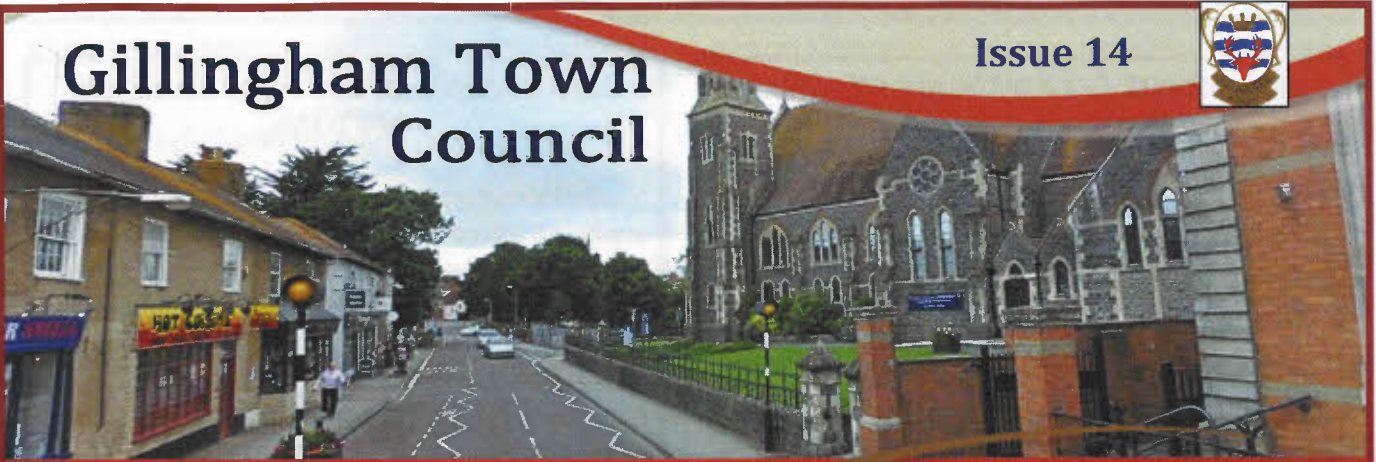


Gillingham Town Council

Issue 14



October 2016

Quarterly News

Gillingham Town Council

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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: 1st Monday of the month

Planning Committee: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month

Policy and Resources: 3rd Monday of the month

Full Council: 4th Monday of the month

Town Council Website

Please visit the new look Town Council website

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 SKATE PARK AT HARDINGS PARK

The skate park was handed over to the Town Council on Friday, 14th October, one week ahead of schedule. The skate park was designed and constructed by Maverick Industries, a world class company in this very niche industry based in Poole. The skate park will complement the adventure play equipment already installed and the multi-use games area and table tennis facility still to come.

The skate park will be officially opened in the spring when Maverick will return to host a skating event. Michelle Watling, the outreach youth worker in Gillingham, has been busy helping young skaters to set up a 'Park Ranger' scheme to promote the skate park for all abilities, to encourage respect amongst skaters, to reduce the amount of dropped litter and discourage vandalism.



FRIENDS OF GILLINGHAM STATION

Friends of Gillingham Station came third in a national Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) award for the: 'Station to Station – Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Projects – Special Award'.

They have also recently received a cheque from the Waitrose green token scheme for £233. The money will go towards station enhancements to improve the welcome to the Town. Future plans include improved signage, walks from the station map, planting, heritage information board and improved waiting room with a book swap facility.



Vintage milk churns and galvanised buckets were installed this summer to brighten up the station for passengers to enjoy. The planting scheme aims to reflect the industrial history of the station used to collect the milk churns from the many small dairy farmers.

CIVIC HALL RENOVATION

The Civic Hall will be closed to hirers during the month of November whilst major redecoration work is carried out.

It is the intention of the Town Council to promote the Civic Hall as a local wedding venue.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON NDDC BUDGET OPTIONS

North Dorset residents, businesses and visitors are being asked to have their say on two district council budget options. A formal public consultation is being launched on Monday 3rd October to gather views on how budget options concerning the CAB grant and Community Development Service is provided.

For more information on the consultation visit: www.dorsetforyou.com/your-say-budget-north-dorset.

The deadline for the consultation is Monday, 29th November at 5pm. The results of the consultation will be made public in February 2017.

Cllr Milsted added that the CAB grant has been capped at £73,000 since 2003. The district council is genuinely seeking steering from the general public on what should be done.

PROPOSED SHAFTESBURY HOSPITAL HUB

Gillingham Town Council, in Partnership with Shaftesbury Town Council and Mere Town Council, Iwerne Minster, Bourton, The Stours, West Knoyle, Silton, Melbury Abbas & Cann, Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna and Stalbridge Parish councils have had an informal meeting and agreed to work together to formulate a united, written response to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Dorset consultation in respect of the proposed Shaftesbury Hospital Hub and to continue to support Shaftesbury Town Council in their endeavour to retain the beds in Shaftesbury Hospital.



HIGH STREET BUS SHELTER

Work to refurbish Gillingham's High Street Bus Shelter has now been completed and members of the public have given the project a thumbs up.

The refurbishment was carried out in line with the recommendations of the Conservation Officer and Gillingham Local History Society as it is believed that the front section of the walls are part of the original walls which feature in John Constable's painting of Gillingham Bridge.



Information boards have been added to the inside of the shelter, giving details of Gillingham Conservation Area, walking routes and a map of the town centre. The bus timetables have been displayed in a larger format making it easier to read and the information has been compiled in consultation with Gillingham's Dementia Champions who are working towards making Gillingham a Dementia Friendly Town.

CIVIC DAY

On Sunday 25th September, Mayors and Chairmen from Dorset visited Gillingham for the annual Civic Day.



In the morning they were given a tour of North Dorset Rugby Football Club, and watched the Minis and Youth teams train.

In the afternoon they were taken to Gillingham School, where Mrs Lyons the Head Teacher, explained how the school has evolved over the past 500 years. This was followed by a tour of RiversMeet. Gillingham's community run leisure centre. The day ended with some retail therapy at Orchard Park Garden Centre and afternoon tea.

HIGHWAYS—WORKING TOGETHER

In July Cllr Ms Anna Baker attended a presentation by DCC Highways entitled 'Working Together'. Due to financial constraints DCC Highways will only be able to carry out highway tasks that are 'core functions and essential to road safety on the main routes' This will mean that other maintenance works will fall to local communities, although it is not a statutory requirement that local communities provide these services.

Gillingham Town Council is very keen to uphold and even improve, where it can, the appearance of the town and therefore the General Purposes Committee decided to include £3,000 in the Precept for FY 2017/18 to provide additional gully emptying, road sweeping, paving and kerb cleansing. The Town Council will also work on a publication to inform residents how they can work with the Town Council to keep our town looking splendid.

The Town Council has received many positive comments about the standard of verge cutting and planted areas in the town since taking over these functions from the County. Next year we hope to reduce the number of weeds that appeared in the highway kerbing by paying for additional road sweeping and street cleansing and regularly emptying gullies in flood prone areas.

NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE WORKER FOR GILLINGHAM



Hello – I am Louise Plumridge and will be starting to work in Gillingham as the new Community Resource worker from 18th October, following Sarah Reeve's move to Devon. I will be working every Tuesday at the Chantry Field

Community Office.

For the last 10 years I have been working in Shaftesbury as the Resource Worker for Shaftesbury Task Force. Much of my work has been helping local organisations write funding applications for their projects, and I am now very much looking forward to helping groups in Gillingham.

The telephone contact no. at Three Rivers Partnership is 01747 824327 My mobile no. is 0758 5888343 which you can contact me at any time or by email on: crwgillingham@threeriversgillingham.org

Looking Ahead to Christmas



Gillingham Town Council

**Annual Christmas Parade
& Christmas Tree Lighting
at The Town Meadow
on Friday 2nd December**

**Come and see Santa in our
Pantomime themed parade.**



Local drama groups will perform clips from
their forthcoming pantomimes on the stage.

Visit Santa in his grotto

There will be a Christmas Market,
Live Music, Food, and Children's Fairground Rides

It's the festive event that will start your Christmas

The procession starts at 6.30pm from the Town Hall
and will proceed along the High Street
to the Town Meadow.

For more information please contact
Gillingham Town Council
Tel: 01747 823598 Email: GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk
www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk/local-information/christmas-in-gillingham

Civic Carol Service

The Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Barry Von Clemens would like to invite you to attend Gillingham Town Council's Civic Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 2.30pm in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin followed by mince pies in the Vicarage School Room.



**Please note Gillingham Town Council
will close at 12.00pm on Friday 23rd
December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd
January 2017 at 9.00am**

Contact Your Councillor

Town Ward

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