



Kingsbridge Matters

Kingsbridge Town Council Newsletter
Summer 2009 – Annual Report Edition
Issue No. 22

Town Mayor's Message from Councillor Philip Yates

It is an honour to have been elected as Mayor of Kingsbridge by my fellow Councillors and a great privilege to serve the town in this capacity.

The present council has been very busy over the last two years and I don't see that changing this year. At this year's Annual Town Meeting, residents and councillors prioritised a "plan of action" for the next two years, which is included in this newsletter. We are already seeing improvements to our parks and open spaces and this will continue this year with renovated tennis courts and new play equipment. The Kingsbridge in Bloom team have made a big impact to the town's appearance and we are seeing even more hanging baskets and colour in the town centre. We have well developed plans to expand the CCTV coverage and we are optimistic that the proposed skate park will shortly receive planning approval for its site on the Quay. We will continue to build links with young people through Agenda 21, the Community College and Youth Café and we are working with the Chamber of Commerce, Information Centre and Businesses in an effort to make the town an even more vibrant place in which to live and work.



Best wishes

Philip Yates

Grant Aid – Make Your Bid!

Each year the council's annual Grant Aid fund helps out deserving causes by making cash donations to local groups. In April, £1,770 was shared by the Community First Aid Responders, KM United FC, 6th Kingsbridge Scout Group, Saltstone Caring, Cookworthy Museum, St Edmunds Church, Harbour House and St John's Ambulance. The funding will go towards, amongst others, tree planting, a children's art exhibition, picnic tables and a pulse oximeter!

If you think your local group requires a small cash boost towards a deserving project, or an item of equipment, which would benefit local people in recreational, social or cultural pursuits, then you are encouraged to apply. Application forms for the next round of funding can be obtained from the Council Offices or downloaded from our website. Deadline for applications is 18th September 2009. *(We regret that organisations in receipt of grants already this year can't apply again)*



A Review of Kingsbridge Town Council's activities over the past year - The Successes and the Frustrations

Here's a brief summary of your council's activities from May 2008 to May 2009. We had our fair share of Successes alongside a number of Frustrations.

The Successes:

- **Skate Park** – nineteen mobile skate park events took place from May 2008 to March 2009 using equipment hired from North Cornwall District Council.
Here's some feedback. Karen Price (Area Youth Worker): "Brilliant evening. 30+ young people participating ranging from 2 to 18 years – all mixing along nicely and good mixed use of skateboards and BMX's. Lots of parents." Paul Meadows (NCDC Recreation Officer): "Last night's event went really well. Around 40 kids taking part. It has been a real pleasure to come to Kingsbridge each time." A planning application has now been submitted for a permanent facility in Quay Car Park. The council accepts this may be somewhat controversial but we're hopeful that the community will support it.
- **Kingsbridge In Bloom** – the original idea was seeded by your council (excuse the pun!). A fabulous first year in 2008 resulted in a Silver Gilt Award in the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain In Bloom regional competition. Check out their fabulous website at www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk
- **Sale of land off Derby Road** - the old allotment land was sold to the Kingsbridge Feoffees and subsequently planning permission has been granted for 3 affordable homes. The monies raised by the sale will fund further capital projects.
- **Litter Bins** – we surveyed the litter bins in the town and in partnership with the district council introduced more bins which are seagull proof and moved others to better locations.
- **Christmas Lights** – the council took over the management of the town's Christmas Lights in 2007. Another excellent display was achieved for Christmas 2008 and further funding will be made available for 2009.
- **Fore Street Pedestrian Enhancement Works** – we acted as the link between Devon County Council and local people & traders which saw Councillor Rufus Gilbert hosting an open meeting in Quay House at the start of works in order to sort out some teething issues. We hope you will agree that the wider footpaths, built-out bus stop, pedestrian crossings and revised parking arrangements have made our Fore Street safer and more user-friendly.
- **Parks and Play Areas** – alongside our partners, South Hams District Council and Mor Landscape Architects, we have some great plans afoot to revitalise Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground alongside green spaces off Wallingford Road and Rack Park Road. You will be seeing some immediate improvements within the current financial year.
- **CCTV** – was introduced to the town square area in October 2007 the Police confirm that anti-social behaviour has reduced, surveillance has helped to deter crime, and recordings provided for court proceedings have aided convictions. An application for a further camera in the town square has been submitted to enhance your safety and security.
- **Community Events** – we sponsored and organised the Show & Shine, Concerts on the Quay, French Markets, Den Building Days, Civic Service and Civic Dinner.
- **Community Services** – a number of counselling and advisory services are held in the Council Offices at Quay House: Citizens Advice Bureau, Police/Council surgery, Relate, Youth Enquiry Service, Planning and Housing & Benefits surgeries and Devon Primary Care Trust Health Trainer sessions. We hosted a public meeting which saw an expert from Digital UK explain the transfer from analogue to digital TV and Jobcentre Plus are anticipated to commence an outreach service shortly. Quay House is also well used by local groups such as the South Hams Society, Kingsbridge History Society, Devon Social Services and South Hams Home Start, and you can even get married here!
- **Community Matters** – town councillors served on a whole range of external groups and organisations and lobbied hard on behalf of many local people to ensure their well being was protected.



