

Crewkerne Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Report No.20 -
May 2023

Crewkerne Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LN
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The Mayor's Report



Welcome to the 2022/23 edition of the Council's Annual Report, which aims to keep you informed on all the work that Crewkerne Town Council is doing on your behalf.

There are reports from each of our Committee Chairs, as well as a financial report and a round up of Council achievements during this year. In the face of rising inflation and the cost of living crisis, the work programme has been more challenging than ever before. However, the Council has made significant progress on a number of projects and is continuing to work hard to maintain our beautiful open spaces and council-run facilities.

As ever, we are always happy to hear from residents - if you have any comments or suggestions, please email towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk.

Cllr. Kathy Head, Mayor of Crewkerne

HONOURED CITIZENS & MAYOR'S COMMENDATION AWARD 2023



In recognition of their outstanding contribution for the benefit of the town and its citizens, Catherine Bacon and Roy Scrivens have been made Honoured Citizens of Crewkerne this year. John Davies has been awarded the Mayor's Commendation. These awards were presented at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors held on Monday 17th April 2023. Congratulations and thank you for your efforts.



**Cllr. Paul Maxwell,
Chair, P&H
Committee**

Planning & Highways Committee

The Planning and Highways Committee meetings take place on the second Monday of each month. Personal representations from all parties are welcomed when applications are discussed. The Town Council is only able to make observations and recommendations on planning applications which are taken into account when they are considered by the new Unitary Authority, Somerset Council. The Committee has considered 41 applications this year to date, including the reserved matters application for the Kithill development, which saw over sixty members of the public in attendance - possibly a record.

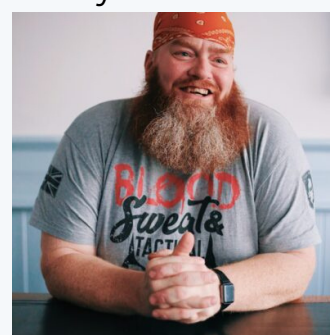
Amenities Committee

We have had a productive year in terms of Amenities at Crewkerne Town Council. We have been fortunate to secure funding to refresh some of our playground equipment at Henhayes - we now have a brand new accessible roundabout and two new spring riders. In other exciting news for recreation in the town, Severalls tennis courts have been included in an LTA - funded refurbishment project which, hopefully commencing in May (weather dependent!), will see the two courts fully refurbished and back in action.

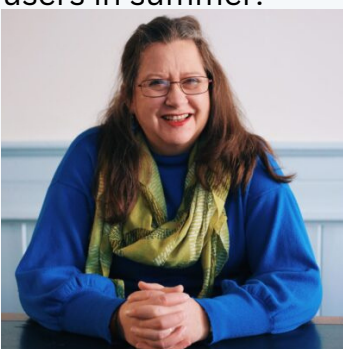
Last summer, we reopened the grassed areas around the tennis courts and installed benches, so that people can enjoy watching the tennis or have a picnic. We have acquired two major assets from the former District Council - the land in front of Town Hall, and Tommy and the Severalls Memorial Gardens. It is positive news that both can now be used and managed by and for the local community.

In September we ran a consultation on landscaping and planting proposals at Barn Street - thank you to everyone who responded to give us a clear idea of how you want this much-loved area to look and feel.

Work continues to maintain our major buildings and assets all the time and we have recently completed an air conditioning installation at the George Reynolds Centre. This was part funded by the Area West Committee of the former SSDC, and will make a real difference to our Centre users in summer.



**Cllr. Dan Wakeman,
Chair, Amenities
Committee**



**Cllr. Andrea Stuart,
Chair, Policy &
Resources
Committee**

Policy & Resources Committee

The Policy & Resources Committee meets four times a year and oversees the budget deliberations which begin in September each year. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing and refreshing all the Council's key governance documents to ensure that the Council is functioning in accordance with the law. This year we have implemented a robust policy review schedule which has identified 31 documents for review and of these 18 are now up to date and fit for purpose. Key documents relating to how the Council is run can be found in the Governance section of the Crewkerne Town Council website.

Finance Report

The accounts for the current year, which ends 31 March 2023, will not be audited until later in the year. The final accounts will be approved at the June meeting of the Town Council. Members of the public will have the opportunity to examine the full accounts on request.

