



Kingsbridge Matters

Kingsbridge Town Council Newsletter
Summer 2010
Issue No. 26

Town Mayor's Review of the Year by Councillor Philip Yates

It is a real honour to have been elected as Mayor of Kingsbridge for a second year by my fellow councillors and I am committed to serving our townspeople in which ever way I can in order to maintain and even improve our beautiful town.

The last council year which ran from May 2009 to May 2010 was extremely busy and I am delighted to tell you that a number of our key priorities for 2009 to 2011 came to early fruition.

CCTV



The current Council made a commitment in May 2007 to introduce a CCTV system and the number of cameras has recently doubled to 6 with the introduction of new ones in Quay Car Park, Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground. These will not only enhance community safety, well being and encourage greater use of our public areas and amenities but should also protect our public assets and deter crime.

Play Spaces

Another major ambition of the Town Council was realised on Saturday 5th June when Dr Sarah Wollaston MP opened 2 new specially designed play spaces in the Recreation Ground and the new Skate Park in Quay Car Park. This was the result of keen partnership working between the Town Council and South Hams District Council, the pivotal work of Kingsbridge Play Spaces Group and Kingsbridge Skate Park Working Group, and our partners including the Police and Mor landscape architects. We now have vibrant play spaces for our young people of all ages to enjoy.



Footpath No.15

The County Council's Public Rights of Way Committee agreed on 1st March to the Town Council's application to add the public footpath at Crabshell Quay to the Kingsbridge Definitive Map Statement. In layman's terms this means that it is now officially recognised as a public right of way. This decision effectively reversed a previous Order not to confirm the route by the Planning Inspectorate. Our application was based largely on 137 individual submissions of user evidence from townspeople. Given the strength of local opinion although the footpath review for Kingsbridge had been completed the County Council considered it appropriate for the application to be looked at again and we are delighted with the result. As Councillor Bob Freeman said: "its proof that townspeople can have their say and are listened to - it's a cracking example of local democracy working at its best."

Kingsbridge In Bloom

Another of our key aims was to improve our environment and support Kingsbridge In Bloom. You will have noticed that the town is now coming alive with colourful hanging baskets and the District Council are cracking on with the planting of flower beds. You will see groups of volunteers around the town working hard to brighten up our areas and I encourage you all to volunteer in any small way that you can in order to help us win Gold in this year's Britain In Bloom competition.

Have Your Say

We cannot rest on our laurels however, as there is still much to do. In particular, I need you to tell your Ward Councillors your own ideas and share your concerns with us as we will be glad to discuss town matters with you. And you are actively encouraged to come to council meetings which are held at 7.00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) and take part in the Public Open Forum. If you cannot make it you can find out what's happening by logging onto our website at www.kingsbridge.gov.uk where you will find full details about your Town Council and read minutes of the various committees and meetings.

Town Mayor's Charities

At the Annual Town Meeting held in April the Town Mayor presented a cheque for £824 to Saltstone Caring; the money was raised from fundraising throughout the year. He has now chosen to support 2 charities during the current mayoral year: Spiritulized and Kingsbridge Cookworthy Museum.

Spiritulized is a local Christian charity that seeks to demonstrate, promote and encourage Christian values, including dignity, respect and empowerment to young people in the community by developing friendships built on the foundations of trusting relationships and Christian values. It is also part of the national organisation Youth For Christ.

Currently it runs a drop-in centre every Friday night at the Kingsbridge Rest Centre, next to the Town Square, providing a safe environment with free refreshments to any young people who may be around the town. You will see members of the volunteer team in their hi-viz jackets out late into the evening during community events such as Fair Week and the Music Festival distributing bottled water, providing a listening ear to any who may need it, and assisting them in getting home safely. One of the group's future plans is to be able to provide a mobile youth facility to enable this support to be offered on a regular basis throughout the towns and villages of the South Hams.

All the members of the street based volunteer team hold Enhanced Criminal Record Disclosures, and have attended courses in Child Protection and Basic First Aid along with other appropriate youth related training. Spiritulized aim is to develop young persons' physical, mental and spiritual capacities, in order that they may grow to full maturity as individuals, and that their conditions of life may be improved. For more information about Spiritulized contact Kanji Chant, 42 Vincents Road, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1RP or telephone 01548 856617.



