

Town Council July Report to Area Board 12/07/2012

1. POLICY

1.1 The General Power of Competence. The Town Council will consider adoption of the power once the Town Clerk has received news of whether he has passed CiLCA 7.

1.2 Proposed ban on HGVs Cleveland Bridge, Bath – Information received from BANES regarding their proposals and correspondence from Wiltshire Council, Somerset County Council and the Highways Agency raising objections to the Secretary of State. What is proposed is not, as claimed, a restriction on through HGV traffic, but a restriction on HGVs turning right from A36 Beckford Rd into Bathwick St or left from Bathwick St into Beckford Rd A36. Their suggestion is that HGVs will use the M32/A4/Lower Bristol Rd, redistributing through traffic to a different route. It appears there will be nothing to stop HGVs doing a U turn at the roundabout at the bottom of Bathwick Hill.

1.3 Council Tax Benefit – The government is consulting on a change to Council Tax Benefit (CTB), which will transfer those on CTB to a discount (similar to single person households).

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/2146644>. The effect of this will be to reduce the Band D equivalent, resulting in lower precept income to first tier councils, for the same Band D council tax figure. The government has indicated that it expects collection authorities to assist first tier councils to minimise the impact. We await further details of the impact this will have once Wiltshire Council are in a position to advise further.

1.4 Repeal of S150 (5) of the LGA 1972 – SLCC reports; The long-awaited parliamentary revocation of the provision requiring 2 councillors to sign all orders for payment – frustrating on-line transactions – may be in sight. The responsible official within DCLG was due to attend the Joint Practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG) (chaired by Peter Lacey of NALC) on 14th June and it is hoped that a formal announcement will follow.

2. MARKETING/PROMOTION & EVENTS

2.1 Newsletter – The June 2012 issue is in circulation. The August edition is due w/c 23rd July.

2.2 Calendar of Events: The May Fayre, Torch Relay, Olympic Play Day & Jubilee Celebrations were all successful events for the town. A number of people have raised concerns at the lack of street closures for the torch relay, regarding safety issues and consequential limits on additional entertainment and activities; this was a decision of Wiltshire Council. We also received some correspondence congratulating the town on organising fantastic events.

Sat 30th June & Sun 1st July - Wiltshire Armed Forces & Veterans Weekend, Park.

2nd to 11th July – TIB competition judging, SW in Bloom Judging Day (5th).

Sat 7th & Sun 8th TIB Open Gardens weekend 2pm-6pm various locations

Sunday 15th July – Civic Service, St James' Parish Church at 6.30pm.

Sunday 19th August – Carnival Soap Box Derby, Castle Street.

Saturday 8th September – **Carnival Country Fayre**, Park & TIB Home Produce Fayre.

Tuesday 25th September - **Trowbridge in Bloom** Awards Evening, Civic Centre.

Friday 14th to Sunday 30th September 2012 - **Trowbridge Arts Festival** –

Saturday 20th October – **Trowbridge Carnival Procession.**

Saturday 24th November - **Christmas Fayre and Lights Switch On**, Fore Street at 6pm. To be followed by Shoppers Carol Service in St James' Church at 6.30pm.

2013

Tuesday 12th February – **Pancake Races**, Fore Street (during school holidays).

Saturday 4th May – **Lion's May Fayre**, Fore Street.

Saturday 8th June – **Sports Festival**, Park.

5. **Museum & Tourism – Exhibitions 'Fragments'** runs until 29th September, a partnership with Cloth Road Arts Week, Trowbridge Arts Festival and Heritage Open Days (6-8 Sept).

Museum Expansion – The council approved the principle of pursuing Courtfield House as a new location at the last meeting. Officers met the HLF in Exeter on 17th May and are now pursuing a number of issues, such as proposed layout, costing and valuation prior to submission of a grant application. www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk

Activities – A full range of art, craft and history activities is available at the Museum.

Saturday 14th July – **Tiny Tiles** age 8+

Saturday 11th August – **Block Printing** ages 4+

Saturday 8th September – **Funky Felt making** ages 4+ and **Heritage Open Days**

Saturday 22nd September – **Fabulous Felt** adults.

