



## GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall

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GILLINGHAM

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## FULL COUNCIL

The minutes of the **Full Council** meeting held on **Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**, at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Gillingham, Dorset.

### Present

Cllr Barry von Clemens, Mayor

Cllr Mick Hill

Cllr Paul Harris, Deputy Mayor

Cllr John Kilcourse

Cllr Fiona Cullen

Cllr Graham Poulter

Cllr Rupert Evill

Cllr Val Potheary

Cllr Alan Frith

Cllr John Robinson

Cllr Alison Gale

Cllr Donna Teye

Cllr Dennis Griffin

Cllr Roger Weeks

### In Attendance

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins

Deputy Town Clerk, Clare Ratcliffe

Dorset Councillor(s), Cllr Val Potheary (see above)

### Press and Public

Press: Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

Public: 30 members of the public

### Minute no.

**198. Public Participation. Please note: a period up to a maximum of fifteen minutes will be allowed for public comments and questions restricted to items listed on the following agenda.**

There was no public participation at this point in the meeting. Please refer to minute no. 205.

**199. To receive apologies for absence.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies received from Cllr Cullingford, Cllr Gould and Cllr Wareham as they were unable to attend the meeting due to personal reasons.

**200. To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, were agreed and approved. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**201. To receive any questions pertaining to the previous minutes.**

There were no questions pertaining to the previous minutes.

**202. To receive declarations of interest. Please note: members are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, section 27 disclosable pecuniary interests.**

**203.** There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests declared.

204.	<b>To receive and consider reports from the Schools Councils, if available.</b>
	There were no reports from the Schools Councils this month.
205.	<b>To receive written reports from outside bodies, if available, for consideration and approval:</b>
	<b>a) Three Rivers Partnership (3RP) and Three Rivers Community Partnership Board of Trustees, the Gillingham Community Leisure Trust (GCLT).</b>
	Cllr von Clemens reported that there was no report this month.
	<b>b) Town Meadow Group.</b>
	Cllr Cullingford was not present at the meeting; a report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix A.
	<b>c) Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry.</b>
	Cllr von Clemens was unable to attend the Chamber meeting this month but understood it was business as usual. The Chamber has declined the town council's offer to take on the organisation of the Annual Festive Lights Event.
	<b>d) DAPTC (Larger Towns: Cllr von Clemens; Northern Area: Cllr Toye / Cllr Weeks).</b>
	Larger Towns representative Cllr von Clemens and Northern Area representative Cllr Toye both reported that no meetings had been held this month.
	<b>e) Shaftesbury and District Transport Forum (Cllr von Clemens).</b>
	Cllr von Clemens reported that he had been unable to attend the transport forum meeting held on Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020; however, he referred to notes of that meeting taken by Dorset Councillor Belinda Ridout. Please note: since the Full Council meeting, the notes have become available, please refer to Appendix B.
	Cllr von Clemens referred to the unofficial announcement by South West Coaches of the proposed cut of the X2 bus service around the town from April 2020. Allegedly, it has been proposed that the service will be dropped in favour of a regular half hour service from Gillingham to Shaftesbury. It has been suggested that regular passenger figures for the X2 service are very low. South West Coaches will need to get approval from Dorset County to officially cut the service. The Town Council can only act as a conduit for public concern. Dorset Council are responsible for the bus service.
	Several members of the public were in attendance and spoke in favour of retaining the existing X2 bus service.
	<u>Resident 1:</u> The X2 provides a valuable transport link for those living in Wyke and Peacemash, which enables them to travel into town to do shopping or meet friends etc. Many are elderly, disabled or vulnerable and cannot walk the distance into town. Taxis are not readily available, especially as many are regularly employed for school use.
	<u>Resident 2:</u> The X2 timetable needs to be adjusted so that it coincides with train times. The buses are too big to manoeuvre. Why not use smaller buses?
	<u>Resident 3:</u> A lot of people are not able to come along to this meeting because it is held in the evening. The other company was more popular and used smaller buses. The route the bus takes is protracted and could be improved. Many pensioners cannot afford taxis. The bus should run for the convenience of its customers rather than the convenience of the bus company.
	<u>Resident 4:</u> The bus is used to go to Shaftesbury Hospital.
	<u>Resident 5:</u> There are no shops in Peacemash and not everyone shops online.
	<u>Resident 6:</u> It is uphill to Wyke and Peacemash. Not everyone can walk up hill, especially with shopping.
	Cllr Pothercary, speaking as a Dorset Councillor, asked out of those present who regularly used the X2 bus service. There was a show of 15 hands.
	It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that Gillingham Town Council would send a letter expressing the views of those against the cutting of the X2 bus service in Gillingham to Dorset Council and South West Coaches.
	After this item had been discussed, only 7 members of the public remained.

