

Honiton



Annual report 2009-2010 by mayor, Cllr . Miss Vivienne Ash

The Council undertakes such a vast range of activities throughout the year, it is only possible to highlight some of the key areas in this annual report.

Traffic Issues

Thanks to the campaigning of Cllr Morgan and her neighbour, together with the perseverance of the Council, long awaited improvements have now been made to the A35. These include reducing the speed limit on the Kings Road and installation of a pedestrian crossing in the Monkton Road. DCC has agreed to implement a comprehensive plan of additional parking restrictions in the town following consultation with the Council and in response to requests from residents. The plan will be implemented during this financial year.

The Council has set up a Traffic and Transport group to carry out a comprehensive investigation into ways of tackling traffic and transport issues in the town. This group has representatives from DCC, the Police, the Development Trust, The Chamber of Commerce and TRIP on it. One of the problem areas being considered is Dowell Street which Cllr Farnham has raised on behalf of local residents.

Partnership working

Working with other authorities and organizations is a significant role for the Council. It is a positive way of working effectively, minimising duplication and improving communications. A good example relates to Honiton Post Office. Residents of Honiton and surrounding parishes have identified a number of problems at the PO, in particular long queues.



The Council has hosted two meetings with representatives of the PO, DCC, and the PO Champion at EDDC to tackle these problems. To date, there have been some improvements but there is still a way to go.

The Council has worked with the Chamber, Community College, the Development Trust, EDDC's Business Champion, the Library and the TIC to produce new branding and literature for the town and a comprehensive Marketing Strategy. This was successfully launched in April 2010. The aim is to enhance the profile of the town and bring in more business.

Supporting other Organisations

The Council supports many groups in their efforts to provide a wide range of activities/events for residents and visitors. The Council has been working with the Honiton Festival which puts on a renowned music festival bi-annually. This is facilitated by Cllr Corke who is the Council's representative on their Committee. In March I hosted a reception, with their Chairman Jenny Duffell, to promote the Festival and to recognize the hard work that goes in to putting on such a large undertaking.

Cllr Whitlock is an active member of the group that organises the highly successful Charter Day in July. Cllrs Fleming and Casson are involved in bringing about an Armed Forces Day in June. Cllr Howard is our representative on the Twinning Association and has made several visits to our twinning towns in France and Germany.

Valuable work is being done by Cllr Fleming in liaising with Devon Link Up who have set up a Parliament for people with learning disabilities. Last November several of their chosen MPs gave an excellent presentation to the Council. It was agreed we would do all we could to tackle the issues they have raised.

Young People

Throughout the year, the Council has been delighted to work with and support young people in our community. For example, students from the College have attended Council meetings to receive awards for their achievements and to support the Community Centre. They also attended the Remembrance Day ceremony outside St Paul's Church. Regular meetings are held with the College and Councillors have attended a variety of events there.

Lobbying

Another role of the Council is to lobby other authorities on behalf of the public. We have been very active this year challenging the Partnership Trust about their closure of the Bungalow and planned changes of use for its re-opening. More recently, a public meeting was called by the Council to voice public opposition to reductions in service at Honiton Hospital's maternity unit.

The Environment, Open Spaces and Allotments

The Council is doing some excellent work in the environmental field. Cllr Boom has worked tirelessly to raise money to enhance the Glen. He has also managed to engage many volunteers to help in the clearing and planting work. This has been done in conjunction with dedicated EDDC officers.

Cllrs Coombs and Fleming do a splendid job in ensuring that our footpaths are kept open and fit for use. They also work with the Trustees of Roundball Wood and the Millennium Green to preserve these valuable assets for the town.

Since the Deputy Clerk joined the Council last September she has worked hard to put all the structures in place for introducing allotments on land at Honiton Bottom Road. She and Cllr McGuire liaise with the Allotment Association who will be running the allotments when in use.

Cllr Foster's experience as a father with several young children is proving beneficial to the Council. He is keeping a close eye on the standards of play areas and open spaces for children. He has particularly highlighted problems in Allhallows playing field. In this financial year, EDDC has agreed to replace equipment in the children's play area and put hard-standing in front of some of the benches.

The Street Market

Cllr Casson chairs the Market Group and they work with the Clerk and the Market Manager, Tom Lenton, to ensure the successful functioning of the Market now it is in Town Council control. The bad winter has put a strain on the Market. However, some new stalls have been purchased for hiring out to help attract newcomers and a wider range of goods is appearing as the weather improves.

The Local Development Framework (LDF)

EDDC is required to prepare a series of Local Development Documents collectively known as the LDF which will shape development in the District up to the 2020s. During the year the Council has been consulted at key stages of the process. However, it is concerned as to whether the town will have sufficient input into shaping the policies that will affect its future growth.

As part of this LDF process, background work has been done on Housing and Cllr Allen has agreed to chair a group developing a green spaces policy.

The Community Centre

The Council has taken a momentous decision this year in resolving to build the long awaited Community Centre. Cllr Teare has done a splendid job chairing the Working Party and shown considerable skill in handling public meetings. Cllr Halse's support in promoting the project at EDDC and securing the services of a project manager has also been extremely valuable. Extensive public consultation has been carried out. Cllrs Groves and Taylor, amongst others, helped to man the exhibition of the Centre plans in the Council offices and the stall outside St Pauls Church.

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2010

	2008/9	2009/10	
	£p		£p
INCOME			
Precept	100000.00	116000.00	
East Devon District Council	2503.00	2679.75	
Devon County Council	122.20	400.00	
Street Market Income	6686.25	32336.10	
Bank Interest	3412.23	1125.24	
Donations & Grants	12351.36	6136.53	
Refunds	205.33	107.97	
Insurance Claims	2000.00	3931.87	
Miscellaneous	11.11	207.98	
TOTAL INCOME	127291.48		162925.44
EXPENDITURE			
Council Expenses	5998.39	6330.56	
Subscriptions	1171.00	1386.50	
Environment and Tourism	34084.09	37700.40	
Grants	9954.56	18960.00	
Democratic Core Services	11870.81	16940.96	
Premises	5997.50	10621.90	
Staffing Costs	37912.00	61078.73	
Capital Schemes	0.00	0.00	
Provision for Doubtful Debts	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	106988.35		153019.05
Net Income/Expenditure	<u>20303.13</u>		<u>9906.39</u>
Expenditure from Reserves	34782.66	18438.40	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE WITH RESERVES EXP	141771.01		171457.45
Net Income/Expenditure including Reserves Exp	<u>-14479.53</u>		<u>-8532.01</u>

Council support

Regrettably, Councillor Ayres announced his resignation recently: we wish him well and would like to thank him for his input whilst a Councillor.

Our two Clerk's Assistants in the office have done a splendid job throughout the year in fielding many enquiries, problems etc that pass through their hands. You would be amazed at what they have to sort out at times!!

I would like to thank regular attendees at our Council meetings each month. Their presence is much appreciated.

PC Atyeo manages to attend the majority of Council meetings and gives informative reports on the crime statistics and the work that the Police do in the community.

Councillors Diviani and Olive give reports on DCC and EDDC business respectively and provide useful liaison with these authorities.

My thanks also go to members of the public for both support and challenge of what we do

It has been a great honour to serve as Mayor and Chairman of the Council during this civic year and to work with so many valued colleagues.

HONITON TOWN COUNCILLORS St. Michael's Ward



Cllr M Allen
01404 46755



Cllr A B Boom
01404 548745



Cllr Mrs S A Casson
01404 45367



NEW MAYOR 2010-11
Cllr P J Fleming
01404 43388



Cllr M McGuire
01404 46266



Cllr J B Taylor



Cllr M J Teare



Cllr V C Whitlock



VACANCY

St. Paul's Ward



Cllr Miss V Ash
01404 42028



Cllr R E Coombs
01404 47347



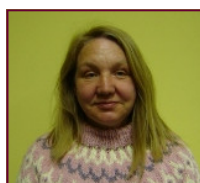
Cllr J.P. Corke
01404 47437



Cllr R A Farnham
01404 44723



Cllr D Foster
07956 442841



Cllr Mrs S Groves
01404 47654



Cllr P Halse
01404 43854



Cllr Mrs V A Howard
01404 47127



Cllr Mrs D Morgan
01404 46933

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

Council Offices, New Street, Honiton EX14 1EY

www.honiton.gov.uk

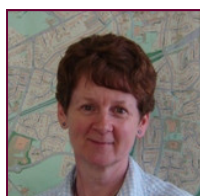
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infodesk@honiton.gov.uk

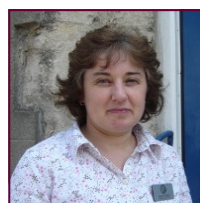
DeputyClerk@honiton.gov.uk



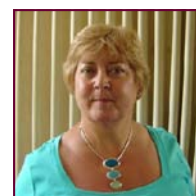
Mrs Lyn Hargood
Town Clerk



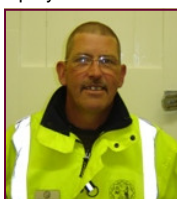
Mrs Sarah Jenkins
Deputy Town Clerk



Mrs Carolyn Bowles
Clerk's Assistant



Mrs Cherie Batty
Clerk's Assistant



Mr Tom Lenton
Market Manager



Mr Dave Smyth
Market Assistant