

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER No. 1
AUTUMN 2008

MEET THE MAYOR

I am delighted that as Mayor I am able to contribute personally to this the very first Frome Town Council Newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it, but more than that I hope that if you have any comments on what we are doing or what we are not doing please let me know.

More direct contact with Frome residents is key to the work of Frome Town Council. By communicating directly with you it enables us to represent the views of the town and deliver services needed by the town to help make Frome a better place to live.

Over the summer I went out and about in the town centre on my monthly 'MEET THE MAYOR' mornings. In each edition of this newsletter I will highlight some of the key issues that residents are raising at these and other meetings in the town and hope to provide some feedback on what is being done about them. My next column will look at green issues.

Graffiti

Currently, one of the major issues that keeps coming up when I talk to

people in Frome is their increasing concern about graffiti. I know the police have been making headway with a series of arrests over the summer and I thoroughly support their work. If anyone sees graffiti being applied please do contact Frome police on 0845 4567000.

We must all work together though and we can't leave it just to the police. Frome is our town, we all want to continue to make it a better place to live and graffiti doesn't help. Whoever is making this mess probably lives here too, so please, let's all get together and call on those people to stop making the mess and work with us in making Frome not just a nice place to live but a great place.

Christmas is coming

The finishing touches are being put to the completely new programme for this year's Frome Christmas Spectacular. As part of this I'm launching my Christmas Card competition at the beginning of October.

If you are nine years old or under and live in Frome or go to school in Frome you can enter. All entries



will be displayed in the window of the Town Council office on Palmer Street. I'll choose my favourite one and ask the printer to make it into my official Town Council Christmas Card.

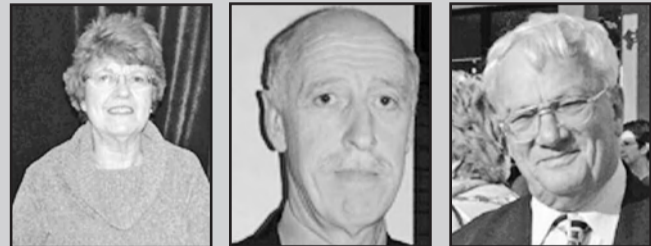
The winner will receive 50 Christmas cards with his/her design on the front to send to their friends and family. And if that wasn't enough I'll need their help in turning on the Christmas tree lights at the Frome Christmas Spectacular on 30 November. Just call the number below for an application form.

MEET THE MAYOR,
1st Saturday of the month,
Westway Precinct
10a.m. - 12 noon.

WHO IS YOUR TOWN COUNCILLOR?

BERKLEY DOWN WARD

Blanche Farley tel: 01373 465264 Ind
email: farleyb@frome-tc.gov.uk
Peter John tel: 01373 461025 Con
email: johnp@frome-tc.gov.uk
Brian Potter tel: 01373 469972 Lib/dem
email: potterb@frome-tc.gov.uk



COLLEGE WARD

Carole Bullen tel: 01373 465969 Con
email: bullenc@frome-tc.gov.uk
Christine Cockroft tel: 01373 467274 Lib/dem
email: cockroftc@frome-tc.gov.uk
Andrew Earle tel: 01373 472408 Lib/dem
email: earlea@frome-tc.gov.uk



KEYFORD WARD

Felix Fitzpatrick tel: 01373 467381 Con
email: fitzpatrickf@frome-tc.gov.uk
Alvin Horsfall tel: 01373 469502 Lib/dem
email: horsfalla@frome-tc.gov.uk
David Oakensen tel: 01373 473264 Lab
email: oakensend@frome-tc.gov.uk



MARKET WARD

Karen Harvey tel: 01373 466477 Lib/dem
email: harveyk@frome-tc.gov.uk
Elizabeth John tel: 01373 461025 Con
email: johne@frome-tc.gov.uk
Philip Whitmarsh tel: 01373 463902 Lib/dem
email: whitmarshp@frome-tc.gov.uk



OAKFIELD WARD

Maggy Daniell tel: 01373 463480 Lib/dem
email: daniellm@frome-tc.gov.uk
Helen White tel: 01373 454289 Lib/dem
email: whiteh@frome-tc.gov.uk



PARK WARD

Claire Hudson tel: 01373 455743 Lib/dem
email: hudsonc@frome-tc.gov.uk
Damon Hooton tel: 01373 455743 Lib/dem
email: hootond@frome-tc.gov.uk
Pam Lee tel: 01373 463584 Con
email: leep@frome-tc.gov.uk



FROME COMMUNITY GRANTS

Frome Town Council has launched its £65,000 community grants fund. This year priority will be given to organisations whose activities benefit the elderly people, young people and children in Frome.

