

# Gillingham Town Council

Issue 12



April 2016

## 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

### THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27th April 2016** in the Jubilee Room at Gillingham Town Hall.

Members of the public are invited to attend and hear reports from the Mayor and Chairman of the Committees, giving an overview of the councils achievements during the past twelve months.

The meeting will commence at **7.30pm** and everyone is welcome to attend.

### New Website for the Town Council

Please visit the new look 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 opposite.

### Join us for A Community Clean Along the River Stour Corridor between Peacemarsh and Hawthorne Avenue

Help Gillingham to achieve a Green Flag Award



**Saturday 9th April 2016**

**Meet at Rolls Bridge from 10am till 12 noon**

Tasks involve: Litter picking, trimming back vegetation and painting and cleaning benches (all equipment provided)

Organised by Gillingham Town Council in Partnership with  
Dorset Countryside.

For more information please contact:

Gillingham Town Council

Tel: 01747 823588 or Email [GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](mailto:GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)



## Help for Gillingham's Green Flag Bid

The Green Flag Award is a reward for local councils and communities who manage their public open spaces to the highest standards.

Over the next 12 months Gillingham Town Council aims to win the award for open spaces across the town, beginning on



Saturday 9th April with a clean-up along the River Stour from Hawthorne Avenue to Peacemarsh. Local people are joining councillors to pick up litter, carry out light pruning and, where necessary, give a coat of paint to public benches.

Full training, safety clothing and equipment will be provided. Assistant Town Clerk Clare Ratcliffe said: "We are aiming to be the first town council in our area to win Green Flag status, with the help of our residents. We'll be meeting at Rolls Bridge at 10 am on Saturday April 9th and working until 12 noon. We know local people are pleased with the work we've done on roadside verges, so here's a chance to help make things even better. People of all ages are welcome, so bring the family along!"



The Green Flags are awarded by Keep Britain Tidy, the national environmental charity, and are a guarantee of well-kept, safe and pleasant public open spaces. Judging in Gillingham will happen sometime in May or June. For further information phone Gillingham Town Council on 01747 823588.



## Peacemarsh Crossing

Gillingham Town Council and Dorset County Council Highways have worked in partnership to provide an alternative crossing location at Peacemarsh, promoting a safer route to school.

Work is also underway to upgrade footpath 71 which links the crossing point to local facilities including the doctors, dentist and nursery.



## Gillingham Cemetery

In view of the difficulties experienced in obtaining land to be used as a cemetery, the Town Council has recently extended the existing cemetery by removing three of the paths. These areas have now been returned to grass and an additional 65 grave spaces have been created.

## High Street Bus Shelter

Work to repair and refurbish the High Street Bus Shelter is scheduled to commence on Tuesday 29th March up until and including Friday 8th April.

During the work it will be necessary to close off the pavement and bus shelter. A temporary bus stop will be in operation at the front of the High Street Car Park.

The necessary street works licence has been applied for from DCC Highways and bus / coach companies have been advised.



## Hardings Park project - Sports, Leisure and Adventure Play Park – for all to enjoy!

Gillingham Town Council is pleased to announce that Phase 1 of the refurbishment of the recreation ground at Hardings Lane will commence in March of this year with the installation of the Adventure Play Park.



The Town Council were successful in securing a grant for £15k from Dorset County Council Health and Wellbeing Legacy Fund Inspired by 2012. Part of this grant is towards Youth Community and Outreach work and the remainder will go towards the Hardings Park project. The Town Council had also applied to The Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund for a much larger amount of funding but this was unsuccessful. At a Full Council meeting in 2013 it was decided that if applications for external funding were unsuccessful then the Town Council would need to apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWL) to enable this project to be completed.



Planning permission is now being sought for the Skate Park facility. An application for a Public Works Loan of £127K is being submitted, with a request for a fifteen year payback period, which would be reasonable and almost cost neutral to the tax payer. If both these applications are successful it will enable the installation of the Multi-use Games Area and the Skate Park.

An additional grant application is pending to assist with funding for the two proposed outside Table Tennis facilities.

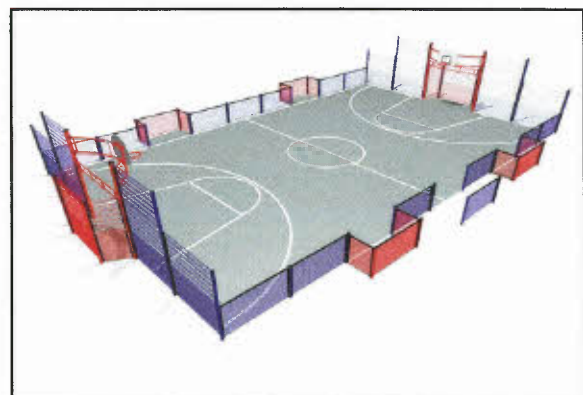


The Town Council has been working in partnership with Gillingham Youth Centre, the Skate Park Committee and HiPP!!Bones (the youth group for young people with disabilities and learning difficulties), to assist in providing a much needed destination play park for abled bodied and disabled children, young people and their families to transform the current recreation ground into a facility worthy of a growing rural town.

The Hardings Park project is part of a wider vision to create a 'sports and leisure destination' in Hardings Lane that complements RiversMeet, the new Gillingham Town Football Club facility, proposed community sports pitches and cycleway from Gillingham to Motcombe.

Phase 2 - hopes to include public toilets, a community kiosk to sell refreshments, lighting and the development of community sports pitches.

Fundraising will still continue to help deliver Phase II of this project. The support of the local community and businesses is much appreciated.



## Ten Trees for Upper Lodden Meadow



To celebrate the 500 year anniversary of Gillingham School the Town Council will be planting ten oak saplings on the public open space off King John Road (known as Upper Lodden Meadow) to start an avenue of tree planting along the tarred footpath. An official tree planting ceremony will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April and involve Gillingham School and members of the Town Council. The purchase of the oak saplings and metal tree guards has been made possible with monies set aside in the Town Council's precept for Financial Year 2016/17, a tree planting grant from North Dorset District Council and a donation from Cllr Mrs Su Hunt.

Tree planting will greatly improve the appearance of this site and help to restore some of Gillingham's lost heritage as a Royal Forest, famous for its hunting and the production of quality timber for the construction of buildings and ships.

Upper Lodden Meadow is owned by the Town Council and managed in partnership with Dorset Countryside. The vision for this particular area of open space is to create a semi-formal parkland with specimen trees, where possible. There is a five year management plan in place, which includes the recent laying of the boundary hedge carried out by Dorset Countryside. Site entrance signs will shortly be erected along with the installation of a picnic bench and rustic seats.

More trees are required to complete the avenue of trees and any financial contributions towards this project would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the Town Council for further information.



## Contact Your Councillor

### Town Ward

Cllr Ms Anna Baker.....01747 590136  
greencherrub@gmail.com

Cllr Mrs Anne Beckley .....01747 823821  
abeckley007@btinternet.com

Cllr Dennis Griffin.....01747 824857  
Den.griffin@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Paul Harris .....01747 826991  
Cllr.paul.harris@btinternet.com

Cllr Stephen Joyce .....01747 822411  
s.joyce101@btinternet.com

Cllr David Milsted.....01747 826184  
cllrdmilsted@north-dorset.gov.uk

Cllr Roger Monksummers .....01747 822202  
Roger.monksummers@sky.com

Cllr Mrs Val Potheary .....01747 826089  
vpotheary@tiscali.co.uk

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 Mrs Donna Toye .....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