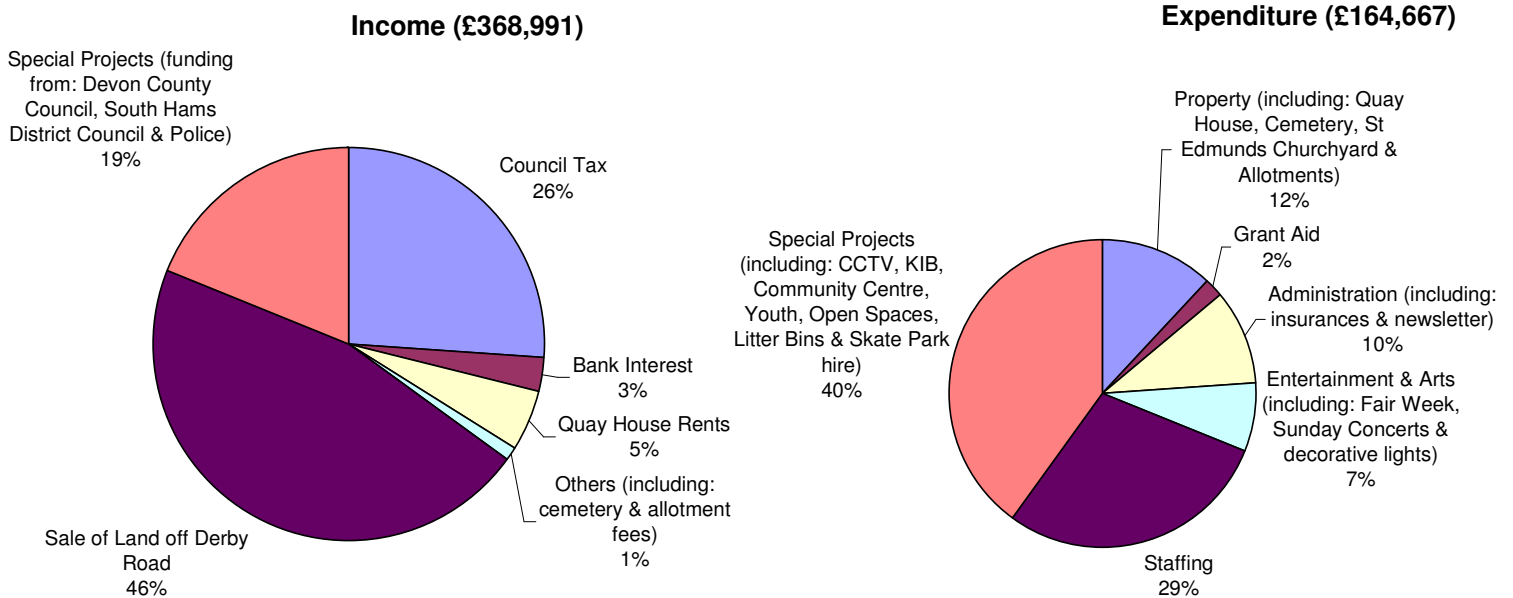
A Review of Kingsbridge Town Council's activities over the past year - The Successes and the Frustrations

The Frustrations

- **Community Centre** – there have been problems in achieving our goals chiefly regarding funding for the project. We continue to work hard and a recent funding bid has been lodged with the district council. It remains a definite ambition to develop a Community Centre for Kingsbridge.
- **Footpath No.15** – we applied for formal recognition of the footpath (which runs from Crabshell Quay apartments, behind Crabshell Inn, Kings Court and a boatyard before turning eastwards to rejoin Embankment Road) in July 2008 enclosing 137 user evidence forms from local people. We had anticipated for the county council's Public Rights of Way Committee to have reached a decision on the matter by spring 2009 but it has been delayed.
- **Monitoring of CCTV** – a partnership with Torbay Council was thoroughly investigated but ultimately it was deemed to be too expensive. We are now researching other methods and are hopeful that monitoring at key times will be achieved.
- **Embankment Road Cemetery** – we anticipate that the town cemetery will be full in 3 years. The search for a new site has drawn a blank so far. Of course, this matter is not exclusive to Kingsbridge and current legislation may change in order to allow re-burials at existing cemeteries.
- **Local Government Review in Devon** – your council has carefully considered consultations for unitary government in the county and has made some thought-provoking feedback to the Boundary Committee. However, their findings to the Secretary of State have been delayed and a recommendation is now expected in mid-July.



Where did the money come from and how was your money spent in 2008-2009? (at financial year end 31 March 2009)



Kingsbridge Town Council's proportion of your Council Tax for a Band 'D' property in 2009/10 is £42.82 (an extra £1.80 from last year).

TOWN COUNCILLORS

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Priorities for 2009 to 2011

*denotes precedence

Better Community Facilities:

- Build a Community Centre*
- Re-locate head of estuary public toilets

Better Safety & Security:

- Expansion of CCTV including monitoring*
- Safe pedestrian route to New Bridge*
- Formal recognition of Footpath No.15

Better Open Spaces:

- Renew play areas
- Multi-use games area (Recreation Ground)*
- Recreation Ground Wetland Project
- Improvements to Head of the Estuary (both sides)*

Better Transport:

- Review double-decker and town-bus routes
- Improvements to bus station/bus stops
- Town centre cycle racks

Better Youth Facilities & Involvement:

- Projects identified by Agenda 21 Youth Event e.g. BMX track
- New football pitches*
- New skate park
- Youth café*

More Vibrant Local Economy:

- Promote local trade (jointly with Chamber of Commerce)

More Healthy Community:

- Town Trim Trail
- Cycle track to Salcombe
- Promote town/local walks and use of green lanes

Better Environment:

- Promote cleaner Kingsbridge
- Kingsbridge In Bloom support

Better Partnerships:

- Chamber of Commerce & Kingsbridge Information Centre
- Consultation with the community

Restoration of Public Assets

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
• Collect blue & clear recycling bags • 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.

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