	<p><b>f) Gillingham Town Team.</b></p> <p>Cllr Gould was not at the meeting; however, a report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report contained one recommendation. Please refer to Appendix C and C1. The recommendation contained within the report did not receive any support. It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that Gillingham Town Council does not enter a licence with Sherborne School for the use of Chantry Fields (south of Le Neubourg Way) for amenity recreation at this time.</p>
	<p><b>g) Bones (Youth Club) Management Committee.</b></p> <p>Cllr von Clemens reported that there was no meeting this month.</p>
<b>206.</b>	<p><b>To receive, consider and adopt the following standing committee reports:</b></p>
	<p><b>a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.</b></p> <p>It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 is adopted.</p>
	<p><b>b) Planning Committee interim meeting held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and the Planning Committee meeting on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.</b></p> <p>It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the reports of the Planning Committee interim meeting held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 are adopted.</p>
	<p><b>c) Finance Committee meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.</b></p> <p>It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report of the Finance Committee, held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 is adopted.</p>
<b>207.</b>	<p><b>To receive and consider reports from the following, if available:</b></p>
	<p><b>a) Greener Gillingham Sub-Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Cullen was present at the meeting and referred to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix D.</p> <p>It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options whenever possible for staff, visitors and meetings.</li> <li>• Promote the FAIRTRADE Mark using Fairtrade Foundation materials in refreshment areas and promoting the Fairtrade Towns initiative in internal communications and external newsletters.</li> <li>• Use influence to encourage local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents.</li> <li>• Use influence to encourage local business to offer Fairtrade options to their staff and promote the FAIRTRADE Mark internally.</li> <li>• Use media and local events to publicise the Fairtrade Towns initiative.</li> <li>• Nominate a council representative (member or officer) to assist in the setting up of a Fairtrade Steering Group and to represent Gillingham Town Council with the ongoing work to promote Fairtrade.</li> <li>• Organise/support an event and/or publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight – the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) Woodwater Farm Sports Facility Task and Finish Group</b></p> <p>Cllr Poulter reported that the task and finish group had met with the football club earlier in the day and a meeting with the landowner will be arranged.</p>
<b>208.</b>	<p><b>To approve and authorise any payments over £10,000, if any.</b></p> <p>It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the payment of £52,598.80 as recommended by Full Council held on 25 November 2019, min no. 149 is authorised for payment.</p>



209.	<b>To confirm that a bank reconciliation has been signed and approved by a nominated councillor.</b>
	Cllr John Kilcourse confirmed that he had signed and approved the bank reconciliation.
210.	<b>To consider setting up a task and finish group to review options for future workshop provision.</b>
	It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that a Workshop Provision task and finish group would comprise of the following personnel: Cllr Harris, Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Poulter, Cllr Robinson and the Works Manager.
211.	<b>To receive and consider an application from Read Easy for free room hire.</b>
	An application for free room hire had been received from Read Easy. The charity has already received a grant of £675. The room hire requested is worth £110. It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that Read Easy is granted free room hire to the value of £110. The majority were in favour. Cllr Potheary abstained.
212.	<b>To receive and consider policy documents that have been fully reviewed by the Finance Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020, as follows:</b>
	<b>a) Pay Policy</b>
	It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Pay Policy, as amended is approved.
	<b>b) Grants Policy</b>
	It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Grants Policy, amended is approved.
213.	<b>To receive and consider the conclusion of the Local Council Risk Management audit.</b>
	It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Local Council Risk Management Strategy and audit is approved, subject to a review in six months' time.
214.	<b>To review and consider the Mayor's Handbook.</b>
	It was agreed and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Mayor's Handbook, as amended is approved.
215.	<b>To receive information regarding the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan consultation.</b>
	Shaftesbury Town Council has submitted a Neighbourhood Plan for Shaftesbury. Documents are available to view from 7 <sup>th</sup> February to 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 by visiting: <a href="http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/shaftesbury-neighbourhood-plan">www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/shaftesbury-neighbourhood-plan</a> .
216.	<b>To receive information on the outcome of the application made to the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund for a community development worker.</b>
	Please refer to Appendix E for more information.
217.	<b>To receive a report on the activities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor over the last month.</b>
	Please refer to Appendix F for more information.
218.	<b>To receive matters pertinent to this meeting. Please note: Members are advised that inclusion of any item is at the Chairman's discretion and that a council cannot lawfully decide upon any matter which is not specified in the summons (agenda).</b>
	<b>a) Five Year Action Plan Part II:</b> an informal meeting will take place on Thursday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm
	<b>b) The Mayor's Ball, Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March:</b> tickets still available. Please contact Cllr Gale direct.
	<b>c) South Western Railway Customer and Communities Improvement Fund:</b> Two applications submitted for Gillingham have been successful. More details to follow.

There being no other business on the agenda, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

The following reports were submitted by Dorset Councillors:

- Dorset Councillor, Belinda Ridout, was not present at the meeting but a report had been tabled. Please see Appendix F.
- Dorset Councillor, Val Potheary, gave a verbal report, a copy of which appears as Appendix G.

**Gillingham Town Council**

**Town Meadow Report**

**Author: Cllr Sharon Cullingford**

**1. Update**

- Tree trunks have been installed as a barrier between Red Lion Car Park and Town Meadow.
- Daffodils and snow drops are looking very healthy.
- The three lights on the Town Meadow are working.
- At the request of the Town Meadow Group (TMG), the landlord at the Red Lion Pub is seeking permission from Hall and Woodhouse to install a standpipe to the Red Lion Building facing the car park at the back of the Town Meadow. The stand pipe will supply fresh drinking water, when required, on event days and it is hoped that a meter can be installed, and a tamper proof lock put on the tap to restrict unnecessary use.

**2. Bookings**

- GANG work party to work on informal benches and take out old posts and tidy up: Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust, River fly monitoring: Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Mayor's Green Event: Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April
- VE Celebration, 8<sup>th</sup> May: GTC Event organized by Cllr Roger Weeks.
- Annual General Meeting: Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> May. Bob to organise publicity and Sharon to book venue.
- Marquee and River Dipping: Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May from 10am to 3pm.
- The Great Get Together, bring your own picnic: Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June.
- Bug Hunt Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August

**3. Other items**

The Town Meadow desperately needs "friends" subscribing to help support the local volunteer Group. It takes a lot of work and funds to look after "The Meadow". There are Town Meadow leaflets in the Reception at the Town Hall with subscription details inside. Please pick-up a leaflet and encourage others to join.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 9:30 am

Dorset Councillor, Belinda Ridout - Ward Report

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## **Notes of the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Area Transport Forum**

**Meeting held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Public Transport Information Day** to be held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, inviting all local community transport groups, transport providers, Dorset Travel and all groups representing residents who need to use public transport to access facilities/services. Venue to be advised.

### **Buses**

**Gillingham – Shaftesbury X2 Service.** South West Coaches have declared the route to be unsustainable in its current form and following discussions with Cllr Beer and Dorset Travel, it is proposed to concentrate on the regular half-hour inter-town route, i.e. the service between Shaftesbury and Gillingham, via Gillingham High Street and the railway station. The current extended route around Wyke and Peacemash has caused the inter-town service to become unreliable, often missing train connections. Very tight time constraints and regular traffic hold-ups have exacerbated the situation. The proposal is evidenced by actual passenger figures. The passenger count for Peacemash shows that only 6 passengers use this service regularly. The Motcombe service will also be affected, the proposal being to drop down to only two services in the morning and afternoon (effectively losing 4 services per day). This change will be taking place soon, possibly by the end of April, if given approval by Dorset Council.

Section 106 monies will provide funding for the inter-town bus route to service the eastern development of Shaftesbury. Unfortunately, there is no such funding for Gillingham for the Wyke/Peacemash area.

The announcement is obviously contrary to Dorset Council's proposals to reduce the carbon footprint. South West Coaches have confirmed that running smaller buses in and around the town works out more expensive than running the larger school buses, considering driver time to swap them over. However, I personally see it as an opportunity to put in place a far more efficient and climate friendly service. An initial proposal is for community transport to pick up the unmet need, with a circular route for access to main facilities in the town, encompassing outlying villages which would otherwise be isolated. I will be attending meetings over the coming weeks with Dorset Travel, Cllr Beer (Dorset's Public Transport Champion) and transport providers to work up a plan. The above Public Transport Information Day will be a very useful opportunity to inform the public of changes and alternative forms of public transport, e.g. community transport.

**Ham Roundabout Bus Stop** – a bus shelter to be installed in the layby south of the Ham roundabout, serving the outbound service to Shaftesbury. This to be funded by Section 106 monies. The existing bus stop northbound into Gillingham beyond the Ham roundabout to be relocated closer to the roundabout (at the end of the footway outside Sydenhams).

**Wiltshire Council – Transport (Salisbury Reds)** – considering the railway bridge/Newbury junction highways improvements by Dorset Council, Wiltshire Transport have requested an additional bus stop northbound, just over the bridge, so that in the event of traffic holds up to the station, passengers can disembark and use the footway down to Platform 1.

Wiltshire now have three all electric buses, servicing the southern park and ride. The main problem is with battery life, averaging 7 hrs, when the average bus needs 12 hrs. Therefore, the buses have been put on the park and ride service rather than the main service.

### **Railway**

**South West Railways** – number plate recognition cameras to be installed in the station car park, with customers paying by machine upon exit. How this might affect people dropping off or picking up passengers, yet to be known.

Off-peak day returns to London have been withdrawn. Now have to buy a Super off-peak return at an extra cost.

First class fares to London have been reduced by 45%.

Time keeping was appalling during the strikes at the end of 2019, but it was reported that there has been an improvement to service on the whole, with trains running reliably, with 9 cars.

Electrifying of trains west of Salisbury is needed, even if only third rail electrification (on track, not wired down from above), if we are to be ready for all electric public transport to meet the Government's emergency zero carbon deadline.

*Please note that these are my notes and more information can be obtained from the minutes when they are published.*



**Gillingham Town Council**

**Town Team Report**

**Author: Cllr Mike Gould**

**1. Business Improvement District**

The first meeting of the steering group on 19<sup>th</sup> February concluded that there was enough support among the business ratepayers of the town to warrant moving to the next stage. This involves searching for a chairman and establishing a banking facility. In this we are supported by the representative of Dorset Council.

**2. Town Centre Regeneration**

The second joint meeting with the Town Council and Dorset Council established the commitment on the part of Dorset Council to identify an enabler to act as a link between property owners, operators and developers. Meanwhile, the Town Team will continue to act in this capacity and liaise with both councils through agreed channels. Dorset Council are also reviewing assets, a process which may in time generate funding.

**3. Town Centre Cinema**

The Town Team have enlisted the support of the UK Cinema Association. They have introduced potential cinema operators and assisted in verifying the economic case for a cinema. This includes significant add on spending within a town associated with a cinema visit. Site visits by interested cinema operators are scheduled for March/April 2020.

**4. Sherborne Schools (related charity) interest in land south of Le Neubourg Way**

Following two site visits, the Estate Manager at Sherborne Schools has indicated their openness to discussing better access for the community. This requires agreement by the Town Council. A template licence has been forwarded to the Town Clerk, for information.

