Crewkerne Town Council NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022 - Edition 73

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LIGHTING UP 2022







Lighting Up 2022 was another huge success, with the weather luckily staying on our side once again! So many people gathered in the town to watch Santa and the Mayor switch on the lights and enjoyed all the special extras which make Crewkerne's Lighting Up event truly stand out each year. Community Groups were located in Falkland Square to fundraise and promote their causes whilst serenaded by Phoenix Brass Band. The Majorettes were out in full force to lead Santa to Town Hall for the big moment, after CUDOS sang a Christmas medley. The Christmas Craft Fair upstairs in the Victoria Hall was very popular, and queues to meet Santa in his grotto stretched across the Square. So many volunteers bring Christmas to Crewkerne each year - too many to list here but a big **THANK YOU** to all involved, in whatever way you contributed.

We are always on the lookout for Christmas Elves to help spread festive cheer in Crewkerne - if you can help us next year, please email towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk.

Photo credits: J Hutson







Out and about...

As part of UK Parliament Week, Crewkerne Guides invited Mayor Kathy Head and Deputy Mayor Alice Samuel to share and explain their roles as Councillors for the town of Crewkerne. There was a question-and-answer session and an activity where a question was given and everyone had to decide whether they agreed, disagreed or abstained, then debated why they chose to vote that way.

Kathy and Alice were delighted to be invited along to this session with the Guides and were impressed with their views and how they debated with each other.





Deputy Mayor Alice Samuel was pleased to visit 2nd Crewkerne Brownies. The Brownies took Alice around the town and the churchyard where they put up some of their wonderful anti-dog fouling posters they made earlier in the year.

Alice commented "We are so fortunate to have lovely walks in Crewkerne and it is so healthy to exercise with your dog, both physically and mentally, but those people who do not pick up their dog's poo are setting a poor reputation for those who are responsible. It is wonderful that young children are so passionate to keep their town clean and give their time to take action by placing posters."

Details of how to contact your councillors can be found on the back page of this newsletter

GRC - update

The George Reynolds Centre under Town Council management is growing into a real community hub. Two evenings a week the Town Council's Youth Service provides engaging and lively sessions to two groups – one for children aged 4-11 and one for the 11+ youngsters. In total, over 200 different young people are currently accessing the Youth Service in the GRC.

The GRC is now offering a home to the Community Kitchen to assist them with their plans to expand and offer more food and meals to those in need and divert produce from landfill. They have, to date, given away 31,000 meals worth of food and the Town Council, through offering the use of the GRC as their base, is pleased to be able to support them in hopefully giving away many thousands more meals to our community. The Rugby Club operates a sports bar several times a week and uses the Centre as a hub for their home fixtures – again, many local rugby players both in youth, senior, womens and veterans teams are making use of this community facility.

The Centre is also used by the football club and cricket club, for various other community groups and houses a local preschool. Most weeks there is something happening in the Centre on most days/evenings. The Town Council plans to continue to support and grow this level of activity in the George Reynolds Centre.

The rooms, bar and kitchen are available for hire and all are welcome to book and use it to help it continue to grow as a community hub for the town.















GOLD!

Congratulations to all involved with Crewkerne in Bloom for their recent success at the South West in Bloom awards, jointly hosted by Crewkerne and Haselbury in Bloom. A well-deserved gold award was scooped up by the CiB team. Special mentions should also go to Severalls Memorial Garden for a hugely creditable 2nd place out of 350 'It's Your Neighbourhood' entries, and to Ashlands Primary School which was nominated in the School category and in the nature category, Bincombe Beeches.

The team, notable for their vibrant pink jackets, work hard all year round and are currently selling their seasonal hyacinths to raise funds for new projects - watch out for these in the LIC.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors for helping to make Crewkerne bloomin' marvellous!

Speak to your Councillor!

Councillor surgeries are back! Anyone is welcome to drop in. These are held on the third Saturday of each month to coincide with the Farmers' Market.

Surgeries are 10.30 to 12 noon in the Town Hall:

Saturday 17 December
Saturday 21 January
Saturday 18 February

First Neighbourhood Plan Survey Enclosed

Have your say!

A steady stream of residents visited the Crewkerne Neighbourhood Plan team as they officially launched the Plan on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th November. People were asked about the town and how they would like to see it develop in the future. The team was even visited by Parish Councillors from outside Crewkerne, interested in this important process.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the first formal survey - please take the time to complete this as the responses received are crucial to the development of the policies which underpin the Neighbourhood Plan produced for Crewkerne.

Completed surveys can be dropped into the LIC on weekday mornings or posted through the town hall letter box. It is also possible to complete the survey online at https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CrewkerneNP Questionnaire/

The team have also now developed a website where you can keep up to date with how the Plan is evolving and how you can get involved.

Visit:
www.crewkerneneighbourhoodplan.co.uk.

CREWKERNE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



BINS - please help

Please help residents safely use our pavements by keeping them clear of bins and recycling boxes/bags - if these are only out on pavements when collections are due it makes life much easier for those using wheelchairs and mobility scooters as well as parents and carers with buggies and young children.

Budget 2023-24: a tough call

Although the start of the new financial year may seem like some time away, budgeting preparations at Town Hall have been underway for some time already.

It is already clear that we are all living in very different times and the cost-of-living crisis is at the front of councillors' minds as they consider which projects they can and can't afford to proceed with in 2023-24.

Mayor of Crewkerne, Cllr. Kathy Head commented, "It is quite clear that we have tough decisions to make. The Town Council is facing increased costs from its suppliers and contractors. Particularly notable are the rising utility bills which we must pay in order to keep our community venues open so that our clubs and societies can continue to meet and support their members. Councillors understand that financial pressures are increasing and want people to know that we are mindful of this when setting our budget."

Crewkerne Town Council will set its precept at the January meeting of Full Council.

Local Information Centre Volunteer Opportunity

Our brilliant Local Information Centre (LIC) at Town Hall is staffed by a small team of volunteers. They are seeking one volunteer to join the team one weekday morning per week between 9.30 and 1pm. Could you spare a few hours a week?



Full training will be given in this rewarding role supporting and promoting our lovely town. Email: lic@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk for details.

The Town Council office closes at 1pm on 21st December and reopens on 3rd January 2023.
Emails and voicemails will be monitored remotely.
E: towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk T: 01460 74001

Fixy's coming back!



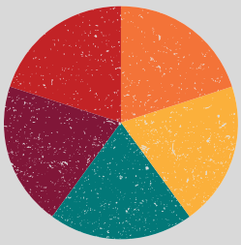
Back by popular demand, Fixy McFixface, the county repair bus will be back in Crewkerne on Saturday 18th February to coincide with the Farmers' Market and Town Council surgery.
Fixy is a joint initiative between Somerset Waste Partnership and Donate IT, collecting unwanted electronic items to be repaired where possible and passed on to schools, refugees, elderly and isolated people. Anything that cannot be fixed is recycled.

Since Fixy's launch in May, over 300 items have been donated ranging from laptops and tablets to smart phones and digital cameras. Somerset-based Donate IT securely wipes the device before it goes to a new home.

Barn Street: consultation results

Following the recent public consultation held on possible improvements to Barn Street Recreation Area, the results have been collated:

- ☑ 60% agreed that a pathway would enhance their use of Barn Street Rec.
- ☑ 74% were in favour of planting more trees
- ☑ Only 23% said NO to community planting areas
- ☑ 87% agreed that Barn Street Rec should have managed wildflower areas
- ☑ 53% wanted a directional sign pointing out sites of local interest
- ☑ Similarly, 54% would like to see a noticeboard for local events



Thank you to everyone who responded - 67 in total. Whilst there is no budget to carry out significant works at present, this is a useful indication of how the town sees the area developing.

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@southsomerset.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