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2023 is as follows:

| | Income £ |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Aqua Centre | 1,776 |
| Allotments | 307 |
| Bank Interest | 576 |
| Cemetery Income | 35,388 |
| Consolidation of JBC funds | 107,569 |
| CIL Funds | 581 |
| Events | 8,033 |
| George Reynolds Centre | 19,411 |
| Grounds Maintenance | 9,593 |
| Henhayes Car Park | 3,958 |
| Miscellaneous | 609 |
| Precept | 466,525 |
| Projects | 16,882 |
| Town Hall | 545 |
| Victoria Hall | 8,399 |
| War Memorial Grounds Cont | 3,895 |
| TOTAL | 684,047 |
| | Expenditure £ |
| Aqua Centre | 1,026 |
| Cemetery | 63,471 |
| Events | 6,790 |
| General Administration | 52,920 |
| George Reynolds Centre | 47,113 |
| Grants | 14,136 |
| Grounds Maintenance | 62,166 |
| Projects | 8,602 |
| Public Toilets | 11,617 |
| Salaries | 219,415 |
| Town Hall | 30,004 |
| Victoria Hall | 11,926 |
| War Memorial Grounds | 4,271 |
| Youth Service | 17,492 |
| TOTAL | 550,950 |

Statement of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2022

| | 31 March 2021 | 31 March 2022 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Balances b/fwd | 259,658 | 292,164 |
| Annual Precept | 421,080 | 440,037 |
| Total other Receipts | 35,938 | 92,442 |
| Staff Costs | 198,033 | 186,353 |
| Loan Interest/Capital Repay't. | 0 | 0 |
| Total other Payments | 226,479 | 348,392 |
| Balances c/fwd | 292,164 | 289,899 |
| Total Cash and Investments | 281,592 | 272,680 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 6,891,088 | 6,902,543 |
| Total Borrowings | 0 | 0 |

The External Auditor raised no matters of concern.

Crewkerne and West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee

The Joint Burial Committee is comprised of Councillors from both West Crewkerne Parish Council and Crewkerne Town Council, who jointly manage the Cemetery for the benefit of residents in both parishes.

The Committee meets four times each year and is responsible for overseeing the grounds maintenance, memorials and burials. This year we have carried out substantial remedial works to both the Cemetery Lodge and Chapel, ensuring that both buildings will be with us for many years to come. There is still work to do on both buildings, and this has been budgeted for with a long term maintenance plan.

During the past year there have been 41 interments, which include both full burials and ashes burials. 23 grave plots have been purchased. It continues to be a pleasure to serve on the Committee looking after this vital part of our community.

Cllr. Mike Best, Chair, Joint Burial Committee.

Awards to the Community - Grant Awards 2023-2024

| Organisation | Purpose of Grant | Grant award |
|---|---|-------------|
| Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre | To support on-going running costs | £750.00 |
| Crewkerne Tea Dance Group | To support on-going running costs | £200.00 |
| Crewkerne in Bloom | Additional plants & planters | £600.00 |
| Henhayes Community Centre | To support on-going running costs | £1,000.00 |
| Merriott Majorettes | Costumes, hall hire & coach costs | £500.00 |
| Citizens Advice South Somerset | To support on-going running costs for service provided at Town Hall | £949.00 |
| Crewkerne Boxing Club | New mini bus | £1,000.00 |
| Crewkerne Shed | To cover running costs | £1,000.00 |
| 1st Crewkerne Scout Group | Update toilets to provide disabled facilities | £500.00 |
| Somerset Farmers Market | To fund road closure application for Market Square, running costs | £500.00 |
| Crewkerne Pegasus Karate Club | Purchase replacement equipment | £750.00 |
| Crewkerne Rugby Club | New pitch line marker | £500.00 |
| CUDOS | New haze & smoke machines | £250.00 |

Crewkerne Town Council's Community Grant Awards scheme opens for applications each year in September. Awards are made on the 1st April the following year.

Due to the cost of living crisis and inflationary pressures, the Town Council recognises that Community Groups may be struggling and has reserved a small portion of the grant fund for any group struggling to apply for this during the year. For further details please contact the Council offices.

| Councillor | Tel. No. | Email |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cllr. Steve Ashton | 07850 960605 | steve.ashton@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Mike Best (Vice Chair, Amenities Committee) | 01460 74245 | mike.best@somerset.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Teresa Bond (Vice Chair, Planning & Highways Committee) | 01460 75284 | teresa.bond@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Nigel Draycott | 01460 74001 | nigel.draycott@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Kathy Head (Mayor) | 07704 197469 | kathy.head@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. David Livesley | 01460 74001 | david.livesley@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Paul Maxwell (Chair, Planning & Highways Committee) | 01460 271155 | paul.maxwell@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Judith Morris (Vice Chair, Policy & Resources Committee) | 07809 404377 01460 271545 | judith.morris@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Jan Nathan | 07718 234421 | jan.nathan@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Alice Samuel (Deputy Mayor) | 01460 74001 | alice.samuel@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Andrea Stuart (Chair, Policy & Resources Committee) | 07776 414267 | andrea.stuart@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr. Dan Wakeman (Chair, Amenities Committee) | 07368 419241 | dan.wakeman@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk |