

Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy 2018



Gillingham Town Council has recently agreed to adopt a Balloon and Sky Release Policy, similar to the policy already adopted by the Dorset Councils Partnership, to raise awareness of these concerns and hopes to encourage organisations in the town and in the surrounding villages to discourage the use of balloons and sky lanterns.

As a nation, we are being encouraged to reduce the use of plastics and Gillingham Town Council has joined forces with Dorset Sky Lanterns and Balloons Release Charter - an organisation that encourages everyone to reduce the amount of plastics and other waste that litter our countryside and coastline. Where balloons and lanterns are released intentionally outdoors and are not disposed of responsibly, this will be regarded as littering and could be considered an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 2005.

Wyke Primary School Visit the Town Hall



Wyke Primary School's School Council visited the Town Hall on Thursday 14th June. They were greeted by the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Su Hunt and held a School

Council meeting in the Council chambers. One of the pupils was voted in as Chairperson for the meeting and joined the Mayor, Town Clerk, Sylvia Dobie and the Deputy Mayor Cllr Von Clemens at the top table.



Wyke Primary School's School Council now have a slot on Town Council meeting agendas where they can put forward items of interest chosen by them for the Town Council to discuss!

Green Flag

On Friday, 8th June Green Flag judges from Somerset visited our green spaces in the north and south of the town to see whether they matched the exacting standards of Green Flag accreditation.

Open spaces at Jubilee Fields, Rolls Bridge, King Edmund Green and Hawthorne Avenue have already achieved Green Flag status for two consecutive years. This year, for the first time, the open spaces at Upper Lodden, Lower Lodden and Ham Farm were judged. The outcome of the judging will be known later in July. Well done to the grounds team

Contact Your Councillor

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Gillingham Town Council

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Quarterly News

Gillingham Town Council

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Town Clerk: Mrs Sylvia Dobie

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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

Please visit the 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.



Cllr. Mrs Su Hunt Mayor of Gillingham



As a local girl growing up in Mere I married Edgar Hunt, the younger son of Silton farmers in 1973. We moved to Milton-on-Stour where we still live today and have brought up three children all of whom attended Milton Primary School and

Gillingham School, where I still hold a position of School Governor.

I joined Gillingham Town Council in 1990 and the Town Council has been a big part of my life. I am proud of Gillingham and the wonderful work the Town Council has achieved. It is an honour and privilege to be serving the community of Gillingham and it is with great excitement I take on the mayoral chain for the fourth time. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all the wonderful volunteers from clubs, societies, trusts, organisations and young people who make this town so very special. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for bestowing me this honour and I will be working with them as we approach the many changes that will take place in 2019 when the district and county Councils merge into a unitary authority.

At the beginning of June, Gillingham was judged for Green Flag status at many of our Public Open Space Areas. I walked some of these areas recently. It was a joy to see the green areas in town being enjoyed by so many people. The young trees planted over the winter period have come into leaf and grass cutting is in full swing. The refurbishment of the High Street flower beds has been completed. A new plaque commemorating the end of WW1 has been placed within the High Street D bed and the flower bed on the corner of Station Road displays the town crest. My sincere thanks to the dedicated work of this council and all its employees.

Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Thursday 12th July 2018.

This referendum is an exciting moment in Gillingham's long and colourful history as it provides an opportunity for the residents of Gillingham to vote in favour of a document that sets out a vision for the town's future over the next decade and beyond.

The people of Gillingham and the surrounding area have been consulted at regular intervals during the 6 years that it has taken to produce, so the plan is the voice of the community.

Please have a look at the plan before you vote. It can be found in hard copy at the Library, in the Town Hall and at the council offices in South Walks, Dorchester. It can also be viewed online at Dorset for You if you type in :

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/article/426271

On page 2 of the plan (5 pages into the document) there is a summary which gives a clear idea of what is to be found in its 92 pages. Don't be put off by the size of the document – it took eight volunteers six years to produce, so it's not surprising that it's quite weighty – but it's a great document to browse through looking at maps, diagrams, policies and explanatory text.

There's something for everybody here. If you're interested in the economy of the town, there's a lot about the regeneration of the Town Centre and Station Road area. If you're interested in heritage, look at the final sections of the plan to see what we have identified as of historic value and worth preserving. If you treasure your open spaces have a look at what we have said about those invaluable amenities. If you're interested in rivers and flooding there are extensive photos and diagrams of where flooding has reached in recent years.

A key point to note is that the plan does not allocate any further area for development over that proposed in North Dorset District Council's Local Plan – since the extent of development in the Southern Extension will provide a major source of new housing and employment land over the period this plan covers (to 2031). So the plan does not support additional development that might encroach on valued open space.

Many of the volunteers who put the plan together will be around and about on polling day. Do chat to them if you need to have anything clarified or explained. We'll be only too happy to help. So far all Neighbourhood Plans in the UK that have gone to referendum have not only been given a 'yes' vote by their communities but have mostly achieved a good turn out as well. It would be great if the people of Gillingham were to turn out in force and give a resounding vote of approval for this vision for the town's future.

Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Written By The Community For The Community

A **Neighbourhood Plan** is a way of helping local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work.

The Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan can:

- Protect precious open spaces from development.
- Protect existing recreation land and sports pitches from development.
- Identify the most suitable locations for new businesses and jobs.
- Preserve and enhance the historic character of the town.
- Enhance and improve the local network of footpaths and cycle ways.
- Support the controlled regeneration of the Town Centre and Station Road area.

Please note: Planning regulations prevent the plan from involvement in the road system, secondary education and primary healthcare.

Gillingham Litter Pickers

The Gillingham Pickers have been very busy since they started in April. At their last litter pick on the 10th June they collected a staggering 42kg of rubbish in just 2 hours. If you would like to join these wonderful volunteers, please call Shirley Ball on 07599 829539 or email :

gillinghampickers@lavalake.co.uk.

Holly Completes Her Work Experience

Holly volunteered as a gardener for Gillingham Town Council between October 2017 and May 2018 as part of her training course with Kingston Maurward College. During this time Holly worked in extremely difficult weather conditions as part of the council grounds team under the supervision of Mr Mostyn Coombes, Senior Horticultural Groundsman.

We wish her well in her future career.



Mostyn Coombes, Holly Francis & Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout

Gillingham – A Pollinator Friendly Town

Gillingham Town Council continues to raise awareness of the importance of our pollinators to sustain life.

At the end of May volunteers from Gillingham Action for Nature Group (GANG) were busy sowing wildflower seeds and cereals crops on the public open space at Shreen Meadow. The seed varieties chosen were the same type used by farmers to plant along the edges of fields to provide a food source for insects and wildlife.

Bob Messer, said: "GANG are very excited about developing Shreen Meadow as a wildlife haven and it will be interesting to monitor how many more butterflies and birds are attracted to this site."

A wildflower lawn has been created in the closed churchyard at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in Gillingham as part of an ongoing Living Churchyard project in partnership with the Town Council.



Rev Eve Pegler, said: "We are really looking forward to a colourful display of wildflowers this summer as well as providing a great source of food for our pollinators."

It is not easy to establish wildflower meadows in heavy clay areas such as Gillingham as the natural soils are too rich for many wildflowers to grow; however, with good management and patience it may be possible to overcome these initial difficulties. Two small wildflower areas are being trialled with a mixture of wildflower seeds and plug plants on the public open space at Rolls Bridge and Jubilee Fields. If successful, more areas will become designated for wildflowers.

Cllr Belinda Ridout, said: "The Town Council is committed to improving the biodiversity of the town and surrounding areas and encourages everyone to plant something for our pollinators. The more people who work with us, the more effective we will be in preventing further decline of our pollinators."



Improvements to the Conservation Area Continue

Gillingham Town Council is improving and enhancing the public areas in Gillingham High Street and the Conservation Area. A consultation carried out by Gillingham Town Team showed that residents, businesses and visitors to the town support public investment in the town centre in order to reflect the town's heritage, facilitate social interaction and increase footfall.



The area between the Town Bridge and The Square is situated within Gillingham Conservation Area and has been placed on the 'At Risk Register' by Historic England. Gillingham Town Council are working in partnership with the Town Meadow Group, Gillingham Museum, Sovereign Housing and SSE to improve and enhance existing public space with the long-term aim of being removed from the 'At Risk Register'.

You may have noticed that last year the bus shelter was repaired and improved and this year refurbishment work has been carried out to the flower beds and to the area adjacent to the Town Bridge.



This summer the street lights in the Conservation Area are due to be replaced by SEE. The town council are delighted to announce that the lights will be replaced by Heritage Style lighting which will be in keeping with the historic centre of our town. During this work, improvements will be made to the area around the entrance gate to the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, a Grade I listed building. Some of this work has been made possible thanks to a Love your Neighbourhood grant from Co-operative Funeral care.