- 6 **Leisure Services - CAYPIG** – The CAYPIG will be subject to consideration by the Area Board relating to the establishment of a Youth Advisory Group in October. The Council will be considering asking the Area Board to develop the existing Trowbridge CAYPIG which works very well, into the new Youth Advisory Group for the Community Area.

Activities – A full range of holiday activities are provided by the **Active Trowbridge** team

24th July to 24th Aug - **Roadshow** in various locations around town all for free plus

24th July to 31st Aug - **Fun Days and sports camps** at Walwayne Court School.

25th Oct to 2nd Nov - **Fun Days and sports camps** at Walwayne Court School.

- 7 **Direct Services - Sunday Club** The next Sunday Club is on 12th August.

Trowbridge In Bloom – South West in Bloom judging takes place on Thursday 5th July. 22 projects have been submitted for the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards, with awards being presented in Weston Super Mare on 20th September. The Tidy Town Initiative has been successful with four litter picks taking place in recent weeks.

Trowbridge has been successful in being chosen to host the South West in Bloom 2013 Spring Seminar at the Civic Centre.

CCTV – We have reached agreement for a new three year deal with the Shires.

8 TOWN DEVELOPMENT - www.transformingtrowbridge.org.uk

St Stephens Place – work commenced on site in June to build the ODEON multi-screen cinema, Premier Inns hotel and a number of restaurant units.

Cradle Bridge – For Sale.

Bowyers – Morrisons proposal refused.

County Hall Remodelling. Work ongoing with Library due to open September.

Masterplan – Arup are progressing this work, jointly funded by WC and the HCA.

Housing – 1300 homes are being built on sites around the town currently: H9 Southview Fm, H11 Green Ln (S), H8d N of Paxcroft Way and H8c Green Lane (NE).

Wiltshire Core Strategy – Due to be approved 26th June to go to inspection.

7. PARTNERSHIP

7.1 Wiltshire Council

Stallard Recreation Ground; a. Changing Rooms – Permission was granted for a facility on Innox Rd, although Wiltshire Council appear not fully committed. **b. Street Snooker** – Installation completed. **c. Lighting and fencing** – Progressing applications for S106 and planning permission to provide lighting at the skatepark and fencing.

Sports Pitches – Following the decision of the Rugby Club to relocate to Hilperton, Wiltshire Council have indicated that there is limited likelihood of a joint development taking place. It is disappointing that a suitable solution could not be found. The Town Council may consider seeking to promote the development of a facility in the future alongside sports clubs with S106 funding and future Community Infrastructure Levy.

Transfer of assets and services – There has been nothing from Wiltshire Council progressing the provision of cost information regarding the Park and other WC assets. I discussed this with officers on 19th June.

Trowbridge Initiative – Trowbridge, along with other towns bidding from Wiltshire was unsuccessful in its bid for Portas Pilot money. The bid will go to the second round later in the year. The Initiative is also working with Wiltshire Council to introduce an outdoor market to the town and consideration is being given to set up a community interest company to achieve this.

The Halve Social Centre – Only a handful of users remain and closure plans are in place.

8. CIVIC & DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES

8.1 Twinning –

Leer – an official delegation visit from Friday 13th to Tuesday 17th July.

Charenton – arrangements are underway to receive an official delegation of visitors from Charenton in November 2012.

8.2 Council Meeting Dates. Council and committee meetings for the next 2 months are:

Tuesday 10 th July	Town Development	
Tuesday 17 th July	Full Council	
Tuesday 24 th July	Museum & Tourism	18:30
	Leisure Services	
Tuesday 31 st July	Town Development	
Tuesday 7 th August	Direct Services	
Tuesday 14 th August	No meeting	
Tuesday 21 st August	Town Development	
Tuesday 28 th August	No meeting	
Tuesday 4 th September	Policy & Resources	
Tuesday 11 th September	Town Development	
Tuesday 18 th September	Full Council	

8.3 Mayor's Civic Service 2012 – will be held on Sunday 15th July at St James.

4.5 Councillor Vacancy. An election takes place on 28th June to fill the vacancy in Trowbridge East ward of the Town Council.

Lance Allan

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