

December 2017

## Quarterly News

### Gillingham Town Council

**Address:** Town Hall, School Rd, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

**Telephone:** 01747 823588

**Email:** [GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](mailto:GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](http://www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

**Town Clerk:** Mrs Sylvia Dobie

**Deputy Clerk:** Mrs Clare Ratcliffe

**Customer Service Officer:** Mrs Julie Hawkins

**Customer Service Officer:** Mrs Jill Ezzard

### Meetings

**General Purposes:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

**Planning Committee:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

**Policy and Resources:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

**Full Council:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

### Star Council Awards 2017

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has announced, Gillingham Town Council Clerk, Mrs Sylvia Dobie Runner-up UK Clerk of the Year.

At the awards Ceremony held in October NALC Chair Sue Baxter said “The awards highlight the good work local councils are doing across the country and this year has seen a record number of nominations, the standard of entries is a testament to councils’ dedication to improvement, community leadership and service delivery.



The judges said that “Sylvia Dobie was instrumental in getting Green Flags awards for Gillingham, and creating a dementia friendly and pollinator friendly town. Her engagement with the sector generally is obviously attracting staff from other councils to come for her for advice and that can really build up resilience and knowledge in the sector more generally”. The judging panel really liked the way Mrs Dobie was encouraging school council representation at the local council. The judging panel acknowledged that if you are able to get that democratic input from schools and young people it’s really crucial to operational democracy.

Sylvia Dobie said “To be recognised in this way is a real honour especially as I was nominated by the members of Gillingham Town council and was not aware my name had been put forward until the shortlist of ten had been announced. For me to be effective in my role as Town Clerk I have to thank the support of all my work colleagues and members of the Town Council, as without them, the effectiveness, creativity and achievements would not have been possible. The way ahead for local council’s is exiting but will be challenging”.

## 50 Trees Planted



On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November an avenue of trees was planted on the public open space at Lower Lodden and Ham Farm. A total of 50 trees were planted – 20 Common Oak and 30 Poplar – by the town council’s grounds staff and volunteers. The trees have already made a big impact

on the public open space and will be an attractive feature in the landscape for many years to come.

In medieval times, Gillingham’s Royal Forest was a favoured hunting area and its quality timbers were used in Royal palaces and for ship building. Deforestation continued as the town grew. Nationally, there is concern that without successive tree planting there will be a generation gap of mature trees.

The avenue of trees that has been planted at Upper Lodden (off King John Road), Lower Lodden (to the rear of Addison Close and Lodden View) and Ham Farm (off Chaffinch Chase and Wren Place), fall within the boundary of the Gillingham Royal Forest and will serve as a living heritage feature and a valuable amenity asset: helping to purifying the air we breathe, providing a wildlife habitat and soaking up excess surface water.

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout was particularly enthusiastic about the project and commented that *“the tree planting coincides with the commemoration of the end of WWI, so the trees will be a remembrance to all the local people who lost their lives in the Great War”*.

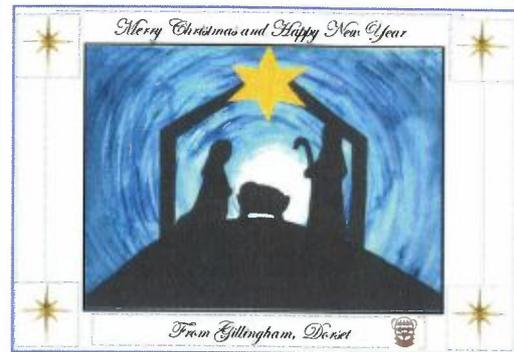


The project has been funded using developer money set aside to maintain and improve our public open spaces. The town council is very appreciative of the financial contribution it received from Co-operative Funeralcare, to Mark Jackson of Merck Limited (Sigma-Aldrich) for releasing staff to help with the planting and to all the other volunteers who willingly gave up their time to help on the day, without which the trees could not have been planted so quickly and efficiently.



## Mayor’s Christmas Card Competition

The winner of the Mayor’s Christmas Card competition was Bethany Walbridge, who attends Gillingham’s Hipp Bones.



## Refurbishment of Old War Memorial Site

The work has now been completed on the Old War Memorial Site adjacent to the Town Bridge. Work was completed on schedule and within budget.

Before



After



## No Excuse No Abuse

Gillingham Town Council is committed to providing a high-quality level of service to its residents, to those that live in and around the surrounding parishes, other local authorities and the business and volunteer community.

At the Full Council meeting on 27th November Council’s voted to adopt a ‘zero tolerance’ initiative to address the issue of violence, aggression and unacceptable behavior directed towards its members, staff and its contractors. The safety and well-being of all those working on behalf of the Town Council is a priority; they have a right to carry out their duties without being physically or verbally abused. If this type of behavior is received, the Police will be contacted.

## Successful Bid

In 2016 Gillingham Town Council received a grant from the SSE Resilient Communities Fund, resulting in the provision of a significant amount of equipment to be used in support of a natural disaster and other events within the Town boundary.

A further successful bid was made to SSE by the Town Council in August to provide funding for 3 defibrillators and heated storage units which will be purchased early in 2018, once the grant has been received. They will be situated outside buildings in the purpose designed, keypad locked, stores, and located at the Fire Station at Peacemarsh, The Town Hall in School Lane and at a location on the Kingsmead Business Park.

Currently Gillingham has only one 24/7 accessible defibrillator in the Town at the Freemasons Hall.



## Defibrillator Locations in Gillingham

**Freemasons Hall Wall** (Station Road) – Cabinet No. 627 at SP8 4PY

The following locations, have some restriction on availability:

**ADP Dentists** – Newbury

**ASDA** (Customer Service Desk) - Station Road

**Barn Health Centre** – Newbury

**Dextra** (First Aid Room) - New Road

**Fitness by Design** (Reception) - Old Market Centre, Station Road

**Gillingham Football Club** (Officials Portacabin) - Hardings Lane

**North Dorset Rugby Club** (Main Entrance) - Slaughtergate

**Peacemarsh Health Centre** - Peacemarsh

**Riversmead Leisure Centre** (Reception) - Hardings Lane

**St Marys Primary School** (Medical Room) - Pheasant Way, Shaftesbury Road

**Thorngrove** (Shop) - Common Mead Lane

**Winning Smiles Dentists** – Peacemarsh

## We're Watching You

Gillingham Town Council has joined forces with environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy in a bid to reduce dog fouling in key problem areas.

The campaign sets its sights on irresponsible dog owners. Recent research shows that dog walkers are more responsible and pick up after their dogs, when they think that they are being watched.

Last year Keep Britain Tidy conducted a campaign pilot, funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), working with land managers across the country. This pilot saw an average reduction of 46% in the levels of dog fouling. Feedback suggests that dog fouling tends to occur at night time and during the months with shorter days, as some dog owners feel that they can't be seen 'under the cover of darkness'.

Gillingham Town Council signed up to the edgy and uncompromising campaign to tackle dog fouling hotspots. The 'We're Watching You' signs are visible after dark, and use innovative cutting edge materials. The social experiment was the first time such a material has been used on a poster.

Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout said, "Feedback from residents has told us that dog fouling is a key issue in our town that they would like to see addressed. We know that the public perceive dog fouling to be by far the most unacceptable and dirtiest type of litter".

"The vast majority of dog owners are responsible people, who habitually pick up after their dog and dispose of the poo bags correctly, either in the nearest bin or by taking home to dispose of in their own household waste bin." "We are thrilled to be working with Keep Britain Tidy, and being a part of such a cutting-edge campaign. We hope that we will see the same results as the local authorities who have already signed up to the campaign."



## North Dorset Local Plan Review

North Dorset District Council is in the process of producing a new local plan for the District, which will replace the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (adopted in January 2016) and those parts of the North Dorset-District Wide Local Plan (adopted in January 2003) that are still extant. As part of the Local Plan Review the Council will be consulting on an Issues and Options Document. The consultation period started on 27th November 2017 and will end at 5pm on 22nd January 2018.

The document considers amongst other things, how much development the Council should be planning for and where that development should be located within the District. It is currently intended that the Local Plan Review will cover the period to 2033.

The Issues & Options Document, Sustainability Appraisal, Consultation response form and other associated documents are available to view online at:

[www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/north-Dorset/planning-policy](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/north-Dorset/planning-policy)

Or hard copies will be available to view during normal office hours at:

- Gillingham Town Hall
- Gillingham Library
- North Dorset District Council, Nordon, Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7LL
- South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UZ

Please visit the Town Council website

[www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](http://www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

If you have an event you would like to publicize in Gillingham we can add it to our Events Calendar. Email your details to us at the address above.



## Contact Your Councillor

### Town Ward

- Cllr Mrs Anne Beckley .....01747 823821  
abeckley007@btinternet.com
- Cllr Mrs Sharon Cullingford.....07426 499813  
cllrcullingford@gmail.com
- Cllr Paul Harris .....01747 826991  
Cllr.paul.harris@btinternet.com
- Cllr Mick Hill.....07437 301007  
punkpaint101@gmail.com
- Cllr Stephen Joyce .....01747 822411  
s.joyce101@btinternet.com
- Cllr Roger Monksummers .....01747 822202  
Roger.monksummers@sky.com
- Cllr Mrs Val Potheary .....01747 826089  
vpotheary@tiscali.co.uk
- Cllr John Robinson.....01747 822928  
jnr@jnrobinson.plus.com
- Cllr Barry Von Clemens .....07835 271287  
vonclemensbarry@gmail.com

### Wyke Ward

- Cllr Rupert Evill.....01747 822886  
rupertevill@live.co.uk
- Cllr Alan Frith .....01747 826394  
alan.frith@talk21.com
- Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout .....01747 825161  
Cllr.belindaridout@talktalk.net
- Cllr David Walsh .....01747 825161  
Cllr.davidwalsh@talktalk.net

### Ham Ward

- Cllr Mike Gould .....01747 826204  
mgould@emf-ltd.co.uk
- Cllr Donna Toyne.....01747 590805  
donna@treeonthehill.com

### Milton Ward

- Cllr Mrs Su Hunt .....01747 840333  
su.hunt@outlook.com

### Rural Ward

- Cllr Miss Nicky Purkis .....07832 068170  
Cllr.nicky.purkis@outlook.com