

Honiton



TALK OF THE TOWN

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

December 2014

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Christmas is a very special time for all of us, a time to spend with family and friends, reflect on a year passed and plan for the New Year ahead. The past seven months as Mayor has been a tremendous experience for me. I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome I have received from the people of Honiton and feel honoured to represent you as Mayor. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many interesting people and attended a wide range of functions and events throughout the year.

2014 has been a good year for Honiton. Our success includes the opening the new Community Complex, known as The Beehive, a facility that the Town was severely lacking. The Beehive is a modern, accessible centre offering additional space and opportunity for a mix of uses for local people including community and arts activities. Our Hot Pennies ceremony had the highest number of people attend and it was good to see the town so busy with many people then taking the opportunity to wander around the shops and market stalls.

Many people have benefitted whether for social or wellbeing purposes including being able to provide a venue for young adults with learning disabilities to enable them to mix in a real working environment, training centre for the unemployed, various dance classes for both adults and children, tea dances, community cinema and a meeting place for local organisations including Honiton Pantomime Society and Honiton Carnival.

The Beehive is both beneficial now and for future generations and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of our community, councillors past and present and officers of this Town Council for their years of dedication and hard work in order to bring this project to reality.

Even during these difficult economic times we need to strive to develop our local economy. Every effort is being made to work with Honiton Chamber of Commerce, Honiton Tourist Information Office and other local organisations to improve this historical market town as a place to visit for its unique shops and cultural activities.

Many cutbacks and reduction in services have been proposed and the Town Council has made its voice heard to protect much needed services. However what has come out of this is how well the people of this town pull together whether it is through volunteering or helping financially all because we are passionate and care.

As Mayor. I have had the pleasure of awarding community grants totalling over £11000 to local organisations. For me, visiting Honiton's many groups and organisations have been a revelation. The community groups and the volunteers who run them, are the lifeblood of Honiton and it is they who contribute greatly to making Honiton a place where people can be proud to live.

Christmas is a time for family and I'm personally looking forward to spending some quality time relaxing with my wife Ann and my family. Christmas can also be a difficult time for people. It can be a painful and sad time for many families, particularly for people who have suffered bereavement over the past year. I would encourage people to rally around their family, friends and neighbours and provide them with the help and support that they need.

At Christmas we remember that our Saviour, the Lord Jesus, laid aside His splendour to be born in a humble stable among us. His life and His death for us challenge us to live more unselfish lives - putting others' needs before our own.

May I wish you all God's blessing this Christmas and in the coming year.

Cllr Peter Halse
Mayor of Honiton



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR HONITON



Have Your Say in January

In 2011 the Government introduced Neighbourhood Planning. This means that communities can draw up a plan for their area. The plan gives the community more of a say in the development and use of land in their local area.

Although the Town Council is the body responsible for producing the Neighbourhood Plan for Honiton, it can only do this if the whole community gets involved. The first step in this process is for members of the community to tell the Town Council what is important to them and what the priorities for Honiton should be for the next 10 to 15 years.

**What matters to you about Honiton?
What do you want Honiton to be like in the future?
What sort of town do you want to live in?**

From 19th to 23rd January the Town Council will be holding a number of events to ask people how they think the town should develop. Details of the events will be available in early January.

For more information on the Neighbourhood Planning process please go to

www.eastdevon.gov.uk - follow the links to Planning / Neighbourhood Plans – the Frequently Asked Questions page has useful background information

www.mycommunityrights.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning - the document The Power of Neighbourhood Planning has helpful examples of what communities can achieve taken from plans around the country

If you would like to register your interest in the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Town Council on 01404 42957 or towncouncil@honiton.gov.uk.

TIME TO APPLY FOR A TOWN COUNCIL GRANT...

Every year Honiton Town Council awards a series of funding grants to organisations working for or helping the people of Honiton. Application forms together with the policy document setting out the criteria required to qualify for a grant, will be available in the New Year, either from the Town Council office in the Beehive, Dowell Street or by downloading one from the Council website - www.honiton.gov.uk Grants awarded will be payable in May 2015.



YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU!

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT TOWN COUNCILLOR?

In May 2015 there will be an opportunity for residents of Honiton to elect their Town Councillors for the next four years. If you would like to make a real difference to the town in which you live and/or work, why not consider putting yourself forward as a Town Councillor?

Most people's impression of what a Councillor does is that they just attend council meetings and nothing could be further from the truth. The duties and pleasure of being a local Councillor are many and varied; however it is the ordinary day to day contact with local people in their own community that is the most important part of being a Councillor.

A Town Councillor signs a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thereby undertakes to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community.

Listening : One of the most important tasks of a Town Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community. Many public bodies or organisations acknowledge this is the hardest information for them to capture and they in turn use the skills and local knowledge of the Town Council for advice to assist and inform their services.

Meetings : A Councillor agrees to attend all meetings where reasonably possible that he or she is summoned to. Most meetings are held in the evening but some committees and group representation may be during the day. Honiton Town Council has monthly full meetings plus committees dealing with Planning, Policy and Finance as well as various other sub-committees

Representation : The Town Council also needs representation at other local government meetings or on local bodies and organisations and Councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the Town Council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District, County and regional changes. Councillors represent the voice of their community as a whole, whilst being aware of and considerate to, specific minority needs.

Ceremonial Duties : There will be times when Councillors are asked to attend civic functions as part of their duty to the community. This may include Remembrance Parades, Hot Pennies, Charter Day or attendance at public functions.

COULD I BE A COUNCILLOR?

The diversity of parish and town councils is their strength. Each can make a unique response to the needs of their community with a sensitivity that is more difficult for principal authorities to achieve. The diversity of the Town Council often arises because Councillors have different enthusiasms and interests. The Council needs a range of skills to work as a team.

To be a Councillor you must be over 18, a British citizen (or a qualifying Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union) and living or working within a 3 mile radius of Honiton. The Town Council meets monthly in the evening and twice monthly to look at planning applications. There are also a number of committees and working groups on which Councillors may wish to serve but a Councillor's role is also about working in the community and being available to the residents. Councillors' time is voluntary although an annual allowance is paid to defray the day to day costs such as travel and postage.

The Town Clerk, Chetna Jones, would be happy to discuss with you in more detail any aspect of becoming a Town Councillor and playing a central role in the growth and development of Honiton. She may be reached on 01404 42957 or towncouncil@honiton.gov.uk

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS 2014 - 2015



Cllr. Jackie Wadsworth
01404 43935
St. Michael's Ward



Cllr. Nick Cornwell
01404 47478
St. Michael's Ward



Vacancy



Vacancy



Cllr. Peter Halse **
Mayor
01404 43854
St. Michael's Ward



Cllr. Sharon Pavey
07447 597390
St. Michael's Ward



Cllr Gary Elliot
01404 42968
St. Michael's Ward



Cllr. John Taylor
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St. Michael's Ward



Cllr. Nick Boggon
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Cllr. Vivienne Ash
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Cllr. Roy Coombs
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Cllr Les Bayliss
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Cllr. Peter. Corke
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Cllr. Henry Brown
St. Paul's Ward



Cllr. Caroline Kolek
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Cllr. Vera Howard
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** Also District Councillor



Cllr. Les Lunt
01404 41205
St. Paul's Ward



Cllr John Zarczynski
Deputy Mayor
01404 758179
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Chetna Jones
Town Clerk
01404 42957



Sarah Jenkins
Deputy Clerk
01404 42957



Tony McCollum
Market Manager
07980 922696



Carolyn Bowles
Town Clerk's Assistant
01404 42957



Michael Vernon
Town Clerk's Assistant
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TOWN CLERK: Mrs. Chetna Jones

DEPUTY CLERK: Mrs. Sarah Jenkins

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