

Atherstone Town Council



Annual Report 2007 / 2008



QUALITY
PARISH &
TOWN
COUNCIL
SCHEME

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

Acting Town Clerk Mrs. Sally Oldham

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 11am

Outside of these hours appointments are necessary.

Phone Number	01827 720829
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Web Site Address	www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk
E-mail	clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2007/2008.

Contracts Committee

Chair: Cllr. G. Taylor (Vacant as of Feb 08)
Vice Chair: Cllr. R. Jarvis

Planning Committee

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

Policy Committee

Chair: - Cllr. R. Freer
Vice Chair: - Cllr. D. Clews

All councillors sit on all committees.

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

To May 7th 2008

Richard Barker	01827 713275	(L –North)
Barry Beeson	01827 713023	(C –Central)
Ruby Chambers	01827 714117	(I – Central)
Denise Clews	01827 711340	(I– Central)
Gill Davis	01827 714491	(C-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)
Amanda Macchi	01827 714555	(C– North)
Colin Peat	01827 713537	(C – South)
Martin Shaw	01827 712846	(C – North)
Mejar Singh	01827 712305	(C- North)
Nathan Sweet	01827 716 488	(LD Central)

Vacancy (As of 12th February 2008) (North)

Key

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

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

May 2008.

Councillor Amanda Macchi

It was a great honour to be elected Chairman of Atherstone Town Council and Town Mayor in May 2007. I am grateful to my fellow councillors for their support throughout my year of office.

It has been an interesting and challenging year, during which the Town Council has been active on behalf of the people of Atherstone.

I have been privileged to represent the town at varied functions and have also been grateful to Councillor Martin Shaw for deputising for me when necessary. I shall remember particularly attending the Speech Day at Queen Elizabeth School when I was proud to present the achievement awards to the young people there.

I was delighted to attend the rededication of the memorial to the deceased sisters from St. Scholastica's Priory in Atherstone Cemetery and to meet Sister Gertrude the last surviving member of the former priory.

It was a great pleasure to attend the pre Ball Game lunch on Shrove Tuesday and to be included in this historic event.

I was delighted to present Honorary Citizen Awards to John and Doreen Vickers as tokens of appreciation for their voluntary contributions to the community of Atherstone.

I hope that my successor as Town Mayor and Chairman of Atherstone Town Council has an equally enjoyable year and I wish them and the Town Council well for the future.

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Farewells

It was with some sadness that in February 2008 the Town Council received the resignation of Cllr. Geoff Taylor.

Cllr. Taylor has been active in supporting the community in Atherstone for many years. For several years he was the organiser of Dickens Night and was instrumental in organising the Atherstone Xmas Lights. Cllr. Taylor represented the views of the business community on Atherstone Town Council and his valuable input will be missed.

The vacancy created by Cllr. Taylor's resignation will be filled by co-option at the May meeting of the Council.

There have been staffing changes at the Town Council office. After six years with the Town Council the Town Clerk, Chris Foster left for a career break. The assistant clerk Sandra Cawthra took the post of Town Clerk but subsequently left to take up alternative employment.

Welcome

The Town Council has two new employees. Sally Oldham and Graham Day will be managing the office.

What does the Town Council do?

1. Allotments

The Town Council provides allotments for rent. There are two sites Merevale and Gypsy Lane.

2. Cemetery

The Town Council maintains the cemetery at Sheepy Road and is also responsible for the maintenance of burial records for the cemetery.

The Town Council employs a grounds maintenance contractor to keep the cemetery grounds in good order.

The Town Council works closely with the Friends of Atherstone Cemetery and has provided funding for the tidying of derelict graves.

3. CCTV

The 19 cameras and ducting in the town centre are the responsibility of the Town Council who also contribute to the staffing costs for monitoring the screens. In 2007 two additional cameras were provided by the Town Council. The new camera at Westwood Road will increase security at the Westwood Road Play Area and also cover approaches to Arden Hill School residential areas such as Welcome Street. Part funding was obtained in a grant from the Market Towns Initiative to whom the Town Council are extremely grateful.

The Town Council has provided the funding for a camera at the corner of North Street and Ratcliffe Road. This covers the route from the Market Square along North Street and deal with the trouble hot spot around the Rowan Centre. The Town Council has a programme of upgrading the existing cameras.

4. Play Areas

There are two Play Areas managed by the Town Council: St Mary's Road which is owned outright and Westwood Road which is leased.

A new fence has been erected at St. Mary's Rd Play Area this year.

Consultation with local schools has been held to select types of new equipment to be installed at both play areas. Town Council staff have obtained additional funding to increase the funding already held for this project. Work on installation of equipment will commence this year.

5. Planning

The Town Council comments on planning applications for Atherstone and those which would affect Atherstone.

6. Christmas Lights

The Town Council provides Christmas lights in the Market Square, Church Street and Market Street.

7. Support for Local Community Events

The Town Council provides funding to assist:

Atherstone Fun Day

Classic Car Event

Dickens Night

Atherstone Carnival

Atherstone Ball Game

8. Support for Local Community Groups

The Town Council is able to make small grants to assist local community groups.

These are known as Section 137 donations. Groups to benefit this year include:

Racemeadow School

Collins Music Bursary

Happy Faces Pre School

The Town Council also provides a meeting room for Merevale View Residents Association.

9. Honorary Citizen

Each year the Town Council debates the choice of Honorary Citizen, an award made to a person who, in the opinion of the Town Council, has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the town. This year the award was made to Mr. And Mrs Vickers for their voluntary work in the town.

10. Floral Displays

The Town Council has maintained and added to the floral displays in the town centre during the year. Floral gateways have been introduced at the main entrances to the town.

11. Parish Plan

The Town Council is still working with the Atherstone Forum on a Parish Plan.

12. Canal Park

This is an ongoing project.