



Cirencester Town Council NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008

ISSUE NO. 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Annual Report for 2007/8, which includes reports from the Mayor and all committees and groups
- ◆ Forthcoming Meetings and Events
- ◆ Information Point, Useful Telephone Numbers and Contacts

MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8



"This has been a year of change; A new Council was elected, with many new members, in May 2007. Three other new members were co-opted in June; Also in June last year Andrew Crook retired and a new Clerk, Andrew Tubb, joined us. This opens up possibilities for Cirencester to move forward to Quality Council Status.

We began this process with the launch of a quarterly Newsletter delivered to every home in the town. The newsletter informs households about the work of the Town Council and includes information about the Bingham Library Trust, the Charter Market and events in the town.

We have also introduced a series of Community lunches, the first, to launch the newsletter and promote the Twinning event, brought many people together whose paths had not crossed in the normal course of events and enabled people to "network". The town will continue to benefit from the relationships forged. The second lunch focused on the arts and cultural life of the town, many ideas came to the fore and we await the outcomes. Next we plan to have a "sports" lunch to consolidate the consultation process for the future development of the Town Council's sports facility at Kingshill Lane.

We are also in the process of raising the profile of Cirencester at a national level with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). Councillor Nash has gained a place on a national committee, I have attended one of NALC's Mayors and Chairs networking lunches and the Local Leadership in Action Conference held in London earlier in the year. Andrew Tubb, our Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk), has recently been appointed to the National Executive of the SLCC and to the County Committee of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

During 2007/8, I undertook a number of Official duties and represented Cirencester at functions outside of the town. The Clerk and I also visited all the schools in the town as part of our engagement with children and young people and will continue to develop relationships with ongoing communications.

As well as change, we have also had continuity with our visit to Itzehoe in October 2007 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the twinning charter. The Clerk and I travelled to Itzehoe with a party of people from Cirencester and a large group from Itzehoe came to Cirencester in April to sign "statements of intent" to mark the anniversary of the signing of the twinning charter and to signal our intention to continue twinning into the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the office staff and the ground staff for all they have done throughout 2007/8."

**Councillor Mrs S A Alexander
Mayor of Cirencester**



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2007/8

"The membership of the committee for the year comprised all members of the Town Council and there have been three meetings. We have maintained a high standard of service to the taxpayer with the precept for the year costing a Band D Council Taxpayer £1.55 per week. Many of the services provided are not statutory obligations and these include financial support for the CCTV system and the Christmas lights, floral displays around the town and grants to local organisations. The budget also included a sum of £22,500 for the Policing Support Scheme which financed an increased Police presence in the Town. The Abbey Grounds and St Michael's Park have been maintained to the usual very high standard by Council staff. Unfortunately our budget was adversely affected by:

- Vandalism at Kingshill Lane Sports Development. This resulted in Stage-coach ending their contract with us for vehicle storage; a monetary loss in excess of £8,000 per annum.
- The Four Acres Pavilion was destroyed by arsonists.
- Income from the Charter Market has fallen by around £9,000 due, in part, to the very poor Summer weather despite the good management and loyalty we enjoy from the Market Manager and traders.

These problems have been financially managed, because unallocated reserves have been built up to a reasonable level. Prudent investment has increased the Capital Reserve Fund allocated to the Kingshill Lane Sports Development and work on the next phase will hopefully begin in the near future. Funds to re-develop the Abbey Play Area have been raised over a three year period to ease the burden on the Council taxpayer. This project should be in place during 2008. In summary, we consider the Council to be in a healthy financial state with reserves at an acceptable level. We trust the people of the Town consider the Precept we raise to be fair for the many benefits provided. I would like to record my thanks for support from Vice Chairman Councillor Howard Gray, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Responsible Finance Officer) Clive Sherwood, all members of staff and the committee."

"OUR PEOPLE, OUR PLACE"

**Councillor Mrs M S Rickman
Chairman of the Finance Committee**

Estimated Balances at 31.3.2007	£740,000
including allocated funds of	£140,000
& Capital Reserves	£411,000
Estimated Balances at 31.3.2008	£762,000
including allocated funds of	£143,000
& Capital Reserves	£430,000

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2007/8

"The Planning Committee of the Town Council has met every fortnight to discuss submitted planning applications. Since the end of March 2007, the committee has discussed 315 applications. During that time, members have received helpful guidance from the Town Clerk, which has enabled careful consideration to be given to each and every application.

In recent weeks, the Committee has been able to consider on-line applications thanks to the use of a laptop and digital projector. This, as it becomes the norm, will dramatically reduce the amount of paper that is prepared for the planning meetings.

Apart from the planning applications, the Committee has also discussed the Cirencester Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document, the proposed housing development at the Kingshill North site, Cirencester Conservation Area Appraisals and Management plans, the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies and received a presentation from Mrs Sophia Price, Heritage and Design Manager (CDC) on Tree Preservation Order Legislation. The regular attendance of committee members has been much appreciated."

Councillor H G C Gray, Chairman of the Planning Committee



CORPORATE GROUP REPORT 2007/8

"The Corporate Group was established at a meeting of Council in July 2007. The Group consists of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Chair of Finance, the Vice Chair of Finance and the Chair of the Project Board. The Group has worked on issues relating to Quality Council Status, the newsletter, internal auditing, the Council's Purpose Statement and Standing Orders; reporting back to Council and making recommendations for its consideration. The Group also receives information on matters of interest to the Council including the Market and Coastal Towns and Cotswold District Council's Vision for Cirencester initiatives and has responded on behalf of the Council on the Licensing Act, the Road Safety Review, Post Office closures and bus passenger representation. The Group is currently working with the Severn Wye Neighbourhood Project with the view to addressing climate change at a local level."

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander, Chairman of the Corporate Group

PROJECT BOARD REPORT 2007/8

"The Project Board is a Working Group of Members with two functions; firstly to consider ideas for projects and schemes and to discuss the way forward and secondly to consider details of those projects being put forward and recommend thoughts and ideas to Council. When an idea is agreed, the Project Board supervises the progress and ensures it continues to completion. For example, the new signs at the entrances to the town, progressing the detail about the continued development regarding play areas, cycle ways (which involved discussion with Sustrans and the County Council) and the Christmas lights (in liaison with the Chamber of Commerce)."

Councillor D J Nash, Chairman of the Project Board

PERSONNEL WORKING GROUP REPORT 2007/8

"The Group was created primarily to oversee and approve the founding of the following policies: - Staff Appraisals, Staff and Member Training, Health and Wellbeing, First Aid Payments and Job Evaluations. The Working Group also put forward to Council a recommendation to establish a Senior Management Team consisting of the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and Personal Assistant. All the above were approved by Council."

Councillor Mrs J Hincks, Chairman of the Personnel Working Group

RECREATION AREAS WORKING GROUP REPORT 2007/8

"The new play equipment for the Abbey Grounds has been chosen and the Scheduled Monument application has been submitted. It is hoped that work to dismantle the old and install the new equipment can commence during 2008, when approval from English Heritage and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport has been received. The total cost for this will be £85,000, which has been set aside in three tranches of £25,000 over the last three years with an additional £10,000 voted by Council on 8th April. We were also successful in our Lottery bid with Cotswold District Council for £5,000 to which was added a further £7,000 from earmarked reserves. This £12,000 will pay for a youth shelter and multi-goal equipment in Chesterton."

Councillor G T Adams, Chairman of the Recreation Areas Working Group

FORTHCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS & EVENTS

COUNCIL (7.00 p.m.) 10 June 8 July	PLANNING COMMITTEE (2.00 p.m.) 5 & 19 June 3, 17 & 31 July	Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. Agendas are posted on notice boards throughout the town and are available at the local library and on the Town Council's website at www.cirencester.gov.uk . For information about public participation please contact the Town Council.	"Our People, Our Place" Saturday 5 July 2008 ~ 10 a.m.-12. p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet your Town Councillors • Find out more about the work of the Town Council • Discuss how you might be able to get involved
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"OUR
PEOPLE,
OUR
PLACE"

INFORMATION POINT



Cirencester Town Council operates a Customer Information Point from which a whole range of information can be obtained about services that we, the District Council and Gloucestershire County Council provide.

Information is available from Libby and Sally who will be pleased to assist with any queries you may have between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Full contact details can be found below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Cirencester Town Council
(Freepost RRLX-UZGX-HYEB)**

Dyer House, 3 Dyer Street, Cirencester, Glos., GL7 2PP

Telephone: 01285 655646 / Facsimile: 01285 643843

Email: administrator@cirencester.gov.uk / Website: www.cirencester.gov.uk

COUNCILLORS

BEECHES WARD

Mrs S A Alexander (Tel: 01285 657779/Email: shirley.alexander@yahoo.co.uk)

Mrs C Braidwood (Tel: 01285 659478/Fax: 01285 659217/Email: caroline@braidwood.co.uk)

P A Braidwood (Tel: 01285 659478/Fax: 01285 659217/Email: peter@braidwood.co.uk)

CHESTERTON WARD

R Hughes (Tel: 01285 651274)/Email: administrator@cirencester.gov.uk)

D J Nash (Tel: 01285 885373/Fax: 01285 659576/Email: deryck.nash@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Mrs M S Rickman (Tel: 01285 640412/Email: margaret.rickman@cotswold.gov.uk)

PARK WARD

G T Adams (Tel: 01285 651729/ Email: adams@cecilyhill.fsnet.co.uk)

A N Curry (Tel: 01285 650852/Email: tony@aaajservices.co.uk)

H G C Gray (Tel: 01285 659317/Email: pocsc@tiscali.co.uk)

STRATTON-WHITEWAY WARD

W Helm (Tel: 01285 657823/Email: matt-helm@tiscali.co.uk)

A Lichnowski B.Sc, PhD, CPhys, CEng (Tel: 01285 651381/Email: andy.lichnowski@btinternet.com)

Mrs B A Potter (Tel: 01285 651830/Email: administrator@cirencester.gov.uk)

WATERMOOR WARD

Mrs J Hincks Dip RSA (Tel: 01285 654984/Email: jennyhincks@tiscali.co.uk)

Mrs S A le Noury (Tel: 01285 644594/Email: administrator@cirencester.gov.uk)

Ms K M Yarrow B.Sc., M.Sc.(Eng.), PGCE (FAHE) (Tel: 01285 640785/Email: k.yarrow@btinternet.com)

ADMINISTRATION

Andrew Tubb - Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk)

Clive Sherwood - Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Deputy Town Clerk)

Johan Newman - Executive Officer (Personal Assistant to Town Clerk & Mayor)

Elizabeth Hughes & Sally Mason - Customer Information & Administrative Officers

Nick Brook - Bingham Gallery & Conference Suite Bookings

USEFUL NUMBERS

Police: 0845 090 1234 (Non-Emergency/Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour) **Crimestoppers:** 0800 555 111

Cotswold District Council: 01285 623000/Out of Hours Emergencies: 01594 836833

Glos. County Council: 01452 425000/Out of Hours Emergencies: Social Care: 01452 614194/Highways: 08000 514514

PAPER SOURCE

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