

## **Town Council Report to Area Board July 2013**

### **1. POLICY**

**General Power of Competence** – It was RESOLVED at the Annual Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May that the council re-adopts the General Power of Competence.

**Town Council Strategy** – The Council has commenced reviewing and updating the Council Strategy. The review will consider how key elements have progressed, such as the Civic Centre Project and whether some should now be; removed or retained, such as the transfer of assets from Wiltshire Council and the Core Strategy; enhanced, such as the Museum project; and if additional aims should be added, such as the implementation of a Community Governance Review and the transfer of additional assets from Wiltshire Council. The key elements of the current and a future Strategy are covered in this report.

**Community Governance Review** – In January 2011 the council submitted a report to Wiltshire Council requesting a Community Governance Review (CGR). At a meeting in May 2011 Wiltshire Council agreed to delay any further consideration of CGRs until after the 2013 elections, despite an obligation to undertake regular reviews and despite there being no reviews implemented in West Wiltshire since 1991. A number of other Local Councils in Wiltshire are considering requesting that Wiltshire Council undertake CGRS, including Salisbury, Calne, Devizes and Melksham. A CGR is undertaken to revise the boundaries of a parish (or town) and must be undertaken and a decision made by the District/Unitary Council for the area. In Trowbridge the existing parish boundaries run through the middle of residential streets and in some cases through the middle of houses, these include Kingsley Place, Chepston Place, Montague Court, Moyle Park and Halfway Close.

### **4. Museum & Tourism –**

**Exhibitions: Rich & Rare** - The current exhibition focuses on the rare and unique items from our collection relating to the local cloth industry; it runs until the 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Textile & Weaving Festival** - 17<sup>th</sup> Aug – 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. To celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary there will be *A Quintet of Quality Quirky, and Quaint Quilts* produced by local groups. The project involves working with Bath Spa University, Wiltshire College and local textile artists. There will be a *'Fleece to Fabric'* event and free craft activities for all.

**Magna Carta** – 2015 sees the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta. Trowbridge is one of the most significant Magna Carta Barons' Towns and the largest with a town council. The larger ones are Greenwich (London Borough), Leicester (City) and Pontefract (part of Wakefield Metropolitan). There are already significant plans to celebrate and it is hoped that Trowbridge can make a significant contribution.

### **5 Leisure Services -**

**Sports and Play Festival** – one of the most successful events of recent years in the Park, supported with a grant from Wiltshire Council's Area Board, saw thousands enjoying free activities in the sunshine on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Active Trowbridge Fun Days** – will be held during the main summer holidays at Walwayne Court, John of Gaunt and Newtown Schools.

**Community Sports Roadshow** – FREE in various locations around the town during the Summer Holidays. [www.trowbridge.gov.uk/?categoryId=90](http://www.trowbridge.gov.uk/?categoryId=90)

## **6 Direct Services –**

**Trowbridge In Bloom** – Awarded Gold in 2011 and 2012 we will enter the main competition again in 2014 when we host the main SW awards event in September. A range of activities continue throughout 2013.

## **7. MARKETING, PROMOTION & EVENTS**

**7.1 Newsletter** – The July newsletter is incorporated into the Trowbridge Magazine; further editions will be published this way in September and November.

**7.2 Calendar of Events (please see attached)**

**7.3 Website** – The Town Council web-site [www.trowbridge.gov.uk](http://www.trowbridge.gov.uk) provides information about all council activities and services as well as links to other Trowbridge web-sites. We are undertaking some changes to the site which will make it easier to update and give it a fresher look. Our other web-sites are: [www.trowbridgecivic.co.uk](http://www.trowbridgecivic.co.uk) for information about the Civic Centre, events and activities & [www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk](http://www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk) for the Museum.

**7.4 Whole Town Approach to Marketing** - Some proposals as to how the whole town could be marketed in an inclusive way to cover both commercial development potential and culture and heritage are being considered by the Council. The Council will be seeking the support of other partner organisations to agree the branding and promotion of the town.

## **8. TOWN DEVELOPMENT –**

**8.1 Business Improvement District** - Consideration is being given to the establishment of a Town Centre BID. Wiltshire Council will fund the promotional phase for Salisbury, Chippenham and Trowbridge and are seeking partnership funding for a feasibility study. A BID enables a levy to be charged to Business Rates if approved in a referendum, funding improvements, which could include Christmas Lights, floral displays, events, street furniture, signage and traffic improvements, with a BID board to oversee the expenditure. This could also potentially be linked to the transfer of car-parks from Wiltshire Council.

### **8.2 Town Centre Developments**

**St Stephens Place** – work is progressing to schedule on site, to provide a 7-screen ODEON cinema due to open 25 October, 80-bed Premier Inn, Prezzo, Nando's and 4 other restaurant units. Premier Inns have been undertaking interviews at the Civic Centre.

**Cradle Bridge** – Former Peter Black site is for sale. Wiltshire Council is working towards securing demolition of the buildings prior to the opening of the cinema.

**Bowyers** – Alternative application for Morrisons supermarket, petrol station etc. has received permission and sign off from the Secretary of State.

**County Hall Remodelling.** The refurbishment of Old County Hall continues.

**Court Street** – the proposal for a mixed use office and residential scheme on the former Tremans Factory site has received permission.

