



Kingsbridge Matters

Kingsbridge Town Council Newsletter
Spring 2009
Issue No. 21

Revised Newsletter

This is the town council's new-look newsletter. You will notice that the four page glossy finish with colour pictures, which was expensive to produce, has gone. In its place we have delivered a simple back-to-back sheet. The new look is leaner and much more cost effective and is aimed at giving you a snapshot of what's going on in your local council. We still intend to produce our annual report in the traditional four page style but today you will only require a few moments to read this newsletter from start to finish - great for those juggling busy lives. But keep it somewhere safe – it has all the necessary contact details that you require on the reverse.

Local Business & Fore Street Matters

We don't have to tell you that the last few months has seen a real downturn in the economy and the Kingsbridge area has been hit hard. Local people have lost jobs following closure of the Kings Arms Hotel and Woolworths in Fore Street, and the district council is thanked for its support to those going through difficult times. It was unfortunate that the road works in Fore Street commenced during this period however, the end result will make our high street much safer and more pedestrian friendly. A better shopping experience all round and everyone will benefit. More than ever, however, it is essential to support our local shops and services if you want them to survive the recession. A "Shop Locally" campaign has been started to encourage you to spend more money in town to help our local businesses. If you want to see real local shops in Kingsbridge then you must use them – a vibrant local economy is essential for the well-being of all townspeople. With the help of the local community our unique Fore Street will survive these tough times. Let's work together and "Shop Locally".

Council Tax

Your council tax pays for a whole range of services from Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, the Police, Fire Service and, of course, Kingsbridge Town Council. The services provided include care of the elderly and disabled, education, roads, libraries, refuse collection, parks, street cleaning, law and order, fire and rescue, and local community services. The town council has set its annual budget for the financial year to commence on 1st April 2009 which requires £98,770 to be provided from council tax, an increase of just over 4% from the previous year, which will make the contribution from a Band 'D' property of around £42.85. Alongside routine annual council expenditure, for example the running of Quay House, next year's budget will see enhanced funding towards the town's Christmas Illuminations, Kingsbridge In Bloom, the proposed Community Centre and CCTV cameras. The increase in your contribution to the town council works out at approximately £1.83 extra per home for next year which we hope you will consider good value.

CCTV

CCTV is a fact of life. In a perfect world it would not be necessary, but we do not live in a perfect world, and therefore it is beholden on public authorities to make the best use of modern technology to maintain community safety. The town council introduced CCTV cameras in October 2007 as a cost-effective system to help reduce the fear, deter and detect crime. It has the support of the local Constabulary. It is planned to expand the present system, during the next financial year commencing on 1st April 2009, with further cameras to survey the town's parks and open spaces in order to enhance your feeling of well-being.

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Kingsbridge North Ward

Bob Freeman
01548.854068
rcm.freeman@uwclub.net

Rufus Gilbert (Town Mayor)
01548.856659
rufus@gilbert90.eclipse.co.uk

Mick McGing
01548.854261
Mick.mcging@btinternet.com

Jim Romanos
01548.854413
romanos@globalnet.co.uk

Jax Williams
01548.856997
jax@williams13.eclipse.co.uk

Kingsbridge East Ward

Anne Balkwill
01548.857406
annedandridge@aol.com

John Binns
01548.856353
binnsbinns45@aol.com

Michael Howarth
01548.857270
mikehowarth@btinternet.com

David Thorning
01548.856024

Philip Yates (Deputy Town Mayor)
01548.853366
philipandann@woodcote1.fsife.co.uk

Kingsbridge Westville Ward

Robin Griffin
01548.856460
robinrhona@r2griffin.orangehome.co.uk

Kate Lynn
01548.853815
katelynn45@hotmail.com

Beryl Washington
01548.856395
beryl.washington@btinternet.com

Kingsbridge Skate Park

Kingsbridge Skate Park Working Group was formed in June 2004 with the aim of establishing a new skate park in the town following closure of a former facility in the Recreation Ground. The Working Group, under the chairmanship of former and current district councillors, is a partnership between the town council, South Hams District Council, Devon Youth Service, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Spiritualized youth group and local skateboarders.

Within the last 5 years temporary facilities for skateboarders have been provided at Kingsbridge Community College, the Cattle Market Car Park and recently in Quay Car Park. While the Working Group has searched for a new home for the skate park these temporary events have provided an opportunity for the town's young people to play their sport. However, funding for the current temporary facility, which sees equipment being hired from a public authority in Cornwall, is likely to end shortly and the temporary skateboarding events are unlikely to extend beyond March 2009. Skateboarding remains very popular and the young people of the town have been persistently asking for a local facility and have remained very patient.

The Working Group considers that the current location of temporary events at the southern end of Quay Car Park, next to the Slipway, will be a suitable site for a permanent skate park. The site has been used to provide a temporary facility since September 2007. The town council is currently compiling information to make a planning application which it is hoped will satisfy the aspirations of skateboarders and gain the support of the community at large and local residents in particular. The proposed Kingsbridge Skate Park will be a locked facility, within a secure compound, with managed daylight opening hours.

Kingsbridge Open Spaces

In July 2008 the town council, in collaboration with South Hams District Council and CABE (The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) appointed Mor, a team of landscape architects based in Cornwall, to come up with plans to rejuvenate Kingsbridge's key open spaces. The design project has focussed primarily on Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground however, two smaller areas of green spaces have also been identified off Rack Park Road and Wallingford Road. So far two exhibitions have been held at Quayside Leisure Centre where plans have been put on public display. This has provided the opportunity for townspeople and local groups to comment on the proposals indeed, many have contributed their own ideas.

Mor is currently undertaking the design documentation for the Recreation Ground which is the largest of the four spaces. The area is prone to severe tidal and seasonal flooding and in order to maximise the site's potential, proposals are currently being developed with ecologists Tamar Consulting and the Environment Agency to create an accessible estuarine wetland. A boardwalk, to include seating, dipping platforms, and interpretive signs about estuarine life, will provide an important new link through the site. In addition to the wetlands, the park will also provide improved opportunities for bowls, tennis and mini-golf together with a new 'multi-use games area' and two new play areas which will promote social, active and imaginative play with an emphasis on natural themes.

Councillor Anne Balkwill says: "It's a really exciting time. Kingsbridge Town Council has really pushed hard for this."

Kingsbridge Town Council

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

Obtain advice & information on council services • Report problems • View planning applications • Buy kitchen caddy liners • Pick up a Bus Pass Application • Book for Citizens Advice Bureau • Receive community news • 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 commence with an opportunity for townspeople to ask questions or make statements. Minutes of all council and committee meetings are available at Quay House and on the council's website.

Quay House, Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1DZ • Telephone & Fax: 01548.853296
Email: reception@kingsbridge.gov.uk • Town Clerk: Martin Johnson 01548.857073
Website: www.kingsbridge.gov.uk