**5. Recommendation**

- **That the Estate Management sub-committee investigates the possibility of a licence with Sherborne Schools for improved community access to Chantry Fields (south of Le Neubourg Way).**

## Gillingham Town Council

### Report from the Town Team

#### Meeting held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Agenda Item		Action
<b>Present:</b>	Ian Day (Chair), David Beaton, Mark Hebditch, Jeremy Burge (as an observer) Cllr Mike Gould In attendance: Hugh de longh and Tim Brown, Dorset Council Apologies: Cllr Barry Von Clemens, Cllr Paul Harris, Philippa Turnbull, Julie Hawkins	
<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	The minutes of the last meeting, 15th October 2019, were agreed a correct record. As part of bringing new people in, Mike Gould will follow up with the Churches	Mike Gould
<b>Meeting with Dorset Council</b>	<p>Members of the Town Council and the Town Team met John Sellgren, Director of Place, Dorset Council, with the purpose of reinforcing the opportunity and need for Gillingham to grow sustainably, to avoid becoming a dormitory town with a lack of local employment opportunities, and leisure activities for a growing town.</p> <p>There is a need for pro-active planning for the Station Road site and the town centre, to enable the right sort of development to take place. There has been no news on the SW Railway Community Fund on the funding application to support a Development / Feasibility study for the western side part of Station Road (the area where the landowners expressed interest), and there is not enough current funding in hand to progress this, so it is unlikely that the full funding will be available. And some of the land, Tim Rose's land, is now on the market, which creates a risk of specific early development proposals for that site which don't fit with any overall Development Brief.</p> <p>John Sellgren had suggested that the first stage is for a Planning Brief, done in house in Dorset Council if there are not the resources to do this externally. This would at least provide a constraint on purely residential use and support a mixed use, and many see this as a valuable first step. With the Atkins report and the subsequent Neighbourhood Plan, there is considerable work already done which could be developed into a Development Brief</p> <p>Mike Gould felt that the Development Brief was of limited value unless there was a Viability assessment which demonstrated an increase in land values for the landowners, and so actively engaging them in a comprehensive, rather than piecemeal development.</p> <p>The town centre also needs a Development Brief, with the lease of the Co-op coming to an end soon, so the site becoming available for redevelopment. It is anticipated that the owner might develop for a residential care home. There had been much work by the Town Team on testing the viability of a cinema, but there was a funding gap for converting the old Co-op. There had been some questioning by others of the demand for a cinema; there was some information which came from a young person's survey as part of the Neighbourhood Plan work,</p>	David Beaton

	<p>done by We Made That, and David Beaton is to find the survey results or forward the contact details to Ian Day. The Bournemouth University survey work may also bring up responses relevant to a cinema.</p> <p>The Town Team and representatives of GTC have another meeting with John Sellgren on <u>20th February</u> in Gillingham. The attendance list for this meeting is not known yet.</p>	
<b>Business Improvement District (BID)</b>	<p>There had been 2 meetings to date, both positive, particularly from the larger Business Rate payers. There will be a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce on <u>6th February</u>, Tim Brown to go to this, subject to Ian Day checking with the Chamber first.</p>	Ian Day
<b>Bournemouth University</b>	<p>This work, by a group of students, looking at the promotion and marketing of the town, will help in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve use of social media</li> <li>• Survey of the town to provide background evidence for town centre development potential</li> <li>• Approaching local schools and businesses to look at improving links</li> <li>• Desk research on how other towns attract inward investment</li> </ul>	
<b>Extension of Wider Group</b>	<p>There had been a meeting at the Slade Centre, well attended. Some key ideas which came out were as follows:</p> <p><b>Land owned by Sherborne School</b> south of Le Neuborg Way. Could the School allow the area to be tidied up and improved for recreational walking, etc, without prejudicing their development aspirations? Jez Spicer has been following this up, and there is an example in Sturminster where this approach has been successful through a formal agreement; Hugh de longh has been asked to find more detail of the agreement framework.</p> <p><b>Walking booklet for the town.</b> Billy Kelly has put a booklet together, and the History Society has had an input The booklet will be available shortly in digital format, and the costs of printing for the Town Council, Station, Museum etc is circa £800. Are there any funding sources for this? Hugh de longh to look.</p> <p><b>Car parking at the Station.</b> Following a request to members of the Town Council to ensure that this issue is not currently being acted on by them, Simon Ashworth is looking at how the car parking capacity can be increased at the station, including on the other side from the main Station Road car park.</p>	Hugh de longh
<b>Town Team legal status</b>	The conversion of the Town Team from a Limited Company to a Community Interest Company is with Companies House.	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	This will be set when there is progress to report	

**Gillingham Town Council**  
**Greener Gillingham Sub Committee**  
**FAIRTRADE TOWN - RESOLUTION**

**1. Introduction**

This report follows a resolution made at Full Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019, minute no. 186 (a), as follows:

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to achieve Fair Trade Town status by 31 December 2020

The Town Council has never declared itself a Fairtrade Town but registered an interest in becoming a Fairtrade Town in c.2009. There is support to revisit Fairtrade Town status, especially as communities are being actively encouraged to consider ways in which to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

With Fairtrade people have the power to change the world every day. With simple shopping choices you can get farmers a better deal. And that means they can make their own decisions, control their future and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.

Fairtrade is a global movement with a strong and active presence in the UK, represented by the Fairtrade Foundation.

**2. The Fair Trade Mark**



The Fairtrade Foundation receives a licence fee, paid by companies using the FAIRTRADE Mark on their products, which constitutes over 85% of the Fairtrade Foundation's income. The licence fee covers the cost of monitoring and certification which underpins the independent guarantee offered by the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Donations from passionate supporters of Fairtrade, as well as grants from organisations working with us to make trade fairer, are an essential part of the Fairtrade Foundation's income, making up between 10-20% of our income.

Other income received comes from grants such as: DFID (Department for International Development), the European Commission, Comic Relief, and a host of other grant makers. Donations are received from individual supporters, schools, faith groups, workplaces, Fairtrade Towns and other community organisations.



### 3. Further information

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/What-is-Fairtrade/Who-we-are>  
<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/What-is-Fairtrade/Using-the-FAIRTRADE-Mark>  
<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/What-is-Fairtrade/FAQs>

### 4. Aim and Objectives

Gillingham Town Council will facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark in pursuit of sustainable development and to give marginalised producers a fair deal.

To be recognised by the residents and business community of Gillingham, Dorset, suppliers, employees and other local authorities, as a town that actively supports and promotes Fairtrade and to increase the sale of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Gillingham Town Council resolves to contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark by supporting the campaign to achieve Fairtrade status for Gillingham, Dorset as detailed in the Fairtrade Foundation's Fairtrade Towns initiative.

### 5. Recommendations

That Gillingham Town Council agrees and RESOLVES to:

- Offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options available for staff, visitors and meetings.
- Promote the FAIRTRADE Mark using Fairtrade Foundation materials in refreshment areas and promoting the Fairtrade Towns initiative in internal communications and external newsletters.
- Use influence to encourage local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents.
- Use influence to encourage local business to offer Fairtrade options to their staff and promote the FAIRTRADE Mark internally.
- Use media and local events to publicise the Fairtrade Towns initiative.
- Nominate a council representative (member or officer) to sit on the Fairtrade Steering Group and support ongoing work to promote Fairtrade.
- Organise/support an event and/or publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight – the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Please note: the above recommendation was amended at the meeting.

**Gillingham Town Council**  
**National Lottery Community Fund**  
**Update**

**1. Background**

At Full Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019, minute no. 129, Appendix H, Phil Wilson of the Three Rivers Partnership told members about the National Lottery Community Fund Partnership Programme and an idea to secure funding for a Partnership Development Officer. At that meeting it was resolved that Gillingham Town Council would take the lead role in the application to the National Lottery.

**2. Outcome**

At the end of January 2020, the National Lottery contacted the Town Council as follows:

*28 Jan 2020*

*Hello*

*I'm in touch before you get the official feedback from the SW Panel to say unfortunately your application has been unsuccessful.*

*As I explained last year when I spoke to Phil and Mark, we have many more requests into our Reaching Communities Programme than we can possibly fund. Only 1 in 5 are successful. So, the main reason for not being able to fund you is lack of resources and other proposals being a stronger fit with our programme priorities – in your case particularly around our people in the lead theme.*

*The Panel could see that there is need in Gillingham however they felt the consultation with the voluntary sector groups was limited and there was a lack of evidence of wider community buy in to your idea.*

*So sorry to be the bearer of bad news and good luck in your pursuit of funding elsewhere.*

*Thanks*

*Fundraising Officer*

**3. Recommendation**

None.

Dorset Councillor, Belinda Ridout - Ward Report

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**Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel (EAP)** 'Task & Finish' topic areas: Transport, Waste & Energy, Buildings and Assets, Leadership and Influence and Natural Environment.

**Climate Change Inquiry Days** the first of these took place on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 10am to 3.30pm at South Walks House, Dorchester. A very interesting and inspiring day, when 15 members of the public came to present their ideas to the EAP Panel. Ideas including making use of the River Stour for hydro-electric power, solar car parks, 'Ditch the car', Hydrogen based energy storage, 'War on Waste'. Earth Protector Towns. Another session will take place on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 4-9pm. All ideas will go to the 'Task & Finish' groups for further investigation for suitability to be included in the Climate Change Forward Plan.

**Northern Planning Committee** is to meet at Sturminster Newton on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. There are no items within the Gillingham Ward.

**Governance Review Findings (Peer Challenge), Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January** (organised by the Local Government Association). To hear the results of the Governance Review undertaken by a team of sector experts from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019, looking at: setting priorities; leadership of Place; organisational leadership and governance; financial planning and capacity to deliver. The timing of the review early in the formation of the Unitary was thought to be beneficial. There was nothing in the review findings that was greatly concerning, and Dorset Council was praised for a well-managed transition from the previous council set up, with a good sense of place, purpose and clear intent to improve outcomes in the face of many challenges – financial, transformational, travel and transport, integration and demand pressures. Comments included the recognition of an appetite for joint working from partners, e.g. town and parish councils, and the need to build on capacity and resilience of local communities. A need to build on the good communication and engagement work already carried out and to develop greater insights into resident's wants, needs and demands. To build on relationships with the Local Enterprise Partnership LEP, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and bordering authorities. Members have been asked to make comment on the actions arising from the review which will go to Cabinet for approval. The Peer Review team offered their support over the next 12-18 months.

**Full Council, Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February** – (a very long meeting!!)

**Dorset Council Plan 2020-2024** – as recommended by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 the Dorset Council Plan was approved by members. This followed engagement and valuable feedback from residents, businesses, partner organisations (including town and parish councils), colleagues and the voluntary and community sector. The Dorset Council Plan sets out the council's main priorities for the next four years: economic growth; the unique environment; suitable housing; strong, healthy communities and staying safe and well. Changes were made to reflect that the Climate change and ecological emergency is a cross cutting theme that must be emphasised across the plan and how this impacts on each priority.

**Budget Strategy Report** – as recommended by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the Budget Strategy Report was approved by members after much debate. The report sets out proposals for Dorset Council's 2020/21 revenue and capital budgets and summarises the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) to 2024/5, including the capital strategy and treasury management strategy. An increase of council tax of just under 4% will help fund the rising cost of adult social care and children's services and protect discretionary services: General council tax of 1.995% and 2% for social care, providing a band D council tax figure for Dorset Council of £1,694.79. The 2019/20 forecast overspend is supported by reserves. There have been no cuts to front



line services. The 2020/21 budget proposals allow for significant increases in budget for Children's and Adults' Services through a combination of increased government funding, increased contributions from residents and efficiencies realised following the creation of the Unitary. Children's Services funding increased by a further £10.2m, from £63.7m to £73.9m with additional resources being put into the budget to provide for increasing levels and costs of support for children and young people with more complex needs. Adult Services increased by £11.7m, from £111.2m to £122.9m, with additional resources being made available to support older and more vulnerable people.

**Dorset Council Budget 2020/21 £304m** - sources of funding made up of Council Tax £252m (82%); retained business rates £47m (16%); other £5m - small specific grants such as Rural Services Delivery and New Homes Bonus (2%). There is no longer funding from the Central Government Revenue Support Grant.

**Review of the Constitution** - members approved changes to the constitution, including:

- Enabling the Leader to designate up to 6 members from the controlling group as Lead Members to work alongside portfolio holders; (to help share workload)
- To replace the existing four overview and scrutiny committees with two overview committees and two scrutiny committees with the chairmen of the two scrutiny committees being members of the largest opposition group and the vice chairmen not being members of the controlling group.

**Pay Policy Statement** – members approved the first Pay Policy Statement for Dorset Council for the financial year 2020/21 as required under the Localism Act 2011. It sets out the salary bands for the Chief Executive, plus the Executive and Corporate Directors. The statement also details the council's lowest salary grade and remuneration payment policies, such as standby allowances and overtime payments.

#### **Dorset Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel – Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February**

A presentation was given by Frances Summers, Senior Planning Officer outlining proposals for the promotion and **communication of the Dorset Local Plan**, along with a new 'leaf' logo. Aim is to achieve an excellent user experience, reaching the widest audience possible, enabling public involvement at all stages of the new plan. There will be two consultations, the first being an 'Options' consultation this autumn followed by a second consultation in 2021 of the final draft plans, before it is submitted for inspection.

There is also a proposal to run a simple and easy to answer Opinion Pole, March – September, to get sample opinions on up to 10 questions, using social media.

Advertising the Local Plan will include: social/on line advertising; attention grabbing headlines; running drop-ins in towns, at events – with Dorset Councillors' help.

An interesting presentation was also given on **CIL proposals (Construction Infrastructure Levy)**, which goes towards the provision of infrastructure. Unlike s106, which is a negotiation process and has to be related to the development, dealing with the direct impact of the development, CIL is non- negotiable, as it is developed through the Local Plan and developers are therefore fully aware of charges before they start.

It was considered to be a good time to review CIL at the start of the new Dorset Council. The old North Dorset District area is the only area in the Unitary without a CIL charge in place. (NDDC decided to use S106 only due to lack of resources).

Ideally Dorset Council needs a single charging CIL schedule in parallel with the Dorset Local Plan and the proposal is the convergence of all previous sovereign council arrangements, including the IT systems and governance arrangements. The percentage of CIL to town and parishes is: 15% if no Neighbourhood Plan and 25% with a NP.



Two Papers will be going to Cabinet Spring 2020, one with proposals for Dorset Council CIL short term and long term (2023) and S106. Sovereign s106 (pre LGR) will remain ring fenced and used within that area, unless projects are no longer needed, when money could be reallocated.

**Other items:**

**Bee & Butterfly Garden, platform 2, Gillingham Station** – following a meeting with Robert Hodgkinson, Franchise & Access Manager (Non-Lead TOCs and Community Rail), Network Rail Wessex Route, Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, a significantly reduced landscaping scheme is now back on the agenda with NR subject to business and technical clearance and drawing up of a Licence Agreement (at no cost). If all goes well, the plan is to clear the site of weeds this summer and plant in the autumn.

**Dorset Local Access Forum** - which provides numerous local, regional and national organisations with independent advice regarding improving outdoor access/green space for people to enjoy by foot, horse, bike and car will resume in May 2020. More details about this statutory body can be found on the Dorset council website.

**Local Government Awards** - 18<sup>th</sup> March - Dorset Council has been nominated for a Business Transformation Award, along with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Pool (BCP).

**Award to boost rural mobile connectivity** – a bid led by Dorset Council has been awarded £4.3m to help understand how rural communities could benefit from next generation mobile connectivity, 5G. A consortium of council, local, national and international partners plans to show that mobile infrastructure can be delivered cost effectively and sensitively to benefit rural businesses and communities. The Dorset project is one of seven across the UK to be funded by the government's Rural Connected Communities competition over the next two years to see if 5G can be rolled out differently and help solve rural challenges, offering greater speed, less delay and the ability to connect a lot more devices at once. Trials are planned on a small number of remote Dorset farms (agri-tech development), Dorset Innovation Park, Winfrith, Lulworth Estate and along the Dorset coast (public safety). The total cost of the 5G Rural Dorset initiative is £6.675m with the council contributing £150,000. The rest will come from industry and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Four trials in the county will look at innovative public, social and business uses of improved mobile coverage. They will test whether this connectivity can be delivered cheaper and quicker using existing masts, buildings and fibre wherever possible to minimise visual and other impacts on communities.

All agenda and minutes can be found on the Dorset Council website:  
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>