

Crewkerne Town Council

NEWSLETTER

Spring – Issue 63



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



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a difficult task for Councillors, not helped by the fact that central government grant funding has now been completely withdrawn. 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 2020/21 agreed by the Council. The budget has been set to take account of inflation at £421,080, which represents a 2.9% increase on last year, although the increase per household is actually 2.3% for an equivalent band D property, as Crewkerne's taxbase (the average number of band D equivalent properties) has increased slightly.

Councillor Co-option

At the Town Council meeting on 27 January, it was agreed to co-opt Jenna Roberts to join the Council.



Jenna said, "I am delighted to be joining Crewkerne Town Council and to have the opportunity to make a difference in such a wonderful community. I have always been a proud advocate of the town and passionate about its future. My background is both strategic and creative, and I look forward to using my experience to drive forward ideas, find solutions and elevate the towns strongest attributes. Through the week, I work at Clarks Shoes as the Retail Windows Display Associate, developing and delivering window displays globally. In my spare time I work as an influencer, collaborating with brands to post content to an Instagram audience of 35,000. It's an exciting time for Crewkerne, and I will work hard to do what is best for the town and its residents".

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS

This year's meeting will take place on

Monday 20 April 2020

at 7.30pm

in the Victoria Hall, Market Square

Everyone welcome to attend!

Planting of Saplings



Thanks to the initiative of the Crewkerne District Guides, 105 tree saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust to the Town Council. On a very wet day in November, a group of volunteers, including members of the Guides, the Crewkerne in Bloom group, Councillors and Council grounds staff, all mucked in to plant the saplings at Happy Valley. Not only is this helping to enhance the Council's amenity land but it is also contributing towards reducing the Town Council's carbon footprint. Win win!

Parish Path Liaison Volunteers

Do you walk the local rights of way around the town regularly? If so, the Somerset County Council's Rights of Way Team would like your help. People who know the local rights of way network intimately are helpful in letting the Rights of Way Team know about problems such as missing signposts, fallen trees or difficult to use gates. To facilitate this, the Rights of Way Team support and promote the voluntary role of Parish Path Liaison Officers (PPLO).

The role would involve working closely with the Rights of Way Team and carrying out a variety of activities ranging from surveying the Rights of Way network to doing basic practical work. PPLOs are given a basic toolkit and handbook that clearly defines their role. For more information please contact Laura Gowers, Deputy Clerk, Crewkerne Town Council.

Bincombe Beeches Volunteer Dates

Regular volunteer days are run on Bincombe Beeches by the Council's Grounds team. *Everyone welcome!* Forthcoming volunteer days:-

20 February / 19 March / 23 April

Just turn up from 10 am onwards, please meet at the entrance by Beechwood Drive

Honoured Citizen of Crewkerne Award

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 Town Council website: www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Those chosen to receive an award will be presented with a framed certificate at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors on Monday 20 April 2020. **Nominations must be received by Monday 16 March 2020.** For further information, please telephone 01460 74001 between 9am and 1pm any weekday.



**MORE DRIVERS
NEEDED TO JOIN
THE CREWKERNE
VOLUNTARY
TRANSPORT TEAM**

Crewkerne Voluntary Transport is a registered charity run wholly by volunteers and provides transport for people in Crewkerne and the surrounding villages. There are 2 mini buses, 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

Refurbishment of Falkland Square Public Toilets



In 2014, South Somerset District Council relinquished responsibility for maintaining the public toilets at Falkland Square and the Town Council stepped in to take responsibility for maintaining them. Being in the centre of the town, the toilets are very well used by members of the public. But they were already "tired" when the Town Council inherited them and have deteriorated since. The Council is therefore working towards a major refurbishment of the toilets, not only to modernise them but also to make them far more energy efficient. Watch out for updates in future editions of this newsletter.

Crewkerne BUSINESS BREAKFAST NETWORKING EVENT

Organised by Crewkerne Town Council

SOLE TRADERS
Welcome!

GUEST SPEAKER:

**David Woan, President of Yeovil
Chamber of Trade & Commerce on
"Working Together"**

Saturday 22 February 2020

**Venue: George Reynolds Centre
South Street, Crewkerne
(8am for coffee / 8.30am for breakfast)**

***** FREE TO ATTEND *****

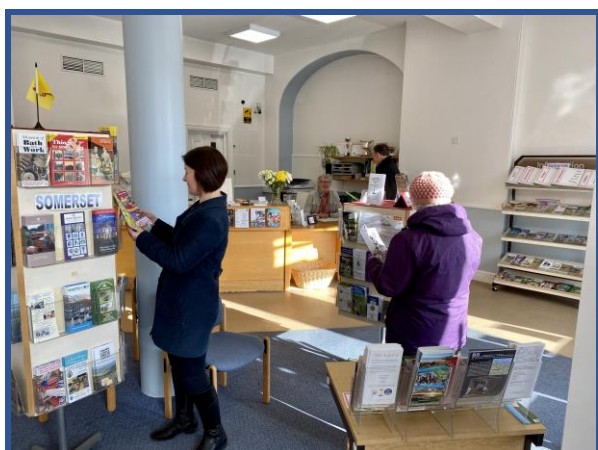
Please complete the online registration form
on the Crewkerne Town Council website
www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

**Registration closes at midnight on
Monday 17 February**

Town Hall "Community Hub"

Visitors to the Town Hall will have seen that redecoration work is currently underway in the front office. The opportunity is also being taken to modify the layout of this large space, to transform it into more of a "community hub". Of course, the Town Hall already hosts the Local Information Centre and SSDC's Customer Access point, as well as providing a venue for Citizen's Advice and Wyvern Savings & Loans. But the plan is that space will be available for local community groups to use.

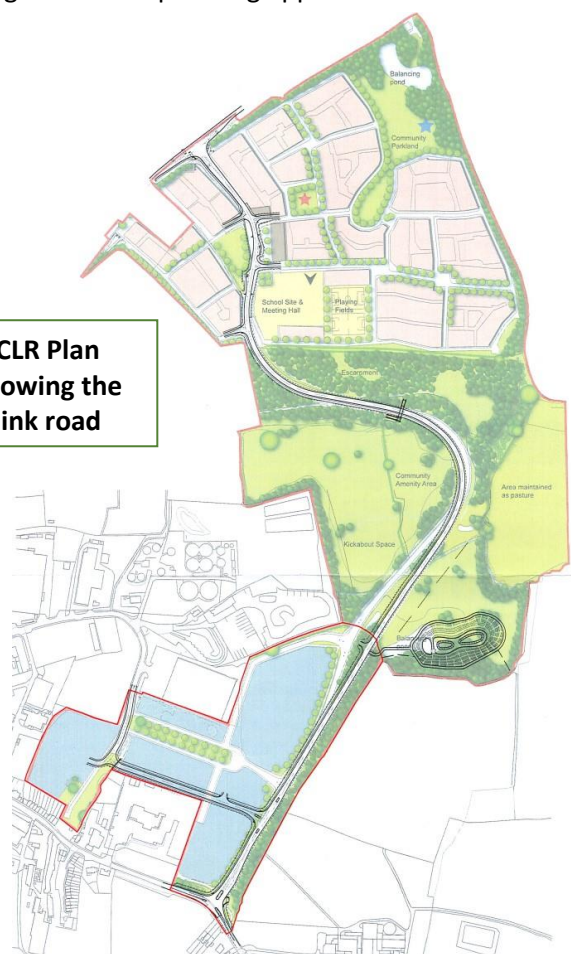
So, if you manage a community group and would like to use space within the front office, please contact Diane, the LIC Manager.



CLR Update

In our last newsletter, we reported that the proposed Taylor Wimpey CLR housing development, which had been dormant for a number of years, appeared to be finally nudging forwards towards reality. We can now report that Taylor Wimpey are indeed progressing towards submission of the required detailed planning application for the initial phase of the development, involving the build of 110 homes at the southern end of the site. As a precursor to this, they have recently submitted two smaller planning applications, which resolve some minor consistency issues between the two original outline planning applications for the site.

**CLR Plan
showing the
link road**



MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Town Council surgeries take place in the
Community Office of the Town Hall
on Saturdays, from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Forthcoming surgeries are:-

15 February / 21 March / 18 April

Alternatively, why not come along to the Council's
next "Coffee with your Councillors" event, on

Saturday 28 March

2 – 3pm

Number 7 the Café



Lighting Up Night and Christmas Market

It was another very successful Lighting Up night in November with a great atmosphere in Market Square watching Santa's procession, which was led by the Crewkerne Fire Service, followed by Merriott Majorettes, the lantern parade and finally Santa.

Steve Carpenter kept Market Square entertained and once Santa reached the stage and joined the Mayor and Town Crier, it was time for the switch on. Santa then made his way to his grotto so that the children could tell him what they wanted for Christmas.



The elves once again excelled themselves, installing nearly 70 trees around the town. Their thanks go to all the traders who took part, Richard and Oscar's Wine Bar staff, Crewkerne Lions Club, Dave at the White Hart and Jules at The Crooked Swan.

The Christmas Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who between them, baked, marshalled, carried, fundraised or served food and drink. Thanks should also go to all the businesses who joined in the celebrations or who contributed to the event.

Town Crier Retirement



After 12 years of loyal service, David Craner, Crewkerne's Town Crier, has decided to hang up his bell and take a well-earned retirement. David was invited to the December meeting of the Town Council, which allowed Councillors to thank him for his sterling service to the local community and to wish him well in his retirement.



Crewkerne & District Twinning Association

Crewkerne's Twinning Association are planning an exchange visit with our twin towns of Igny and Bures-sur-Yvette in France this year. Travelling by coach, the group will leave on Thursday 21 May and return on Sunday 24 May. Costs for the trip are £150 for members and £156 for non-members, with children under 16 free of charge (they must be accompanied by an adult). For more information please contact Lorna on 01460 72962 or email laylanboris@gmail.com.

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

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