

BURNHAM ON SEA AND HIGHBRIDGE TOWN **COUNCIL**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2006

WELCOME to the first edition of the Town Council's quarterly newsletter which we hope you will find a useful guide to what your Town Council does, and an indication of the issues currently under discussion. Your feedback on the newsletter would be welcome.

Some general information on how to contact us, and keep in touch with what we do.

Write to the Town Clerk at:

Burnham on Sea and Highbridge Town Council
The Old Courthouse
Jaycroft Road
Burnham on Sea
Somerset
TA8 1LE
Tel: 01278 788088
e-mail: townclerk@burnham-highbridge.org

For those of you who are computer-literate browse our website: www.burnham-highbridge.org

Here you will find agendas of all Town Council meetings, and the meetings of its committees (so that you can find out what is being discussed) and once approved, copies of the minutes from all our meetings.

All our agendas are also published on our public notice boards at the following locations:

- The Council offices in Jaycroft Road, Burnham
- The Princess (opposite the library) in Burnham
- The Community Hall, Market Street, Highbridge.

All council and committee meetings are open to the public, and provided that you give proper notice to the Clerk, you may address the council for three minutes on any issue of local concern.

May 2007 Elections

Local council elections are due to be held in May 2007, when all existing members of the Town Council will need to decide whether to seek re-election (see opposite column).

Do you think you would make a good Councillor?

Why not find out how you can help your community? Any present councillor would be

happy to tell you what is involved. This is your opportunity to be part of local democracy.

Speeding is one of the issues on which we receive a great many complaints, and one on which we continue to press both the police and County Council for their assistance - the police for enforcement of existing measures, and the County Council for the installation of new measures such as speed restrictions, speed cameras and physical measures such as speed humps.

Of particular concern at present is the issue of "Boy Racers" on the Esplanade – the police continue to do their best, but what is really needed are traffic calming measures to stop this problem. The Town Council continues to press Somerset County Council, as the highways authority to provide these, so far without success, but rest assured, your local councillors are determined to solve this problem.

The Town Council is also pressing for measures to reduce speeding on Marine Drive. Another highway matter taken up by our Member of Parliament Mr David Heathcoat-Amory is the prolonged question of completion of the Frank Foley Parkway from the "Tesco" roundabout to Pepperall Road Highbridge.

Swimming Pool. The Town Council has been repeatedly assured by Sedgemoor District Council (the owners of the Berrow Road swimming pool) that a swimming provision will be maintained for residents of Burnham and Highbridge. Your town councillors will continue to monitor this situation.

Your Town Councillors

Name	Ward	Contact
P Clayton*	North	787432
D Davey*	North	780591
E Gill	North	783570
J Hodge	North	
N Jones*	North	785905
D Parry	North	786162
J Morgan	Central & South	785466
Mrs H Rose	Central & South	784198
A Thorogood*	Central & South	785454
M Mansfield *	East	783271
C Williams	East	787274
Miss L Parkin*	West	795342
A Smout	Burnham Marine	786003
Mrs P Burge	Highbridge	788134
Ms J BurrIDGE	Highbridge	780130
D Cooper*	Highbridge	789773
D Poole	Highbridge	793321
Mrs J Whitehouse*	Highbridge	793674

County Councillors

Mrs R Parsons	South	785427
M Facey	North	788169

District Councillors*

M Brown*	Highbridge	787588
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Planning. The Town Council is consulted on all Planning for Burnham & Highbridge, and copies of all plans are available for inspection in the Town Clerk's office, between 10am & 3.30pm. If you wish to object to an application, you should do so by writing to Sedgemoor District Council, which as the planning authority decides whether or not to grant permission. A copy of your letter may also be sent to the Town Clerk's office as your local councillors are interested to know the views of local residents when deciding how to respond to individual applications. Please see our website or notice board for details of applications currently under discussion, by looking at the agenda for the Town Council's planning application Committee.

Wind Farms/Renewable Energy. The Town Council was opposed to the siting of a wind farm at Brent Knoll as it felt this was not an appropriate site. However this does not mean that we are opposed to the principle of wind farms or other sources of renewable energy, but will consider each planning application on its merit.

Cycling and Skateboarding on the

Esplanade. The Town Council is soon to have a meeting with officers from Sedgemoor District Council to see if there is anyway cycling would be permitted on the South Esplanade (between the Yacht Club and the jetty) where we feel that with appropriate separate "lanes" there is room for both pedestrians and cyclists. We are keen to encourage this, particularly for families with young children.

Skateboarding continues to be a problem on some parts of the Esplanade and although this is against existing bye laws, the Town Council has no authority to enforce these. We are however endeavouring to work with Sedgemoor District Council to find a solution the problem. On a more positive note, the Town Council is working with Sedgemoor District Council, the Youth Town Council and skateboarders to look at ways of improving the skateboard park in the Apex Park to try to ensure that more skateboarders use this.

Town Council Accounts. Council has now approved the information to be submitted for the Annual Audit for the Financial year ended March 2006. All local electors are entitled to see the accounts and may arrange this by appointment by contacting the Town Clerk.

Grants. Each year the Town Council awards grants to assist local organisations which benefit the community. For details of how to apply, contact the Town Clerk or watch for an advertisement in the local press and on our notice boards, later this month. The closing date for applications is **Fri 1 December 2006**.

The Regeneration of Burnham and Highbridge of which the Town Council is an integral part.

The final bid for the "Civic Pride" project has been submitted to the South West Regional Development Board. The result is due around the middle of October.

Contact the **Regeneration Partnership**

tel: 435788 (Admin Office) or 792121 (Chairman, Mike Murphy) e-mail: pauline.pollard@sedgemoor.gov.uk

The Burnham & Highbridge Youth Town Council, which act on behalf of the young people within the two towns, meets once a month to discuss issues which affect young people,

with the aim of improving the facilities in the parish. This year we have placed a suggestion box in Burnham Library which is important in giving young people in the two towns a voice. This means that many views can be represented. We have held a litter pick to help clean up our community. We have chosen Children's Hospice South West as our charity to support this year, and we have already raised money at the beach fun day where we held a stall. A meeting was also arranged to discuss possible improvements to the apex skate park, all skateboarders were invited and this proved an interesting discussion. Many issues were brought to our attention and subsequently to that of the Town Council. We hope that over time reasonable changes can be made to such youth orientated facilities benefiting everyone in Burnham and Highbridge.

Contact us:

- Via the Town Council Offices
- The Town Council Web-site

The Princess. The Town Council is in negotiation with Sedgemoor District Council to try to ensure that this facility is retained for community use.

Poster Points. We have two of these, one outside Alpha House on Market Street, Highbridge, and one at the junction of Marine Drive and the High Street in Burnham. These are provided to promote community events. If your organisation wishes to use these, please supply 2 posters (preferably colour, A3 and in landscape format) to the Town Clerk's office. Please allow at least 2 weeks before your event.

Forthcoming Events

- The Farmers Market—27 Oct, 24 Nov and 22 Dec. Burnham High Street, 9am-1pm.
- Firework Display—Sun 5 Nov
- Carnival—Mon 6 Nov

(Watch the **Poster Points** for more information)