Kingsbridge Cookworthy Museum is the custodian of the town's heritage showing how the people of Kingsbridge have lived, worked and played over many generations. The Museum was founded in 1971 in the old Grammar School buildings towards the top of Fore Street. Mrs Evelyn Northcott persuaded English China Clays to rescue the derelict building and start a museum to collect and record our rich social history. The museum was named after William Cookworthy, who was born in Kingsbridge, and who developed the first true hard paste porcelain (china).

Since those embryonic days the Museum has gone from strength to strength. Today it boasts the following facilities: displays of artefacts from early Kingsbridge through to the present day, a gallery of agricultural machinery and tools, a collection of over 10,000 photographs (that's right 10,000!!!) dating from the 1870s, costumes from the 19th and 20th centuries, a viewing gallery which provides a virtual tour and heritage resource centre to support personal research which contains many local documents including microfilm copies of local newspapers from 1855. Alongside the permanent displays are special seasonal displays. This summer's theme is "Come Rain or Shine" with it's weather timeline and garments for all seasons – so if you want to find out more about that well-worn conversation the English weather then you need to pay a visit. Indeed, whatever your interests there's something at the Museum for all the family. It really is unmissable. Check out their website at www.kingsbridgemuseum.org.uk or telephone 01548 853235 for further information.

STOP PRESS

Planning Enquiries

South Hams District Council has replaced the bi-monthly planning surgery held in Quay House with a Duty Planning Service. If you need advice on a planning application or pre-application matters you can phone the Duty Planning Officer on 01803.861122, or visit Follaton House in Totnes to speak directly, each weekday morning between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

Grant Aid – Is your local group in need of a cash boost???



Each year the council's annual Grant Aid fund helps out local groups by making cash donations to them. In April 2010, £1,060 was shared amongst Kingsbridge Bowling Club, Cornelius Fund, Kingsbridge Sea Angling Club, 1876 Squadron Air Training Corps, Harbour House and Kingsbridge Fair Week. The funding will go towards the cost of a clubhouse refit, new signage, a children's art exhibition, a fun run, fishing rods & reels, and an air compressor!

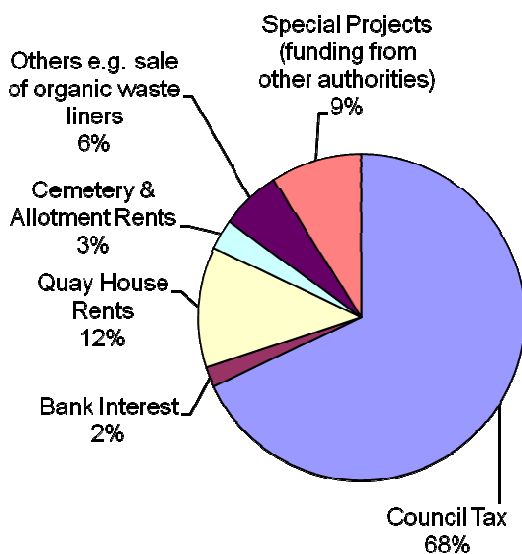
If you think your local group requires a small cash boost towards a deserving cause, for example an environment or youth-related project, or maybe an item of equipment which would benefit the local community in either recreational, social or cultural pursuits then you are strongly encouraged to apply. The next deadline for applications is 17th September (we regret that organisations can only receive one donation per calendar year). Application forms can be obtained from the Council Offices or downloaded from our website.

Introduction of Pay & Display Parking Meters – What are your thoughts???

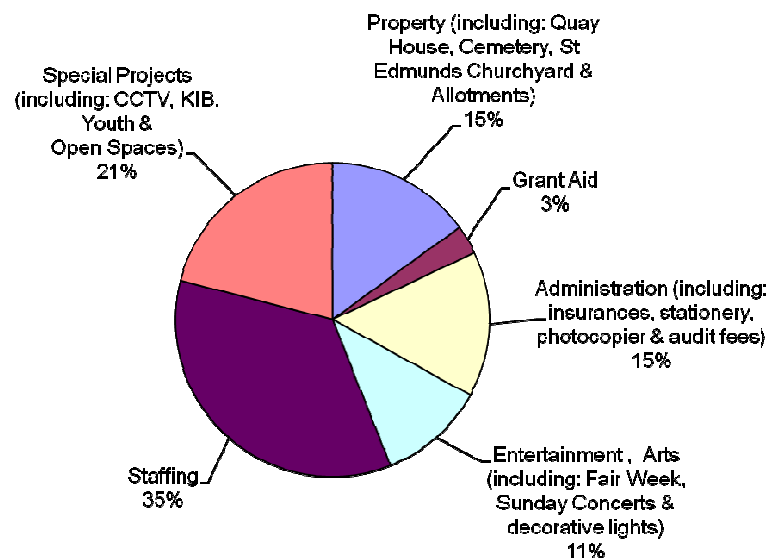
In July 2009 Devon County Council agreed to introduce Pay & Display machines to the county's 28 market and coastal towns over the next 4 years. The Town Council has not received any further information yet other than confirmation that this is indeed their policy. It is likely however, that parking charges would be introduced to Fore Street and possibly other streets in the locale e.g. Embankment Road. The Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses have already written to the County Council to express the deep concern of the local business community about the proposals and the Town Council felt that local people should be aware of these intentions. Therefore if you have any strong feelings regarding the introduction of Pay & Display meters to Kingsbridge please make your Town Councillors aware of them now.

Where did the money come from and how was your money spent in financial year 2009-2010?

Income (£144,699)



Expenditure (£143,692)



Kingsbridge Town Council's proportion of your Council Tax for a Band 'D' rated property for financial year 2010/2011 is £44.27 (an extra £1.45 or 3.4% from last year).

**Town Councillors
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An introduction to our new Town Councillors



Irene Jeeninga I was born and raised in the bulb fields in the north west of Holland and left my home village of Julianadorp for the big city of Amsterdam to do my nursing training.

In the mid-1970s I moved to South Wales and after that resided for 15 years in Herefordshire before I came down to the South Hams where I eventually settled in Kingsbridge. In 1999 I bought Healthwise and am running the shop with great pleasure and enthusiasm.

Over the last decade I've become more and more interested in the running of local affairs. By joining the committees of the Chamber of Commerce and Kingsbridge In Bloom, and attending many Town Council meetings, I've gained much insight.

My ambition as a co-opted member of the Council is to be a voice for traders in the town. I would like to see that we keep free parking in Fore Street and the surrounding area and I shall continue to lobby for a 'pay on exit' system in our car parks.

Julie Barnett I am a Chartered Surveyor with over 20 years' experience in development, construction and property management across the private and public sectors in London, the Midlands and the South West. I am a Fellow of the Faculty of Building, and a corporate member of the Chartered Institute of Housing (MCIH). I am currently the Chief Executive of a Plymouth-based housing association. In 1996 we returned to Kingsbridge to be near my husband's family, who have lived in the town since 1971. My husband, who works locally, and I have three sons; the youngest progressed through the local school system and is currently taking his A-levels at Kingsbridge Community College.



Over the last few years I have recognised the improvements made to Kingsbridge's facilities and environment. I wanted to become a councillor, and to work with the Council, to ensure that these improvements continue for the good of the community.

I understand the need to listen to the community, to make change work in a way that is acceptable and understood by everyone, and to try to balance the needs of older residents with those of the younger people in the town.

I look forward to the challenge of being a Town Councillor and hope to play an active part in creating positive improvements for the residents of Kingsbridge.

Kingsbridge Town Council

Opening hours: 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Obtain advice & information on local government services • Report problems • View planning applications
• Buy organic bin liners • pick up clear & blue recycle bags • Pick up a Bus Pass application
• Receive community news • Hire a room for your meeting • Get married!! • And lots more

The town council meets in Quay House on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00 p.m. (except during August). All council meetings are open to the public and start with an opportunity for people to ask questions or make statements. Minutes of all council and committee meetings are available at Quay House and on the council's website.

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Email: reception@kingsbridge.gov.uk • Town Clerk: Martin Johnson 01548.857073
Website: www.kingsbridge.gov.uk

South Hams District Council 01803.861234 • Devon County Council 0845.1551015 • Police 0845.2777444