

## Future Events

**LITTER PICK UP**  
from 10am  
meeting at the Town Hall,  
Gillingham  
**Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**March, 2019**  
**Volunteers needed**  
(Groups/organisations welcome to take part)  
**Please contact:**  
**Gillingham Town Council**  
**01747 823588**  
[gtc@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](mailto:gtc@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

**Defibrillator Awareness Session**  
The Olive Bowl, SP8 4PX  
Monday April 1st at 18.30pm  
**Free attendance**  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
Contact 01747 823588  
[GTC@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:GTC@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Gillingham Town Council

## Contact Your Councillor

### Town Ward

Cllr Mrs Anne Beckley .....01747 823821  
[abeckley007@btinternet.com](mailto:abeckley007@btinternet.com)  
Cllr Mrs Sharon Cullingford.....07426 499813  
[cllcullingford@gmail.com](mailto:cllcullingford@gmail.com)  
Cllr Paul Harris .....01747 826991  
[Cllr.paul.harris@btinternet.com](mailto:Cllr.paul.harris@btinternet.com)  
Cllr Mick Hill.....07437 301007  
[punkpaint101@gmail.com](mailto:punkpaint101@gmail.com)  
Cllr Graham Poulter.....07890 007347  
[Gtc.gpoulter@yahoo.com](mailto:Gtc.gpoulter@yahoo.com)  
Cllr Mrs Val Potheary .....01747 826089  
[vpotheary@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:vpotheary@tiscali.co.uk)  
Cllr John Robinson.....01747 822928  
[jnr@jnrobinson.plus.com](mailto:jnr@jnrobinson.plus.com)  
Cllr Barry Von Clemens .....07835 271287  
[vonclemensbarry@gmail.com](mailto:vonclemensbarry@gmail.com)

### Wyke Ward

Cllr Rupert Evill.....01747 822886  
[rupertevill@live.co.uk](mailto:rupertevill@live.co.uk)  
Cllr Alan Frith .....01747 826394  
[alan.frith@talk21.com](mailto:alan.frith@talk21.com)  
Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout .....07496 413114  
[cldr.belindaridout@gmail.com](mailto:cldr.belindaridout@gmail.com)  
Cllr David Walsh .....07973 228620  
[cldr.davidwalsh@outlook.com](mailto:cldr.davidwalsh@outlook.com)

### Ham Ward

Cllr Mike Gould .....01747 826204  
[mgould@emf-ltd.co.uk](mailto:mgould@emf-ltd.co.uk)  
Cllr Mrs Donna Toye.....01747 590805  
[donna@treeonthehill.com](mailto:donna@treeonthehill.com)

### Milton Ward

Cllr Mrs Su Hunt .....01747 840333  
[su.hunt@outlook.com](mailto:su.hunt@outlook.com)

### Rural Ward

Cllr Miss Nicky Purkis .....07832 068170  
[Cllr.nicky.purkis@outlook.com](mailto:Cllr.nicky.purkis@outlook.com)

# Gillingham Town Council

Issue 22



January 2019

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 Julie Hawkins

**Deputy Clerk** Mrs Clare Ratcliffe

**Customer Service Officer** Mrs Jill Ezzard

**Responsible Finance Officer** Ms Debra Edwards

## 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

## Training, Advice and Information Now Available to Young People in Gillingham

A new outreach bus will be in Gillingham to provide services for young people. The bus which is owned by the South West Regional Assessment Centre (SWRAC) will be based by the Riversmeet Leisure Centre on Thursdays during the day for the training young people and then by the Rendezvous youth work team once a month on a trial basis.

During the Rendezvous led sessions, young people will be able to access advice and information on an informal drop-in basis on a whole host of issues including housing, benefits, relationships, sexual health, substance misuse. This builds on the regular outreach sessions funded by Gillingham Town Council and provides additional benefit to the young people.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR GILLINGHAM

Are you passionate about your community? Want to play a part in making decisions about your area?

Then get more involved and influence the way local services are provided.

Why not attend a Town Council meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March and see what goes on or come our open evening on 7<sup>th</sup> March and meet councillors and staff.

**You could be a Town Councillor** if you are over 18, live in the parish and are a British or Commonwealth citizen.

Nominations can be received from 18th March 2019

For further information visit [www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk/who-we-are/elections](http://www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk/who-we-are/elections)

or  
Telephone: 01747 823588

## The next Town Council elections are due to be held on Thursday 2nd May 2019

Make sure you are registered to vote. For more information on how to register visit: [www.dorsetforyou.com/register-to-vote](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/register-to-vote)

## 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.



## Make a Difference Become a Town Councillor

### What do councillors do?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give a voice on the decisions the Town Council makes. Becoming a councilor will allow you to make a real difference in your community by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the town council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the services are meeting your community needs.

**Listening:** One of the most important tasks of a Town Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community.

**Meetings:** A councillor agrees to attend all meetings (reasonably possible) that he or she is summoned to. In medium and larger councils along with full council meetings, there are further committee meetings or working groups. Most meetings are held in the evening but some committees and group representation may be during the day. Committees include planning, Policy and Resources, staff and Salaries and General Purposes. Each councillor is only expected to serve on one or two committees.

**Representation:** Town Councils also need representation at other local government meetings or on local bodies/organisations and councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the town council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on Unitary, County and regional changes.

**Ceremonial Duties:** There will be times when councillors are asked to attend civic functions as part of their duty to the community. This may entail Remembrance Parades, civic dinners or attendance at public functions to name but a few.

**Extra skills:** Through all of these functions councillors will draw on their own skills and experiences and it is the sharing of these skills that makes a strong team. Town Councils provide a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavour to solve them locally themselves. Councillors working as a team will need to deal with employment issues, budgeting, asset management, staff management, project management or grant funding and probably lots more if they are creative and involved. All councils must be aware and owe a duty to their community to manage staff considerately, whether it is employing one parish clerk or a whole host of office and grounds' maintenance staff. Accounts must be kept and whilst the Responsible Financial Officer is employed to carry out this duty. Councillors together as a team are responsible for the financial decisions made and implemented.

The Town Clerk is employed to advise and seek advice on behalf of councillors to assist them in their decisions. Councillors are there to consider the information gathered and make a group decision on all matters. No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best.

**Training and support:** Training is available to all councillors. Legislation allows for councils to pay for training and ongoing training for councillors is sound business management. The County Secretary for the Association of Local Councils in Dorset will provide details of professional training programmes designed specifically for councillors. Further information is available on request.

**Responsibility:** All councillors are expected to abide by the Town Councils Code of Conduct. Each local council must adopt and publicise a Code of Conduct. The Code deals with councillors obligations about their conduct, including the registration and disclosure of their interests. Complaints about councillors' conduct are dealt with by the principal authority.

### How long does it take?

A national councillor survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. This often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking on behalf of the council to other bodies.

### Can I stand?

There are only a few rules to stand for election. You Must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth,
- 18 Years of age or older.
- Owner or tenant of occupied land or other premises, or work in the area in the preceding 12 months, that is served by Gillingham Town Council

If this is for you ,please visit the Town Council website for further information or call in to the Town Hall, or telephone 01747 823588.

[www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk/who-we-are/elections](http://www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk/who-we-are/elections)



## DEFRA Bees Needs Awards 2018



On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, The Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Su Hunt and Deputy Town Clerk, Clare Ratcliffe were invited to Kew Gardens to receive a DEFRA Bees Needs Award presented by Lord Gardiner – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity. Award winners were also presented with a pot of honey made from the bees kept in hives on the roof top of the DEFRA offices in London.

The Award recognised Gillingham Town Council's achievements in promoting the awareness of the declining population of our bees and other pollinators.

Gillingham Town Council's Pollinators' Action Plan includes a range of principles that are applied to all relevant projects, plans and decision-making processes, both now and in the future. Actions cover areas of public open space, planted areas, cemeteries, playing spaces, grassed verges and allotments where harmful chemicals will be discouraged, and the planting of more pollinator-friendly plants will be actively encouraged.

Dorset Wildlife Trust carries out regular monitoring on the town's larger open spaces. This year an increase in the diversity of animal and insect species has been recorded; a good indicator that our Pollinator Action Plan is working.

The Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Mrs Su Hunt said:

"Much of our grassland is sterile patches of rye grass that provides very little food source for butterflies. Increased development is stressing the wildlife friendliness of the town. The Pollinators' Action Plan has encouraged housing developers to consult directly with the Town Council on the design of landscaping schemes within new housing developments and the choice of grass mix, trees, shrubs and plants most suited to pollinators.

"This is a wonderful achievement for Gillingham - a Pollinator Friendly Town".



## High Street Toilets

Work has commenced converting the High Street Toilets into a community office, whilst still retaining a disabled toilet for public use.

Work is expected to last a few months.

## New Staff

The Town Council welcomed Ms Debra Edwards in December, as the Responsible Finance Officer. Debra has extensive financial experience gained in both local government and charities. Debra is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Mr Archie Temple will join the grounds team in February as the Town Council's specialist in horticulture. Archie will be designing, planting and maintaining the council's gardens and flower beds.

## Cllr Graham Poulter



Graham joined the Town Council in November . He is married and has lived in Gillingham for 25 years. Graham retired some three years ago having spent upwards of 39 years as solicitor in private practice.

Graham has during his career assisted in setting up Legal Advice centres in various areas of Bristol and practised in many fields such as residential and commercial conveyancing, employment and licensing but principally in family, divorce and general litigation.

Graham says `I have many and diverse interests which occupy me and which bring me into contact with people of all walks of life. I now have the time and the wish to contribute to the community. I see the role of a Town Councillor as one which would enable me to make a meaningful contribution. The role as I see it involves representing local people and assisting them where possible, conveying their views on local issues to the Council, communicating with local interest groups and charities, participating in decision making and, through committees/working parties, making a contribution in specific areas. I believe that my experiences in professional life have provided me with the necessary attributes to enable me to fulfil the role.