

Crewkerne Town Council

NEWSLETTER

February 2019 – Issue 59



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

Tel: 01460 74001 Email: towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk Website: www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Mayor's Annual Budget Report



Cllr. Mrs Kathy Head, Mayor

This is the time of year when the Town Council must set the budget for the forthcoming year, taking into account all of the necessary expenditure to maintain the services that it provides to the town and balancing this against anticipated income. This is always a difficult task for Councillors, not helped by the ever shrinking level of central government grant funding available to the Town Council. The Council works hard every year to ensure that its budget is carefully considered and that all spending is appropriate. The Council has to spread the available budget across many different areas, from buildings and amenities maintenance to provision of public toilets and grant funding support to local community groups, to name just a few examples.

This balancing act has now been completed for this year, with the final budget for 2019/20 agreed by the Council. The budget has been set at £409,391 which is only a minor (0.3%) increase on last year, although as a result of the removal of the central government grant paid to the Council this will translate to a 1.2% increase in the equivalent "Band D" charge. The prime contributors to the increase in the required budget are:

- The cost of maintaining the public toilets at Falkland Square. In previous years, the Town Council had used grant funding provided at the time of handover of the toilets to the Town Council to keep the budget low. But this grant funding has now been totally used up, so the full cost of maintaining the public toilets must now come through the precept.
- Provision of new premises for use as a grounds maintenance workshop. The Council's grounds maintenance staff currently use one of the cemetery chapels as a workshop, but this building has become unsuitable for such use and the Council has been looking for some time for alternative premises. A suitable building has now become available on the Blacknell Lane industrial estate, which will provide a modern workshop and welfare facility for the grounds staff.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS

This year's meeting will take place on Monday 15th April 2019
at 7.30 pm in the Victoria Hall, Market Square

❖ *everyone welcome* ❖

Lighting Up Night



This year's Christmas Lighting Up was one of the best yet, with more stalls and entertainment and more town centre shops and businesses open.

Santa's procession was led by the Crewkerne Fire Service, followed by Merriott Majorettes, who gave a very polished performance as always. This year, for the first time, there was a lantern parade in Santa's procession, which proved very popular. Steve Carpenter kept Market Square entertained and once Santa reached the stage and joined the Mayor and Town Crier, it was time for the countdown to the switch on, by which time

there were well over a thousand people cramming Market Square.

As with many events the success of this event relies upon volunteers and the Christmas Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who between them, baked, marshalled, carried, fundraised and served food and drink. Thanks should also go to all the town centre shops and businesses who joined in the celebrations or who contributed to the event. The committee relies upon the generous donations of businesses and the public to ensure this event can continue.

Date for your diary:
FOOD FESTIVAL
Saturday 20 July



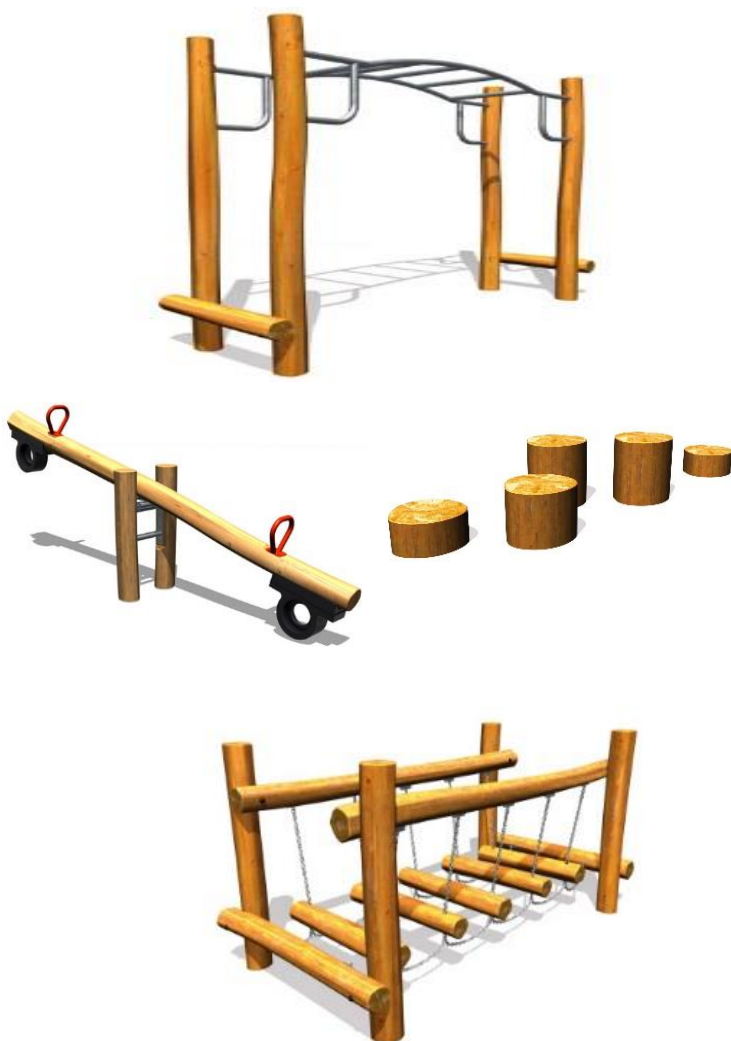
The Town Council is delighted to be working with ABCD (A Better Crewkerne and District) and EAT:Festivals to bring a food festival to Crewkerne on Saturday 20 July. EAT:Festivals are a local, award winning, not for profit organisation who specialise in organising and promoting food festivals across Somerset. The festival will include stalls from local producers, entertainment, cookery school, cookery demonstrations and street food.

