725428 Email: eric.buckmaster@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk</p>

Issue 14 will be published in Summer 2013