Frome Town Council Mayor Cllr Alvin Horsfall said: "I have great pleasure in launching this year's community grants fund and am looking forward to receiving applications that show how a grant would benefit the young or elderly of Frome. In the context of climate change I am sure some of the applications may also have an environmental theme. Applications must be received at the town office by Monday 3 November 2008, so there is still time."

"The scope of the scheme is very wide ranging. Applications can be from a group planning a one off event or year long project running between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. Applications for grants of up to £5,000 will be considered as well as for longer running projects of up to three years. The only major restrictions on eligibility are that the groups are non-commercial and their membership and benefit of the project are centred on Frome."

"These grants could be used for small projects of £50 or for something more ambitious where the town council grant part-funds a much larger project. If anyone is interested but unsure of whether their project might be eligible please contact the town council office before they apply."

Closing date for applications Monday 3 November 2008. Application forms are available by contacting Frome Town Council and can be downloaded from the Council's website.

FUNDING OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The County Council and Mendip District Council raise their income in a number of different ways.

Council tax makes up 25 per cent of the revenue, business rates 24 per cent, 18 per cent is recovered in fees and charges and the remaining 33 per cent comes from central government. Frome Town Council receives no money from central government and receives no contribution from the business rate. Other than a small amount of rental income, all money that Frome Town Council receives comes from the Council Tax levies by Mendip District Council.

3 tiers of local government - who does what?

Somerset has three tiers of local government. In Frome this means Somerset County Council, Mendip District Council and Frome Town Council all exist to provide top quality services to residents and visitors. The way public services are divided up is not always clear. The articles here explain who does what.

Frome Town Council

Here in Frome our Town Council has 17 councillors representing six wards. The Town Council provides a range of social and recreational facilities, while promoting and representing the town.

- Frome Town Council:
 - Manages Victoria Park, Mary Baily Playing Field and Rodden Meadow;
 - Provides grants to local organisations benefiting Frome residents;
 - Supports provision of new street lights and reports street light faults to Somerset County Council;
 - Part funds school crossing patrols for every school which needs them;
 - Promotes tourism, including publishing of the Town Guide;
 - Provides floral displays in the town and Victoria Park;
 - Organises the Christmas Spectacular including the Christmas lights;
 - Fundraises for community projects;
 - Provides some street furniture, signposts, bollards, seats, bus shelters etc.
 - Provides seven allotments sites;
 - Supports the Town Mayor and a Town Crier as part of the civic and social life of the town;
 - Provides partnership funding for town CCTV coverage;
 - Provides partnership funding for town Police Community Support Officers;
 - Supports Town Twinning activities;
 - Represents local views on all issues to Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council.

Somerset County Council

Based in Taunton, Somerset County Council has a satellite office on Christchurch Street West covering some social services. The council's duties and services are managed by 58 elected councillors, of which Frome has three.

Its responsibilities include:

- Education;
- Libraries and museums;

- Social services, including fostering, adoption, care of those with special needs;
- The fire brigade;
- Highways, public rights of way and road safety;
- Recycling, waste collection and disposal;
- Strategic planning.

Mendip District Council

Mendip District Council is managed by 47 councillors, of which Frome has 17. Its main office is in Shepton Mallet.

Its responsibilities include:

- Building regulations;
- Car parks;
- Council tax;
- Council housing;
- Environmental Health, including foot

- safety, hygiene, noise and licensing
- Maintenance of public green space, including on housing estates;
- Pest control;
- Planning, including historic buildings, conservation areas, tree preservation and planning applications;
- Sports centres;
- Street cleaning;
- Tourism promotion.

AND FINALLY ...

Blocked drains, street lights that do not work and other annoying parts of life are, well, annoying. Many of these are covered by different councils and authorities. Help is at hand though, simply contact Frome Town Council if you see a street light out of order, if there's a pot hole in the road, if a footpath is obstructed or if a road sign is unreadable or unnecessary. All you need to do is tell us and we'll find out who is responsible, let them know they need to fix it. So, let us know and we'll do our best to get it fixed!

