

# Crewkerne Town Council

## NEWSLETTER

February 2022 – Issue 70



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

Tel: 01460 74001 Email: [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk) Website: [www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](http://www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

## CHRISTMAS IN CREWKERNE 2021 – A GREAT SUCCESS!

Christmas in Crewkerne was slightly different this year. Instead of Lighting Up night happening on the last Friday of November, it was brought forward to give everyone an extra week of Christmas cheer and twinkly lights. The Christmas market was the Saturday following and the craft fair ran over the two days. This was a great success, and although Lighting Up night will move back to the last Friday of November in 2022, the Christmas Market will follow the day after to give a weekend of Christmas festivities.



The turn out to watch the Christmas light switch on this year was amazing and Santa thrilled us all by arriving on time to help the Mayor switch the lights on. As usual, he was preceded by Merriott Majorettes (who gave a great performance) and the procession was led by the crew and fire engine from Crewkerne Fire station. Santa then retired to his grotto to meet the town's children, who were delighted with the addition of a chimney to the grotto, out of which sweets appeared. Thank you to The Shed, for their creativity with the grotto. Thanks must go to all the volunteers who organised these events and then helped over the two days. Without them, these events would not happen.



Angie and her team of elves organised the installation of 65 small Christmas trees around the town, following the retirement of the chief elf last year. John Wyatt and Hardwills installed the large tree and crib at the front of the Town Hall. Crewkerne in Bloom created the hanging bells and ribbons that hung on all the hanging basket brackets in the town. Market Street had new Christmas lights, which made such a difference. Thanks must go to Barrett the Butchers, Humphries Kirk and The Crooked Swan for supplying electricity to the lights.

The Christmas market ran at the same time as the Farmers Market on Saturday, which was a great opportunity for shoppers to shop local and pick up quirky Christmas gifts. The Guitarist on Wheels and Crewners added a great atmosphere with music and carols.

Although everything is now packed up, in readiness for next year, the Christmas Committee will start thinking about Christmas in August. If you want to join us, please contact the Deputy Clerk at Town Council. Stay safe, see you in November, and save these dates for Christmas in Crewkerne 2022:  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Lighting Up and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Market!

Photos: Jeff Hutson

## Mayor's Annual Budget Report



Once again it is the time of year when the Town Council sets the budget for the forthcoming financial year. This process takes into account all of the necessary expenditure to maintain services that it provides to the town.

This is always a difficult task for Councillors, not helped this year by rising inflation, and the impact of Covid on its sources of income. The Council works hard every year to ensure that its budget is carefully considered and that all spending is appropriate. The Council manages the available budget across many different areas, including buildings, amenities maintenance, provision of public toilets and grant funding support to local community groups.

This process is now finalised for this year, with the final budget for 2022/23 agreed by the Council. The budget has been set to take account of inflation at £466,525 which represents an increase of £11.65 for the year on a band D property; less than £1 per month.



## BINCOMBE BEECHES Volunteer Days

- Thursday 18 February
- Thursday 18 March
- Thursday 15 April

*Tasks will include vegetation clearance  
& footpath maintenance*

**10.00 am onwards**

**Please meet at the entrance by Beechwood Drive  
everyone welcome, just turn up**

**Unfortunately, refreshments cannot be provided  
Please bring your own gloves**

For further information, please contact:

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## Community Bluebell Planting at Bincombe

Councillor Alice Samuel invited Crewkerne 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts and Crewkerne 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brownie Groups to attend a Bluebell planting event at Bincombe. Groundsmen Jason and Lewis led the session and gave some safety advice.

The bulbs were planted in the Ash Coppice area and the children came up with the name 'Bees, Butterflies and Bluebells' for the name of the small area and a small, rustic plaque will be made to be placed there. The group then spread some bark chippings on the paths.

Following the work, a discussion about Bincombe took place, asking how to enhance the reserve. The children decided that they would like to see more wooden animal sculptures on the trail. The groups also said that they would like to design posters for raising their concerns about dog poo and litter around the town.



Photo: Tony Samuel

## CLR – Key site update

Most people will have noticed that works on the long-anticipated key site for the town have now commenced. The Town Council have been asking Taylor Wimpey for a series of public meetings to enable everyone to have a chance to ask questions directly to the developers and find out more about the various stages of this significant change and how it will impact the town.

As Covid restrictions are lifted, CTC continue to push Taylor Wimpey for definite dates – please keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for updates.

## Keeping in touch with your Council

Councillors have decided to continue with Covid-safe surgeries and Coffee with Councillors events as valuable ways of hearing what is important to Crewkerne residents.

### COUNCIL SURGERIES

The next Town Council surgery will be 10.30-12.00 on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February in the Town Hall, where you can talk to Councillors Charles Aslett and Teresa Bond.

### COFFEE WITH COUNCILLORS

The next planned 'Coffee with Councillors' will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March – times, venue and Councillors in attendance will be published on the Crewkerne Town Council website and Facebook page nearer the time.

## Honoured Citizen Award 2022

The Honoured Citizen Award for 2022 will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors on 4<sup>th</sup> April – save the date!



## HONOURED CITIZEN OF CREWKERNE AWARD 2022

### *Do you know a special person?*

Do you know someone who has given their time over many years for the benefit of Crewkerne and its community?

Crewkerne Town Council is looking to recognise special people with an Honoured Citizen Award. Perhaps you know someone who quietly gets on with what they do without looking for reward; this is your opportunity to put them forward for recognition.

Nominations for the above award are requested from persons on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for Crewkerne, to be received by the Town Clerk by **Monday 7 March 2022**.

The following details are required of all nominees:

- Full name and address
- Period of residence in Crewkerne - if appropriate
- Reasons for nomination
- Nominations must be signed by three individual electors
- Nominees should not be told of their nomination
- Nominations must be from individuals and will not be accepted from Organisations or Societies

Serving Councillors from County, District and Town Councils are not eligible for this award.

Do it today! Nomination forms are available from the Community Office at the Town Hall or on the website at [www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](http://www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

If you would like further information, please contact the Town Council on tel: 01460 74001 or email: [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

## TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022



Due to the planned move to a unitary council for Somerset, the Parish and Town elections have been moved forward a year to May 2022. Originally due in May 2023, this means that incoming town councillors will now serve one five-year term taking the town to the next scheduled elections in 2027.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May, electors in Crewkerne will have the opportunity to elect not only twelve town councillors, but two councillors to the new unitary authority.

If you are interested in learning more about the role of town councillors and how to go about standing for election, please email [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk) or telephone 01460 74001.



HM the Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee in early June, and we have extra bank holidays on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June to enable celebrations to take place over the long weekend.

There is a small working group for Crewkerne, who are trying to co-ordinate a programme of all the events in the town for residents. If you have an event happening over the long weekend, to celebrate the Jubilee, or if you want to volunteer to help organise some of the events already planned, then please contact Laura [deputyclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

### Community Grant Awards for 2022/23

As part of setting the overall budget and precept for the forthcoming financial year, the Council has agreed the budget allowance for local community grant awards. For 2022/23, the grants awarded total £13,636. The Council was particularly keen to support groups following the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to impact the fundraising abilities of many. Within this budget, the following grant awards have been agreed for community groups:

ORGANISATION/COMMUNITY GROUP	GRANT AWARDED
Citizens Advice South Somerset	£2,005
Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre	£1,500
Crewkerne Tea Dance Group	£250
Crewkerne in Bloom	£1,000
Crewkerne Shed	£1,000
Crewkerne Aqua Centre	£1,656
Henhayes Community Centre	£2,500
Rotary Club of Crewkerne & District	£750
Severalls War Memorial Gardening Group	£475
The Speedwell	£500
Crewkerne Boxing Club	£1,000
Merriott Majorettes	£750
Jackdaws Music Education Trust	£250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£13,636</b>

The grants application cycle opens in September each year. The councillors spend some time reviewing the applications and make the final decision on awards as part of their budget-setting process finishing in the following January. Cheques are then usually (covid permitting!) presented to each group at the Annual Town Meeting.

**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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