If you are a local business and would like to be involved, please contact hello@eatfestivals.org or deputyclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk.

Enhanced Facilities for Bincombe Beeches

The Town Council are considering enhancing the Bincombe Beeches nature reserve with the addition of a trail. One option is that this could be a family-oriented adventure trail, with some play equipment installed at certain points along the trail. We envisage that this equipment would all be made of wood and would be chosen to blend in as much as possible with the natural environment of Bincombe.

Examples of such equipment are shown below:-



Or do you think that we should be aiming at a “fitness trail”, with equipment that is more oriented towards those who want to keep fit? Or perhaps you think the whole idea is not appropriate for Bincombe Beeches.

Whatever your thoughts, we would love to hear from you. Please let us know what you think of this idea. You can email us at towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk or you can give us feedback via the Town Council “Contact Us” page on the website: www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Councillors Wanted

Do you care about Crewkerne? Are you looking for a worthwhile way to help your local community? Would you like to assist in making decisions about the town? Local elections are coming up on 2nd May and if you have ever considered becoming a Town Councillor you are offered the opportunity to find out more about what is involved.

The Town Council will be hosting an information evening on **Monday 4th March commencing 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber.** Cllr. Kathy Head and the Town Clerk will give a short informal presentation about what Councillors do including practical information on the main role of a Councillor and the collective power of the Council to make decisions about the community.

This will be followed by the opportunity to ask questions to assist you in making your decision about whether to stand. If you would like more information contact the office on 01460 74001.

HONOURED CITIZEN OF CREWKERNE AWARD 2019

The Town Council is once again seeking to recognise those who have contributed most towards the benefit of the town and its citizens.

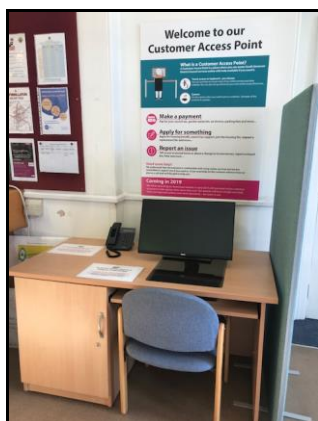
If you would like to nominate someone for this award please visit the Community Office at the Town Hall to collect a form or download from the website: www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

**Nominations must be received by
Monday 11th March 2019**

Those chosen to receive an award will be presented with a framed certificate at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors on Monday 15th April 2019.

**For further information please
telephone 01460 74001 between
9.00 am and 1.00 pm any weekday.**

South Somerset District Council's Customer Access Point



The customer access point is now open and this new facility continues to be supported by Customer Focused Officers who are helping customers access the service online.

The new website will be launched very soon, which will be easier for customers

to use and there will be more functionality available, such as uploading evidence to online accounts. Your South Somerset Account is free and is the most secure way to access their services at a time that suits you – no queues, no fuss.

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 16 February
Saturday 16 March

Opportunity for informal conversations with District and Town Councillors

Badgers at Happy Valley

Those of you who use Happy Valley regularly will notice that the badger set in the sandpit play area has now been closed and destroyed. This work was done in close collaboration with Natural England to ensure that all the necessary conditions were complied with.

Some of the large boulders which were on the edge of the sandpit have also been moved, as our badger specialists considered that these encouraged badgers to dig underneath. With this work complete, the Somerset Badger Group then kindly offered to assist the Council by laying a wire mesh under the sand, which should now make the sandpit play area "badger proof".

Sadness at death of a former Town Councillor

At the January Town Council meeting, Councillors held a minute's silence as it paid tribute to Helen Hall, a former Councillor who passed away recently.

The Mayor, Cllr. Mrs Kathy Head, said "Mrs Hall was a long-serving member of the Town Council, who chaired the Council from 1982-84 and became the first Mayor of Crewkerne in 1987. She will be sadly missed in our community".

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

Councillors	Tel No	Email
Charles Aslett	01460 74001	charles.aslett@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
Mike Best (Vice Chair – Planning & Highways)	01460 74245	mike.best@southsomerset.gov.uk
Paul Bradly	01460 76761	c/o towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
Kathy Head (Mayor)	07704 197469	kathy.head@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
Ben Hodgson (Vice Chair – Policy & Resources)	01460 76623	ben.hodgson@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
Rusty Jackson (Chair – Amenities)	01460 75400	c/o towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
Robin Pailthorpe (Chair – Planning & Highways)	07835 711073	robin.pailthorpe@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
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Andrea Stuart	07776 414267	andrea.stuart@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
Neil Sturtivant (Chair – Policy & Resources)	01460 78602	neil.sturtivant@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
Dan Wakeman (Vice Chair – Amenities)	07368 419241	dan.wakeman@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk