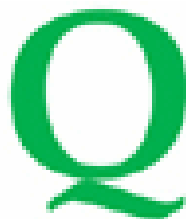


Atherstone Town Council



Annual Report 2006 / 2007



QUALITY
PARISH &
TOWN
COUNCIL
SCHEME

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

To May 3rd 2007

Richard Barker	01827 713275	(L –North)
Jenny Bassan	01827 715530	(LD – North)
Barry Beeson	01827 713023	(C –Central)
Ruby Chambers	01827 714117	(I – Central)
Denise Clews	01827 711340	(I– Central)
Martin Davis	01827 714491	(C- Central)
Lorraine Freer	01827 712609	(C – South)
Richard Freer	01827 712609	(C – Central)
Ray Jarvis	01827 716534	(I– South)
Stephen Reay	01827 714500	(I – North)
Amanda Macchi	01827 714555	(C– North)
Colin Peat	01827 713537	(C – South)
Derek Pickard	01827 711863	(L- Central)
Martin Shaw	01827 712846	(C – North)
Geoff Taylor	01827 881128	(C – North)

Key

- (C) Conservative
- (I) Independent
- (L) Labour
- (LD) Liberal Democrat

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Farewells

It was with some sadness that in February 2005 the Town Council received the resignations of Cllr Paul Bell and Cllr William Powell.

Cllr. Bell was a new member of the Town Council elected in May 2003. His contribution to the Town Council was enriched by a different perspective on local matters. Unfortunately Cllr Bell has relocated and therefore found it impossible to continue as a Town Councillor.

Cllr. Powell had been a long-standing member of the Town Council and a past Chairman. His contributions over the years had enabled the Town Council to progress. However as a Borough Councillor and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party Councillor Powell felt he was unable to commit sufficient time to the Town Council and therefore decided to step down.

Welcomes

The Town Council welcomes three new councillors.

Councillor Stephen Reay was elected to the Town Council in May 2004. As a local trader and a life long resident Councillor Reay brings a very local view to Town Council decisions and policies.

Councillor Denise Clews

Councillor Ray Jarvis

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2004/2005.

Contracts Committee

Chair: Cllr. Mrs A Macchi
Vice Chair: Cllr. Mr G Taylor

Planning Committee

Chair: - Cllr. M Shaw
Vice Chair: - Cllr. R Barker

Policy Committee

Chair: - Cllr. B Beeson
Vice Chair: - Vacancy

All councillors sit on all committees.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION, APRIL 2005.

Councillor Martin Davis

It was a great honour to be elected Chairman of Atherstone Town Council and Town Mayor in May 2004. I am grateful to my fellow councillors for their support throughout my year of office.

It has been a busy year, during which the Town Council has been active in responding to the expressed wishes of the people of Atherstone.

Local Draft Plan Enquiry

The Town Council has actively participated in the Local Plan Enquiry. The Town Council has raised concerns with the inspector regarding the proposed use of green space for housing and the requirement for 40% affordable or social housing. The Town Council now awaits the Inspectors report.

Planning Applications

The Town Council comments on all planning applications relevant to the town. There have been three major applications during the year.

1. Aldi Store Station Street

The Town Council planning meeting to discuss this application was attended by representatives from the Aldi Company. The town Council has publicly expressed its wish to see an Aldi store open in Atherstone for the benefit of the residents.

2. Phoenix Yard Residential development

The Architect and representatives from Arragon Properties attended a special session of the Town Council Planning Committee to discuss the plans for Phoenix Yard. The Town

Council has expressed concerns on several issues regarding this development but believes that with adjustment the site should be developed

3. Site of Wainwright's Garage

The owner and the architect attended a meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee to discuss this application. The Town Council supported the application but suggested some amendments.

Christmas Lights

The Town Council has again assumed responsibility for the background electrical wiring for the Christmas Lights in the town. It is a requirement of Warwickshire County Council Highways Department that any lights erected over the highways such as Long Street and Station Street are inspected and permissions obtained.

The Town Council has funded the inspection of the wiring to enable the Atherstone Lights Committee to erect the lights. The Town Council also purchased more lights for the Market Square, extending the white pealight coverage in the trees outside St. Mary's Church and providing some displays attached to standard lamp posts in the square.

Provision for Youth

The Town Council has responded to the needs for improved facilities for youth as expressed in the surveys carried out in the town, Tellus 42, CHEC etc. A hard surface ball court has been provided at Westwood Road Play Area partly funded by a grant from the Social Community Fund and Crime Reduction Fund.

Further funding for new initiatives at Westwood Road and St. Mary's Road Play Areas is expected from I06 planning agreements.

