

# Gillingham Town Council

Issue 13



July 2016

## Quarterly News

### Gillingham Town Council

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

**Telephone:** 01747 823588

**Email:** GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

**Website:** 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

### 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 above.



### New Mayor For Gillingham



Cllr Barry Von Clemens

Hello Gillingham! I would just like to introduce myself to you all. I am Barry Von Clemens and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May I was given the great honour of being elected Mayor of Gillingham 2016 -2017. I have lived here in Gillingham for the past 9 years although members of my family have been here for over 30 years.

When I am not running my own family business I am involved in a number of community groups and committees.

As a councillor I am strong supporter of many local groups and organisations. I take an active part in organisations that work hard to enhance our public open spaces and those that enrich the lives of our young people.

I look forward to continuing the great work that has been done by our out going Mayor, Cllr David Walsh and thank him for all the hard work he has done over the past civic year.

### **Jubilee Fields and Rolls Bridge named as one of the best in Britain**

Gillingham's open space along the River Stour corridor from Peacemarsh through to Hawthorne Avenue was awarded a Green Flag at a national ceremony held in Cheltenham on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Town Clerk, Mrs Sylvia Dobie, and Assistant Town Clerk, Mrs Clare Ratcliffe, collected the Award on behalf of the Town Council.

The public open space is among a record-breaking 1,686 parks and green spaces that received a prestigious Green Flag Award – the mark of a quality park or green space.

The award, now celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

The public open spaces at Jubilee Fields, Rolls Bridge and Hawthorne Avenue are owned by Gillingham Town Council and managed by Dorset Countryside.

The Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Barry Von Clemens said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Award for first time from Keep Britain Tidy. This Award recognises and highlights that residents in Gillingham are benefiting from a green space of the very highest quality. The award has been made possible by the hard work of Jen Newman and her team at Dorset Countryside. We are also grateful to the members of the public who kindly volunteered their time to help with the Community Clean days earlier on in the year."

International Green Flag Award scheme manager Paul Todd said: "We are delighted to be celebrating another record-breaking year for the Green Flag Award scheme, especially as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Awards."



### **Thumbs up for a goal end at Church View**

Gillingham Town Council has recently provided a 'Teenzone' goal end for youngsters at Church View following requests from local residents to provide a facility for ball games. The Mayor said "*The new equipment will encourage the youngsters to play ball games in a safe environment away from the roads.*"

Local children and residents, seen here with the Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Barry Von Clemens and his escort, Alison Gale, gave the facility a 'thumbs up' seal of approval.



A larger multi use goal end has also been installed at Gyllas Green. We have received very positive feed back from both parents and children.

### **Beavers visit the Town Hall**

On the 16th June the Gillingham Beavers visited the Town Hall and gave a very interesting presentation as part of their Million Hands campaign on street clutter and how this can effect the members of our community with disabilities.

They asked our councillors questions and provided the council with a poster on Harness Help which is now displayed on the Town Council notice boards throughout the town.

Did you know that if a guide dog's harness is down the owner needs help?



## Gillingham Registration Office

Dorset County Council is holding a public consultation regarding changes to the Registration Services.

The Gillingham Registrar Office, along with Shaftesbury and Sherborne is on the potential closure list. If all these offices were closed, all residents in these areas would have to travel to Blandford to visit the nearest Registry Office. We really do need to the public to complete a survey either online at

[www.dorsetforyou.com/registration-consultation](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/registration-consultation) or by collecting a paper copy from Gillingham Town Hall in order that those who make the final decision have all the information from us, the people of Gillingham.

One thing to point out here is that the Registrar's Office in Gillingham is owned by Gillingham Town Council and not the Dorset Registration Service. The Town Council covers the cost of the offices and also the maintenance of the lovely civic hall as a wedding venue. The saving to the County Council by closing their service in Gillingham would be minimal, the inconvenience to our community would be huge.

The closing date of the consultation is 10th August 2016.

## Tree or Seat Donations

Donating a tree or seat may be considered to commemorate the life of a loved one, a historical event or even to promote a business or organisation.

Earlier this year 10 oak saplings were planted at Upper Lodden Meadow, with a vision to create a semi-formal parkland with specimen trees, and where possible we would also like to place some new seats at various locations around Gillingham, similar to the one pictured below.

If you are interested in making a donation, please contact the Town Council for further information.



## A New Play Area Fit For All!

A new play park in Gillingham was officially opened in June by the Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Barry von Clemens. This is the first project of the refurbishment of the old recreation ground into the new Hardings Park, which will offer a sports, leisure and a play destination park for children and young people of all ages and abilities.

Sixteen sensational pieces of play equipment have been carefully chosen. A toddlerzone shop and slide unit will thrill toddlers, a cableway and space net will challenge children, a Viking swing and sling shot will attract adolescents and a wheelchair roundabout and boat swing offer accessible and fun play equipment. Roy Allcock from Sutcliffe Play was also on hand to explain how the equipment has been designed to cater for all.

The Mayor of Gillingham said *'I am delighted to open this fabulous new adventure play park, a flagship project for a growing town, providing a leisure hub for people of all ages to enjoy. This is an exciting time for the town with new leisure facilities and improved access to our green open spaces and rivers providing affordable and accessible ways to improve our health and wellbeing. I look forward to the future development of the Park including a state of the art skate park and multi-use games area to be installed over the coming months.'*



The long awaited play equipment was chosen after two years of consultation with children and young people from local schools, Hipp!!Bones, Youth Club, nurseries, playgroups and with the wider community. The majority of the funding for the adventure play area has come from the Town Council with support from: Dorset County Council Inspired by 2012 Health and Wellbeing Legacy Fund, One Stop Shop – Carriers for Good Causes, The Three Rivers Partnership Unity Lottery, Waitrose and local fundraising events.

Work on the new skate park is scheduled to begin on Wednesday 20th July and should be completed by the autumn half term.

## Teddy Bears Picnic

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July, the Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Barry von Clemens was delighted to be joined by over 100 children and staff from the town's nursery groups to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hardings Park (the Rec).



Mr Sam Woodcock from Gillingham Museum read a short story and The Mayor presented the three best dressed teddy bears with a prize.

Later in the afternoon RiversMeet invited everyone to an afternoon of fun in their new soft play area. Cllr von Clemens said "I would like to thank all the children's nurseries for taking part and helping make this a great afternoon I would also like to take this opportunity to thank RiversMeet, for giving free access for the day to their wonderful new soft play area.

## New Summer Bedding Scheme is a Success

The grounds men at Gillingham Town Council have excelled this year by designing and producing



two theme flower beds. The flower bed in the High Street is in honour of HRH The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and on the corner of Lower Station Road there is a flower bed to celebrate the 500 anniversary of Gillingham School.

The Mayor, Cllr Barry Von Clemens said "The Town Council is very fortunate to have a very skilled team of grounds staff who are interested in horticulture and keen to try out new ideas".

Many local businesses kindly sponsored a summer bedding scheme this year so that additional bedding plants could be purchased to improve and create themed flower beds in the town.

The Mayor, Cllr Von Clemens, is thrilled with the success of the summer planting and said that "the flower beds have certainly not gone unnoticed and are much appreciated by everyone".

## Contact Your Councillor

### Town Ward

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

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

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  
vpothecary@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