**8.3 Housing** – The following major sites are under development, total over 1,200 houses.

**H9 Southview Farm**, Wain Homes, 300 houses for sale.

**H11 Castle Mead** off Green Lane, Persimmon and Charles Church 650 houses for sale.

**H8d Brook Meadow**, Barratt and Taylor Wimpey 150 houses for sale, including a foot /cyclepath to Ashton Street, giving access to the town centre for Paxcroft Mead.

**H8c The Pastures** off Parsonage Way, Abbey New Homes 180 starting soon.

**St James' Gardens** off Union Street, Newland Homes 75 houses for sale.

**Broad Street and York Buildings** PFI sites for social housing now commenced.

**Centenary Court**, Yeoman Way, Selwood Housing social housing site now commenced.

**Rugby Club, Green Lane** – 90 houses. Application to revise affordable homes was submitted recently.

**Ashton Park** – Mainly in West Ashton and North Bradley Parishes, proposes up to 3000 houses. An application is scheduled following the Core Strategy Enquiry – in the Autumn. Pre-meetings with the local councils and the Area Board are expected in August/September.

**8.4 Wiltshire Core Strategy** – The Trowbridge issues day was scheduled for Weds 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**8.5 Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)** - Items included in the IDP will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Council will need to consider the IDP as part of a revised Council Strategy to ensure that items required by the community are included. Such items would include; allotments, cemetery, play areas, highways, cycle routes and sports pitches, for which some money from developers through Section 106 contributions is already available. The IDP should be reviewed by Wiltshire Council on an annual basis.

**9. PROJECTS** - The Town Council undertakes a number of projects, often involving capital expenditure, aimed to improve our services and community facilities.

**9.1 SPORTS PITCHES** – We are progressing with the purchase of 5 acres adjacent to the new Rugby Club Ground at Devizes Road, which will be funded from developer contributions (£106) via Wiltshire Council.

**9.2 MUSEUM RELOCATION** – Caroline Taylor, our consultant, will be presenting at the next Area Board meeting. Securing the alternative property at Courtfield House is progressing. A meeting with the HLF was held in Exeter recently and our Arts Council

Grant has been confirmed. English Heritage and the Architectural Heritage Fund have also visited and are supporting the project. The buildings at Courtfield House are expected to be added to the *at risk* register, enabling grant funding for remedial works.

**9.3 TOWN PARK** – We took a license to manage the Park from 1<sup>st</sup> June with Wiltshire Council pending completion of the land transfer, this allows us to appoint English Landscapes to continue their maintenance services until the end of March. We anticipate completing the transfer in June/July.

**9.4 ALLOTMENTS** – We anticipate completing the transfer in June/July.

## 10. CIVIC & DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES

**Council Meeting Dates.** Council and committee meetings for the next few months are:

Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Full Council
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Leisure Services (6:30pm) followed by Town Development
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	NO MEETING
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	NO MEETING
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	NO MEETING
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Town Development
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Direct Services
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Policy & Resources
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Museum & Tourism (6:30pm) followed by Town Development
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Full Council

### Lance Allan

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[www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk](http://www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>JULY</b>		
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	TIB Summer Open Gardens	1 – 5pm
July	TIB competition and SW in Bloom Judging Day	
Sat 13 & Sun 14	CREATIVITY Craft Fair	Civic Centre
Sat 13	BIG GIG	
Sunday 21	Civic Service 6.30pm	St James' Church
Thu25–Fri 9Aug	Active Trowbridge Fun Days	Walwayne Court Sc'l
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Mon 12 – Fri 16	Active Trowbridge Fun Days	John of Gaunt School
Mon 19 – Fri 30	Active Trowbridge Fun Days	Newtown School
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Textile and Weaving Festival opens	to 16 Nov
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Carnival Soap Box Derby	Castle Street
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	TOWN TEAM Food Fest	Fore St & Town Park
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Carnival Country Fayre	Trowbridge Park
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	TIB Home Produce Fayre	Fore Street 10 – 2pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Trowbridge in Bloom Awards Evening	Civic Centre
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
Fri 18 to Sat 2 November	Trowbridge Arts Festival	
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Trowbridge Carnival Procession	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	New ODEON CINEMA due to open	St Stephen's Place
29 -1 November	October Half-term holiday activities	Trowbridge Museum
Mon 28 to Tues 5 November	Active Trowbridge Fun Days	Walwayne Court School
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jethro Live at the Civic	Civic Centre
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Craft & Community Fayre	Civic Centre
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	TOWN TEAM Victorian market	Fore Street
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lights Switch On followed by Shoppers Carol Service at St James' Church. Late night shopping to 7pm	Fore Street
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	FREE PARKING in Wiltshire Council Car-parks	
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Dickensian Christmas Experience opens	Trowbridge Museum
12 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Wonderland party nights at the	Civic Centre
Sunday15/22/29	Sunday shopping in Trowbridge	Town Centre
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Late night shopping to 7pm.	Town Centre
<b>FEBRUARY 2014</b>		
Mon 17 – Fri 21	Active Trowbridge Fun Days	Walwayne Court Sch'l

# **Trowbridge Town Council**

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*Working with the Community*

<b>Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>EXHIBITION – Popular Pitman &amp; Convivial Crabbe (to April 19<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Trowbridge Museum</b>
<b>Tues 18 – Fri 21</b>	<b>Half-term holiday activities</b>	<b>Trowbridge Museum</b>
<b>MARCH</b>		
<b>Tues 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races</b>	<b>Fore Street</b>