CCTV

The continuing success of CCTV in reducing crime rates in the town has been affirmed by the police. It has been possible to extend CCTV coverage to the canal site at Coleshill Road. Funding to install and link up the camera has been achieved with contributions from British Waterways, Crime Reduction funds and the Countryside Agency. The benefits are already noticeable with an increase in the number of canal boats now mooring overnight.

Funding

Once again the Town Council has been successful in bidding for external funding in 2004/2005

Funds to the value of £43,000 have been brought into the town for the benefit of the residents.

The assistance of Rachel Feavyour, Market Towns Manager has been invaluable in obtaining grants from Advantage West Midlands.

Support for Local Organisations and Events

The Town Council has continued to financially support local events to attract visitors to the town.

Funding has been granted to

Atherstone Fun Day

The Classic Car Event

Dickens Night.

In addition the Town Council has assisted local organisations with small grants.

1st Atherstone Scout Group

Over 60's Club

Atherstone Theatre Workshop

Friends of Arden Hill School

Collins Music Bursary

Welcome Street Lights
Atherstone Ball Game Committee

The Town Council in partnership with the Dickens Night Committee 2002 provided the Town Crier with a new suit of regalia, enabling him to better represent the town at national competitions.

A grant was made to the Friends of Atherstone Cemetery to enable the re erection of headstones laid down in the safety testing at the cemetery.

What Your Town Council does for you

Atherstone Town Council has existed since 1974 following Local Government Reorganisation. There are 15 Town Councillors who are elected every four years.

Town Councillors do not receive any payment and offer their time voluntarily for the benefit of the community. The Mayor is appointed by the 15 Councillors at the Annual General Meeting in May and usually serves for the period of one year.

Councillors are also appointed to outside bodies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Over the years the Town Council has provided an ever-increasing range of services for our community.

Where the money comes from.....

The Town Council receives the majority of its funds from Atherstone Council Tax. For the financial year 2004 /2005 the Council will be receiving £172,920. North Warwickshire Borough Council will collect this money together with the amount required by them, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police. Other sources of income for the Council, forecast at £21,865, include allotment rents, burial and memorial charges and CCTV contributions.

The Council receives no funding from Central Government. The Council does bid for extra funding from various bodies to assist with the finance of projects such as improvements to play equipment.

Where the money goes.....

During the last year improvements have been made to equipment at Westwood Road Play Area. The Town Council has responded to the needs of teenagers as expressed in several surveys.

A major item of expenditure has been the operational costs of CCTV. The Town Council also obtained funding to assist with the provision of a new camera at the Coleshill Road canal site. The Town Council provides funding for organizations in the town each year. Atherstone Fun Day, Dickens Bight and the Classic Car Event all received donations and the Town Council provided funding for the Ball Game Insurance. .

The Town Council also funds the Sheepy Road cemetery, employing contractors to maintain the area, grass and rose beds.

Work has started on providing a toilet with disabled access at the Sheepy Road Cemetery.

New notice boards for the cemetery and the Market Square to promote Town Council and local organisations' activities are on order.

The Town Council will also provide floral displays in the Town Center starting this summer. The Town Council has received funding from the Market Towns Initiative to boost funding provided by the Town Council itself.

QUALITY STATUS

Following the accreditation of the Town Clerk as a qualified clerk in October 2004 the Town Council was able to apply for Quality Status. The award was made in February 2005. Quality Status allows the Town Council to provide more local services and is recognition of the professionalism of the council in the management of its affairs.

Currently the Town Council is in discussion with North Warwickshire Borough Council regarding :

- (1) Transfer of the public toilets on Station Street to Town Council management. The Town Council understands the importance of the public toilets with their close proximity to the Bus Station and car parks. The Town Council believes it can improve the toilets at a lease4 cost to the taxpayer.
- (2) Transfer of management of the Market Square and Markets to Town Council management. Many town councils are now taking responsibility for their local markets. The Town Council believes it can provide better conditions for the market to thrive.
It is the Town Council's belief that the Market Square , the heart of the town, should belong to the town through its local council and not be managed by the borough council which has borough wide responsibilities.
- (3) Transfer of the play areas at St. George's Road, Minions Close and Warwick Avenue to the Town Council. The Town Council has a proven record of improvement and good management of it's existing play areas at St. Mary's Road and Westwood Road.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

Town Clerk Mr. Chris Foster

Trainee Town Clerk Ms. Sandra Cawthra

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 11am

The first Saturday of the month from 10am to 12am. Outside of these hours appointments are necessary.

Phone Number 01827 720829

Fax Number 01827 720829

Postal Address Atherstone Town Council,
P.O. Box 2000,
Atherstone,
CV9 1YN,

Web Site Address www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk

E-mail clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk