

# Crewkerne Town Council

## NEWSLETTER

Autumn - Issue 61



Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LN

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### TOWN COUNCIL GIVES GO-AHEAD FOR A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At a recent Town Council meeting, the Council made the decision to embark on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Crewkerne. Cllr. Jo Roundell Greene, Chair of the Council's Planning & Highways Committee, said; "The Town Council's decision to develop



a Neighbourhood Plan recognises that this will give the community of Crewkerne the opportunity to shape the future development of the town, from housing provision to green spaces and infrastructure. A Neighbourhood Plan is a powerful tool because, once it has been formally adopted by South Somerset District Council (SSDC), it

carries real weight with the Planning Authority. A Neighbourhood Plan is not a complete "blank cheque", because it must remain broadly consistent with the SSDC's higher level Local Plan for South Somerset. Nevertheless, a Neighbourhood Plan will allow us to focus in on those things that matter to the community of Crewkerne.

#### **WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING?**

**Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.**

For example, a Neighbourhood Plan allows a community to directly influence the provision of new housing development and what supporting infrastructure should be provided. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs, in conjunction with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

A key check point on the road to developing a Neighbourhood Plan is that it must be put to a referendum and will only be adopted if the majority of the community are in favour of it. So, although a Neighbourhood Plan must be led by the Town Council, engagement with the community – embracing local community groups, residents and the business community - is absolutely key. So you can expect lots of community engagement events over the coming months!"

## Environment Working Group GET INVOLVED!



The Town Council recently agreed to set up an Environment Working Group, aimed not only to guide the Council in becoming carbon neutral by 2030 but also to encourage and support our local community to do the same.

We want the group to be a partnership between the Council and local organisations and individuals interested in tackling climate change through action here in Crewkerne. There will be public meetings in the autumn leading to the development of an 'action plan'. **Are you interested in helping shape the future of our town?**

### Please get in touch, either by: -

- Calling into the Town Hall.
- Contacting the Town Council via email: [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)
- Through the "contact us" page of the Council's website.
- Contact Cllr. Ben Hartshorn: [ben.hartshorn@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:ben.hartshorn@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

## Somerset County Council Chairman's Award



Every year the Town Council has the opportunity to nominate an individual for Somerset County Council's "Chairman's Award for Service to the Community". Our nominee this year was Robbie Heyd-Smith, who many will know, dedicates a huge amount of his time and effort into supporting and improving Crewkerne and the local area, all done with Robbie's characteristic cheerfulness and good spirit. We are delighted that Robbie was successful in receiving a Chairman's Award. Well done Robbie!

## Crewkerne enters the South West in Bloom Competition

Our local Crewkerne in Bloom community group have been doing a sterling job of brightening up the town centre with floral displays. This year the group went a step further by entering the town into the South West in Bloom competition and the town was judged on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Catherine Bacon of Crewkerne in Bloom gave us this report:



"The South West in Bloom judges were welcomed to Crewkerne, by having earlier judged the Severalls Memorial Garden for the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section of the competition. After the welcome we proceeded to show the judges around

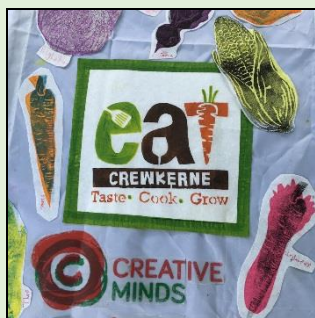
the town, including the museum, Ashlands School and Bincombe Beeches, before walking along Market Street, to the Lucombe Oak into Falkland Square and finally up Church Street to the Church. Volunteers had been busy the previous few days adding the final touches which included pompoms loaned by Creative Crewkerne.



The town looked its best with help from the Town Council and SSDC Streetscene, and the majority of the businesses in town had decorated their windows to join in the spirit of the 'In Bloom' window competition for the Williamson's Shield, there were some splendid windows for the judge who had great difficulty selecting a winner. The following week the committee judged the Garden Competition entries and were delighted with the standard and number of entries, creating more challenging decisions.

It was a privilege to be able to show the judges around our town. We received feedback that they were very taken with Crewkerne having never visited before, and now have to wait until October to know how we did in the competition."

## Food Festival Success!



Photos taken by Eat:Festivals

Crewkerne came alive on Saturday 20 July for the town's first food and drink festival, organised by Eat:Festivals.

The Henhayes car park, Falkland Square and Market Square were filled with local food and drink producers, a cook school and entertainers. The Farmer's market celebrated their 20th birthday at the event and their birthday cake was designed by a local schoolgirl and baked by a local company. Visitors to the festival were spoiled for choice by street food, snacks, drinks and specialities. The atmosphere was fabulous and there was a real buzz in Crewkerne.

The Town Council would like to thank The National Lottery Community Fund and One Stop Carriers for Causes for their generous funding which allowed this event to take place.

### Annual Open Day at Townsend Cemetery

**Sunday 8 September, 1 – 4pm**

Please join us for the Townsend Cemetery Open Day and look around the historic Victorian chapel and beautiful grounds.



At 2pm, the Town Clerk will give a talk, where he once again dives into the murky waters of the cemetery burial records to see what they reveal about life (and death) in Victorian Crewkerne. This will be followed by a talk and guided tour by Tracey Warren, a local funeral director, where she will point out some of the notable graves in the cemetery and their links to local and social history. It is a tour not to be missed!

As always, the historic burial registers will be available for inspection and the Clerk will be on hand to assist visitors if they wish to undertake some family history research.



**Have you got what  
it takes to be  
Crewkerne's next  
Town Crier?**

Do you have a **LOUD VOICE**? Do you enjoy speaking in public? Do you love Crewkerne and have a good knowledge of our wonderful town?

Our current Town Crier, David Craner, will be retiring at the end of this year after 12 years of loyal service. So the Town Council are seeking to recruit a new Town Crier. This is an unpaid position although agreed expenses can be claimed. A Town Crier costume will be provided for use at events.

If you are interested, please contact the Town Council for more details.

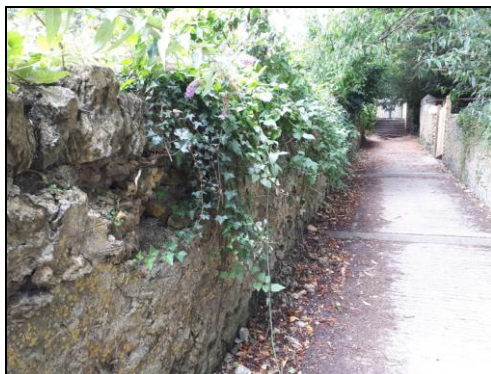
### Polite Notice: Rubbish and Recycling Bins

Unless you have an assisted collection, wheeled bins or sacks should be at the edge of your property by 7am on collection day (as collection times can vary) and no earlier than the night



before. Please take care not to obstruct pavements or roads and take bins back in as soon as possible after collections.

## Bincombe Lane Path



Visitors to the Bincombe Beeches nature reserve who walk up from the town centre will know that the path from Bincombe Lane to the nature reserve is bordered by a wall, on the other side of which are the Town Council's allotments.

The Council is aware that the wall is now in a poor state of repair and would kindly ask residents to be patient as the Council investigates options to repair the wall.

### SPEAK TO YOUR COUNCILLOR

Forthcoming Town Council Surgeries in the Community Office at the Town Hall, Market Square from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

**Saturday 21 September**

**Saturday 19 October**

**Saturday 16 November**

Opportunity for informal conversations with District and Town Councillors

## Community Voluntary Transport MORE DRIVERS NEEDED!

Crewkerne Voluntary Transport is a registered charity run wholly by volunteers and has been helping provide transport for people in Crewkerne and the surrounding villages for 50 years. There are 2 mini buses, a 16 seater and an 11 seater, both with disabled access, which can be booked by any community group or organisation for long or short journeys, shopping trips or days out.



**For enquiries to book the bus or to find out about joining the team of volunteer drivers, please telephone: 01460 271669 or email: [crewkernevoluntarytransport@gmail.com](mailto:crewkernevoluntarytransport@gmail.com)**

### Bincombe Beeches Volunteer Dates

Regular monthly volunteer days are run on Bincombe Beeches by the Council's Grounds and Amenities Supervisor. Forthcoming volunteer days:-

**Thursday 19 September**

**Thursday 17 October**

*Everyone welcome, just turn up from 10 am onwards, please meet at the entrance by Beechwood Drive*

**If you have any comments or concerns about issues which affect Crewkerne, please contact:**

**Crewkerne Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LN**

**Tel: 01460 74001 Email: [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)**

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