FROME'S PARKS ARE A WINNER - OFFICIAL!

Victoria Park continues to be improved. The Council has received a lot of positive feedback on the thinning and lowering of the dense shrubbery which has made it 'more open and welcoming'. Further work around the toilet block will take place this Autumn.

The Council's floral displays around the town have received a lot of praise again this year. Victoria Park has received particular recognition with the Parks' Team winning the President's Shield in the Frome in Bloom competition. No mean feat considering that the atrocious weather conditions have hampered every basic maintenance task this season.

The Council is continually improving the facilities. Work to re-open the gateway between Mary Baily Playing Field and the Victoria Park toilet block has been completed, giving direct access to the toilet block and toddler area in particular. This should make life



easier for parents and carers of young children. We will also be looking at improving the surface of the tennis courts and are exploring the possibility of being able to provide a welcome cup of tea for park users. Slightly longer term, the band stand will be

re-thatched and its missing weather vane replaced. Then of course there is the putting green, how can we improve this area? The "to do" list is never ending and we'd welcome your views on what our priorities for the park and playing field should be.

Growing your own

Demand for allotments in the town continues to outstrip supply. We already have seven different sites in the town.

Frome Town Council constantly searches for more sites and while we are doing this we are trying to make sure all existing allotment holders receive the best service we can provide. Keeping tenants lists up to date is crucial for this purpose and it will also enable us to invest sufficient sums into managing the allotment sites.

However, don't be put off by the waiting list. Frome Allotment Society always wants to hear from prospective new tenants. There are often smaller allotments on existing sites that can be utilised.



FROME TOWN COUNCIL DIARY DATES OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2008

Oct 08	Time	Event/meeting	Location
4	10.00am -12 noon	Meet the Mayor	Westway Precinct
16	7.00pm	Planning Committee	Frome Library
22	7.00pm	Recreation & Properties Committee	FTC Offices
29	7.00pm	Full Council	Frome Library
Nov 08			
1	10.00am - 12 noon	Meet the Mayor	Westway Precinct
6	7.00pm	Planning Committee	Frome Library
12	7.00pm	Grants Sub Committee	FTC Offices
19	7.00pm	Policy & Finance Committee	FTC Offices
27	7.00pm	Planning Committee	Frome Library
30	All afternoon	Christmas Spectacular	Market Yard car park
Dec 08			
3	7.00pm	Recreation & Properties Committee	FTC Offices
6	10.00am - 12 noon	Meet the Mayor	Westway Precinct
10	7.00pm	Full Council	Frome Library
18	7.00pm	Planning Committee	Frome Library

Meetings times, dates and venues are on www.frome-tc.gov.uk. Please note that members of the press and public are welcome and encouraged to attend all Town Council meetings. Members of the press and public can ask questions under public forum section of the agenda which can be answered by the relevant committee but not debated.

Skatepark to get re-vamped

Both the Mary Baily Playing Field and Victoria Park are entering into an exciting phase of regeneration.

By now the absence of the large skate board ramp on the Mary Baily Playing

Field is old news but we are pleased to report that after radio and newspaper coverage people are coming forward with their ideas on what we should replace it with. Odds on favourite at the time of writing are spe-

cial concrete ramps that are fun, challenging and very quiet.

More ideas are welcome, so make sure you have your say. We hope to have new ramps in place by early Spring.

RODDEN MEADOW - FROME'S SECRET GREEN LUNG

One of Frome's hidden green lungs is to be found alongside the river between the Wall-bridge and the end of Willow Vale.

Rodden Meadow, owned and managed by the Town Council, has commissioned a wildlife report from Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)

who have confirmed what many of us hoped. Rodden Meadow is a rich and diverse habitat. Indeed, SWT's interim survey has revealed that we have badgers, otters and foxes, 37 different birds and over 100 different plants at Rodden Meadow.

We continue to work closely with SWT as they

draft a Conservation Management Plan which we will begin to implement in the new year.

At any time of year Rodden Meadow is a real gem within easy walking distance of the town centre. Alongside the river we keep pathways mown through the grassland to enable easy walking.

5 Palmer Street, Frome BA11 1DS
www.frome-tc.gov.uk
admin@frome-tc.gov.uk
Tel. 01373 465757