

## Historic war memorial 'Tommy' and gardens return to Crewkerne ownership



'Tommy' and Severalls War Memorial Gardens, now returned to Crewkerne Town Council.



Town Clerk Katharine Sheehan applies the Town Council seal to the legal transfer documents signed by Mayor Kathy Head and Deputy Mayor Alice Samuel. (Credit: D. Wakeman).

Crewkerne Town Council, sole Trustee of the War Memorial Grounds Commemoration Trust, has welcomed the transfer of historic war memorial 'Tommy' and the adjacent memorial gardens back to the town's ownership.

Following the decision to move towards a unitary council for Somerset, Crewkerne Town Council approached South Somerset District Council about the possibility of transferring the town's war memorial gardens back to the Town Council. A petition was organised by local resident John Davies and presented to a meeting of SSDC's Full Council by Deputy Mayor Alice Samuel.

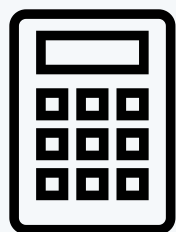
Lengthy negotiations took place behind the scenes between officers of both Councils and resulted in the agreement to transfer the ownership of the land back to the town of Crewkerne.

Deputy Mayor Alice Samuel commented "We are delighted that Tommy and the gardens are 'coming home' to Crewkerne. This has taken several years of careful negotiations but the ownership of these important historic assets is now with the town in which they are located and loved, which is right and proper. The gardens are tended by an enthusiastic team of local volunteers, and they will now be supported by the Town Council's grounds team where needed."

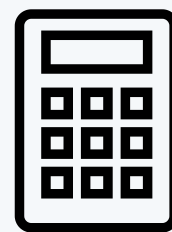


Crewkerne Town Council has now formally signed contracts for the refurbishment of both tennis courts at Severalls - we are working with the contractors on dates but hope to see the courts in action in the early part of the summer - keep an eye on our Facebook page and Instagram account for the latest updates.





# Budget statement from the Mayor of Crewkerne



"The 2023/24 budget setting process has been the most difficult one in my experience as a Town Councillor. Like all other businesses and households, we are dealing with many factors. High inflation, energy and fuel costs have all contributed to the scale of the pressures experienced by the council. Costs are unpredictable and still rising.

We are not alone in this unprecedented situation – councils across the country find themselves in similar positions.

We are acutely aware of the critical impact of the cost-of-living crisis on people living in Crewkerne and we have needed to make incredibly difficult decisions on how we continue to provide services and fund projects vital for people's health and wellbeing – such as maintaining our beautiful open spaces and keep them available for sports, play and physical recreation. We have, for now, paused projects planned for Barn Street Recreation Ground and reduced our print newsletters where we can start to do more electronically. A planned reconfiguration of office space has enabled the Council to give up leased office premises, saving in excess of £10,000 per year moving forwards. With this in mind, Crewkerne Town Council has set its budget prudently just below current inflation levels; Band D properties will pay an additional 37p per week to support the Town Council's continued operation of open spaces, sports and recreation facilities, support for community groups and delivering our much-loved events such as the annual Lighting Up".

Councillor Kathy Head, Mayor of Crewkerne.



## Neighbourhood Plan survey done! ✓

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Neighbourhood Plan survey. We had 272 responses. Detailed feedback will follow but some key points were:

- Most responses had come from the 45-79 age group.
- Respondents disliked traffic, empty shops and new build development in the town.
- 75% of respondents did not want more land allocated for development. Brown field sites were preferred.
- 84% of respondents were not happy with the healthcare provision in the town. There was a concern that development would increase this problem.
- 90% of respondents wanted green spaces and playing fields protected.





## Bag it, bin it!

Dog mess is a real problem around the town at the moment. The Town Council receives regular reports of problem 'hot spots' and works closely with the District Council to arrange patrols and signage.

We have recently been successful in securing agreement from SSDC that a bigger waste bin can be located at the end of Foxditch Lane (junction with Ashlands Road). This bin will be funded by Crewkerne Town Council but installed and emptied by SSDC.

However, all the bins, posters and patrols in the world can't solve the problem - please dispose of your dog waste responsibly and help keep our town clean.



Fouling problem on  
Foxditch Lane



Larger 'co-mingler' bin to  
be installed

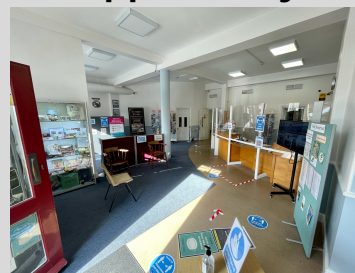
## Speak to your Councillor!

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 15th April**  
**Saturday 20th May**

## Local Information Centre Volunteer Opportunity



Crewkerne Information Centre, in the front of the Town Hall, and run by volunteers, provides a 'One Stop Shop' for all things in Crewkerne. Open Monday - Friday 9.30-1.00pm, we provide information and assistance for residents and visitors over a wide range of topics, such as timetables, walks, local events, places to eat and drink, and accommodation.

Residents with problems of recycling, street lighting, fly tipping, overgrown vegetation and much more can ask us for assistance. A Customer Access Point links to the District Council with a direct phone contact for assistance. Citizens Advice hold a drop-in session every Wednesday between 10.00am and 1.00 pm, with no booking necessary.

Local organisations are invited to contact us to book a window, display cabinet or the digital display screen free of charge. There is also a window to display posters for local events which we add to the town website [www.discovercrewkerne.org.uk](http://www.discovercrewkerne.org.uk).

If you would like to be involved in helping provide this service to Crewkerne and can spare 3½ hours a week, please contact us by phone, email or just drop in, and have a word with one of us. We will be happy to show you the ropes and welcome you to join our friendly team.

Phone: 01460 75928

Email: [lic@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:lic@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

# Card from the Palace

In January, a card of appreciation was received from King Charles III for the condolences sent by the townspeople following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II last year. Many thanks to all those who took the time to sign the book of condolences. This card will be kept with the book of condolences in the Council's archives.



# Somerset Council - new Unitary Authority from 1st April

The new Somerset Council came into being from 1st April, bring the four former District Councils and Somerset County Council under one roof. You can find out more about the new Council and what is changing (and what will stay the same!) here: [www.somerset.gov.uk/how-the-council-works/about-your-new-council](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/how-the-council-works/about-your-new-council).

# Your community needs YOU!

Could you spare some time to help get a Community SpeedWatch group up and running in Crewkerne? Speeding remains a concern throughout the town but due to a lack of volunteers our Community SpeedWatch group unfortunately had to fold a few years ago. Community SpeedWatch is a partnership between the Police, community and Local Authorities. It gives residents an opportunity to participate proactively in road safety. A Community SpeedWatch can be set up in any area where there is either a 20, 30 or 40 miles per hour speed limit in force. Training would be given to a team of local residents who would be equipped with speed detection equipment to monitor speeds. Vehicles observed speeding will be sent a warning letter along with advice to help change their driving behaviour. Further action will be taken by the police against persistent and high speed offenders as well as targeting individual locations. If you would like to get involved or want more information, please email: [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk).

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