



CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report

Year Ending 30th April 2012

For the second year running Chatteris Town Council is delighted to report on the completion of one major project in the town and the launch of another thanks to substantial investment by the Council.

The All Weather Pitch, located at Cromwell Community College, is among the best in the region and is already proving a hit with local sports clubs. Work has now begun on the next phase of leisure provision in the town a fitness suite - comprising a 50-station gym and exercise/dance studio – also on the Cromwell site, which should be completed by the autumn. The two main funders of the fitness suite are the Town Council and Fenland District Council.

Councillors also celebrated the news that a campaign to save the postal sorting office in the town from closure had been successful. Hundreds of residents filled out postcards in support of the campaign fought by the Town Council, the Communication Workers Union and local MP Mr Steve Barclay. Together they finally convinced Royal Mail that their plan to operate the delivery service from March was not feasible.

The Council also:

a) Organised and ran a very successful Historic Festival in the town in June, in partnership with Fenland District Council and very enthusiastic, hard working volunteers. Once again thousands enjoyed the weekend entertainment and the schools day was judged the best ever. The organising group has already spent many months planning an even bigger and better event for 2012, which will incorporate celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, thanks to additional funding from the Town Council.

- b) Agreed to purchase a public notice board to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The board should be going up shortly and has been partly funded by a grant from FDC.
- c) Spent money on updating the CCTV cameras it owns in the town centre.
- d) With the help of County Councillor Alan Melton, fought proposals to reduce the opening hours of the library to 23 per week and succeeded in securing 27 hours opening a week.
- e) Wrote numerous letters calling for improved bus services for the town. The fight for better bus services continues led by Cllr Shad.
- f) Worked with Fenland District Council to facilitate the installation of new play equipment at Furrowfields Recreation Ground, including a multi-use games area currently under construction, and the imminent replacement of play equipment at Wenny Road Recreation Ground (following the installation of a CCTV camera monitoring the area).
- g) Worked with Cambridgeshire County Council Highways on new traffic schemes for the town including a pedestrian refuge in Bridge Street, new footpath and traffic orders in King Edward Road, new cycle racks around the town and school time parking restrictions in Larham Way and Farriers Gate.
- h) Organised and funded the Summer Fun shows for children during the summer holidays which attracted unprecedented numbers of youngsters.
- i) Administered over 130 allotments which are still very popular with all let and a waiting list of people keen to take on a garden.
- j) Successfully fought proposals to close the One Stop Shop in the town on Fridays (market day).
- k) Supported the refurbishment of the public conveniences at Furrowfields and considered but decided against taking over operation of the Station Street toilets, which will now close.
- l) Gave grants to a number of local organisations including substantial sums to help with the running costs of Chatteris Christmas Lights, Chatteris Town In Bloom and the Museum.
- m) Opposed the proposed changes to the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.
- n) Hosted three Mayoral events in aid of local charities, including a very popular civic ball.
- o) Took part in, and the Mayor chaired, Neighbourhood Forum meetings which considered problems in the town and policing priorities.
- p) Worked with the FDC Street Scene Officer reporting faulty lights, dumped refuse, problems with dogs, etc.
- q) Called for the football pitches at Fairway to be brought up to standard.
- r) Financed structural repairs to the Council Chambers.
- s) Worked with the police by reporting problems in the town.
- t) Responded to the Fenland Communities Development Plan Consultation.
- u) Re-launched and now regularly updates the Town Council's website www.chatteristowncouncil.info

Speakers and guests at Town Council and working group meetings included:

Mr Richard Cassidy, FDC, who attended regularly with FDC updates.

Mrs Anne Marshall, FDC, who attended regularly with Street Scene updates.

Pc Andy Rudd and PCSO's Marie Bailey, Jake Hornett, Leona Pouncey and Sam Dyer on police matters and updates.

Chief Inspector Mike Winters and Inspector Robin Sissons on re-structuring the police service.

Sgt Martin Monger, the new Neighbourhood Sergeant covering Chatteris.

Cllr Alan Melton on County Council issues.

Mr Nigel Brown, FDC, on adoption of roads and open spaces.

Mr Bob Ollier, FDC, regularly attended with leisure updates.

Mr Geoff Kent, Mr Rob Bridge and Ms Sarah Clarke, FDC, on one stop shop opening hours.

Mr Mark Matthews and Mr Gary Garford, FDC, on plans for public conveniences.

Ms Jeanette Milner and Ms Isabel Edgington, FDC, on the work of Street Pride.

Mr Justin Wingfield, FDC, on the work of Fenland Renaissance programme.

Ms Donna Barnes and Ms Debbie Hamilton, Cambs County Council, on youth work.

Mr Matthews and Mr Cassidy, FDC, on street cleansing services.

The Council

Cllr Peter Murphy was elected Mayor for a third year in May and has since represented the town at many events. He has been assisted by Cllr Florence Newell, in her fifth year as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Baldry unfortunately had to resign from the Council in February due to personal circumstances. Mr James Burrow applied to be co-opted to the Council to fill the vacancy and was duly appointed at the April meeting.

Shown below is the number of full meetings of the Council members attended during the year (with the number it was possible for them to attend in brackets). Several members also attended monthly meetings of the planning working group and/or bi-monthly meetings of the leisure working group. Councillors also represented the Council on numerous outside bodies.

L Ashley	9 (12)	C Howes	8 (12)
D Baldry	7 (10)	P Murphy	11 (12)
J Carney	10 (12)	F Newell	12 (12)
J Chambers	12 (12)	M Petrou	6 (12)
C Colbert	6 (12)	T Shad	11 (12)
R Cross	11 (12)	R Stimson	12 (12)
J Burrow	1 (1)		

Contact details for the Council are as follows:

Birch Ward

Cllr James Carney, Tel: 692256, 10 Church Lane, Chatteris, PE16 6JA,

Cllr Christine Colbert, Tel: 695770, 19 Pound Road, Chatteris, PE16 6RL

Cllr Mark Petrou, 29 London Road, Chatteris, PE16 6AS

The Mills Ward

Cllr James Burrow, Te: 696452, 15 Anvil Close, Chatteris, PE16 6DP

Cllr John Chambers, Tel: 696770, 3 West Street, Chatteris, PE16 6HA

Cllr Rosemary Stimson, Tel: 693448, 24 Fairway, Chatteris, PE16 6ST

Slade Lode Ward

Cllr Richard Cross, Tel: 07885499824, 15 Curlew Avenue, Chatteris, PE16 6PL

Cllr Chris Howes, Tel: 695770, 19 Pound Road, Chatteris, PE16 6RL

Cllr Peter Murphy, Tel: 692582, 28 High Street, Chatteris, PE16 6BG

Wenneye Ward

Cllr Linda Ashley, Tel: 692666, 133 London Road, Chatteris, PE16 6LT

Cllr Florence Newell, Tel: 651001, 7 Turnbull Road, March, PE15 9RX

Cllr Terence Shad, Tel: 760043, 2 Cricketers Way, Chatteris, PE16 6UR

Town Clerk – Mrs Joanna Melton and **Financial Officer** – Mr Ivan Cooper, Tel: 695166, e-mail chatteriscouncil@btconnect.com, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, PE16 6JA

The Town Council continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month and the meeting includes a 15 minute Open Forum when members of the public can raise issues. During the year these forums have been very well attended and numerous issues have been raised including: bus service problems, a request for an extension to the guided busway and concerns about the removal of bus subsidies; concerns about the future of the library and single staffing at the library; concerns about contact with the police; a request for a community notice board; an update on the telephone kiosk; local influence on how section 106 money is spent; concerns about the lack and possible loss of trees; concerns about who will run the new supermarket; problems with listed building consent; concerns about the possible closure of the sorting office; information about shapeyourplace; opposition to the MUGA at Furrowfields and the pedestrian refuge in Bridge Street.

The Council's planning working group met monthly and made recommendations on 109 new and revised planning applications. The leisure working group met bi-monthly to discuss plans for the town's recreation grounds and footpaths.

The Council has a regular dialogue with Fenland District Council and receives monthly rolling updates on issues of concern and Street Scene matters.

Three members of staff are employed by the Council – the Clerk, the Financial Officer and the Gardener. In addition to his regular duties the Financial Officer also attended numerous meetings during the year regarding the all weather pitch and fitness suite, prepared the annual return (which was passed by the Internal and External Auditors), undertook insurance and financial reviews and updated the Council's financial regulations.