

# Southam Town Council

## Newsletter

### PRECEPT & EASTER MARCH 2013

[www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](http://www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)

#### FIFTH YEAR—NO INCREASE IN SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL SHARE OF COUNCIL TAX



At its Precept Meeting in January, Southam Town Council resolved to set a budget for the financial year 2013/2014 of £176,952; this is an increase over last years budget of £2007. To maintain the Council Tax for a Band D tax payer at £73.72 for the fifth year running, the Council also resolved to withdraw £2007 from its reserves.

#### TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2013/2014

GENERAL	£
<b>Management</b>	
Contribution to Grange Hall	1362
Audit Fee	1258
Insurance	4719
Legal Fees & Services	2500
Telephone/fax/email	1569
Postage	1001
Office	1783
Bank Charges	166
Intruder Alarm	336
Web Site Maintenance	651
Computer Replacement	1000
<b>Total Management</b>	<b>16345</b>
<b>Salaries</b>	
Total Salaries	45948
Travelling Expenses	350
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>46298</b>
<b>Information</b>	
Newsletter	1725
Stationery	733
Membership Associations	1555
Conference/Training Fees	300
Advertising	400
<b>Total Information</b>	<b>4713</b>
<b>Mayoral</b>	
Allowance	2192
Regalia	150
<b>Total Mayoral</b>	<b>2342</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Emergency Contingency Fund	150
Emergency Planning	200
Elections	1000
<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>1350</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL</b>	<b>71048</b>

#### TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2013/2014

<b>Recreation &amp; Amenities</b>	£
Rent - The Mayfield	650
Trees	4500
Holy Well	100
Salt/Litter/Dog Bins	0
Dog Fouling Enforcement	1000
Mop Fair	0
CCTV	4000
<b>Sub Total Recreation &amp; Amenities</b>	<b>10250</b>
<b>Maintenance &amp; Repairs:</b>	
Repairs/inspect's/replacements	10000
Town Development	10000
Grounds Maintenance Services	9320
Hire of portable toilets	329
War Memorial	400
<b>Total Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>	<b>30049</b>
<b>TOTAL RECREATION &amp; AMENITIES</b>	<b>40299</b>
<b>The Grange Hall</b>	
Capital Expenditure	3000
<b>Total Grange Hall</b>	<b>3000</b>
<b>Street Lighting</b>	
Maintenance	539
Supply of Electricity	7552
Columns & Repairs	18000
<b>Total Street Lighting</b>	<b>26091</b>
<b>Grasscutting (Play Areas)</b>	
Grasscutting	13864
<b>Total Grass Cutting</b>	<b>13864</b>
<b>Community Grants</b>	
VASA Transport Support	0
Section 137 grants	14000
Churchyard Maintenance	3750
Southam Youth Facility	2500
Southam Christmas Lights	2500
Southam in Bloom	2500
<b>Total Community Grants</b>	<b>25250</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>68205</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>179552</b>
<b>Less Income</b>	
Parish Pound	-850
Interest	-1750
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-2600</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>176952</b>

## COUNCILLOR RETURNS

Cllr Bransby Thomas has returned to Southam Town Council having been co-opted at the November Council Meeting; he will represent the Mill Hill Ward.



Councillor Thomas has lived in Southam for almost 50 years and his experience in public service includes Town Councillor for the Merestone Ward, former Mayor of Southam, Warwickshire County Councillor, Deputy Leader of WCC, Chair of the West Midlands Regional Assembly, Governor of three Southam Schools and Justice of the Peace on the Southam Bench.

Contact details for all your Town Councillors can be found on the back page of this publication or at [www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](http://www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)

## FREE TRAVEL FOR PENSIONERS!

As promised by Southam Town Council, funds saved from the cancellation of the Concessionary Travel Token scheme are being channelled into a new scheme operated by VASA. The new scheme is now up and running.

**FREE** travel will be provided to and from medical appointments and is accessible to Southam Residents of 65 years of age and over and with a genuine need for voluntary transport. This service is not normally available to those residents who have a vehicle registered to their address but dispensation may be granted in cases of extreme need.

To access the subsidised travel, pensioners will need to show possession of a valid bus pass.

**Contact VASA, Voluntary Transport Service  
Monday to Friday 10am to 12.30pm 01926 817525**

## REDEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY SITE AND VICTOR HODGES HOUSE

A public meeting, attended by in excess of one hundred Southam residents, considered Orbit's plans for the proposed redevelopment of the Victor Hodges House and Library site.

The meeting was generally in favour of the application but residents expressed concerns regarding the appearance of the proposed buildings and the protection of the green space, the trees and the existing installations on the site. All the concerns expressed at the meeting were included in Southam Town Council's representation to the planning office.

The Town Council also focused on how such a large development in the centre of town would affect the daily life of Southam residents and asked that the conditions should be imposed upon the developers for reasons of the safety and convenience of residents as access to the site is along roads generally unsuitable for heavy construction traffic and passes local schools as well as the Childrens Centre.

The conditions requested were:

- A car park and a compound on the industrial estate should be used for parking of workers vehicles and delivery of materials.
- That material should be delivered to site in the smallest vehicles practical and that traffic to and from the construction site should only be permitted between the hours of 10am & 2pm Monday to Saturday inclusive and no site traffic on Sundays.
- No construction workers should be permitted to park on town centre streets or public car parks, and working hours, especially on a Sunday, should be restricted to protect residents from its effects.
- That the hoarding surrounding the site should be placed as far from the pavement as is practical that its appearance should be attractive in the street scene and that local residents should be protected from noise and light pollution emanating from the site.
- The site to be secured on a 24 hour basis
- That these conditions should be monitored by SDC and the contractors

Finally, the Town Council is of the opinion that Park Lane, in its present form, is unsuitable for the extra traffic that the development will create and suggests that:

- Warwickshire County Council should impose a Section 278 agreement to allow for improvements to Park Lane and the junction with Market Hill
- Stratford District Council should impose a Section 106 agreement for this development to mitigate the effects on the town centre.



## DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Additional patrols to control dog fouling are now taking place in Southam paid for by Southam Town Council. The first two patrols have focused on the education of dog owners and advice has been offered by the warden on clearing up after your dog.



**The second phase of the campaign will focus on enforcement. This will begin during February 2013. Feedback received so far has been positive with many residents supporting this campaign.**

**PLEASE** do not permit your dog to urinate in shop or residential doorways and always clean up after it! Failure to pick up after your dog may result in a **£75 fixed penalty fine**. Properly wrapped dog waste can be placed in litter bins.

**PLEASE INFORM SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL IF YOU KNOW WHEN AND WHERE OFFENCES ARE TAKING PLACE, THE DOG WARDEN CAN THEN BE DIRECTED TO THE AREA CONCERNED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME OF DAY.**

TEL 01926 814004

## PARKING ON VERGES AND FOOTWAYS

Damage to the grass verges caused by inconsiderate parking has become an increasing problem in Southam and the problem has been exacerbated by the wet conditions. Several instances of damaged verges have been reported to the Highways authority



Residents should be aware that driving a vehicle over the grass verges and footways is a contravention of the 1980s Highways Act, under which the authority has the power to carry out full repairs and recover the costs from the offender.

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON VERGES-YOU MAY BE CHARGED FOR ANY DAMAGE!**

## SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL EASTER OPENING HOURS

The office will close at 1pm on Thursday 28th March 2013 and reopen at 9am on Tuesday 2nd April 2013.

For the May Bank Holiday the office will close at 1pm on Friday 3rd May 2013 and reopen at 9am on Tuesday 7th May 2013.

## SNOW WARDENS WANTED!

### Snow wardens

WCC work in partnership with parish/town councils and resident associations to run a network of voluntary snow wardens. If you would like to participate, please speak to your town council or residents association, housing association or district/borough council.

### What do snow wardens do?

- Provide information to the County Highways Team on the local situation during the period of severe weather conditions
- Consult with the Area Teams on the local needs and determine jointly what local action needs to be taken. Priority will be given to busy footway areas, areas outside shops and schools, and steep areas agreed in advance
- When conditions warrant it, the Area Teams will sanction the treatment of agreed village / town footways from salt supplied from the existing grit bins or at agreed locations as highway resources allow

### Government Snow Code (Government Guidelines 2010)

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public space. If an accident did happen, it is highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- are careful;
- use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before.

### Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice:

- Start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- Be a good neighbour - Some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming - table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it
- Pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients
- Use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath, however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- Use salt carefully only a small amount is required; if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives
- **To volunteer as a Snow Warden please contact Bryn Patefield [countyhighways@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:countyhighways@warwickshire.gov.uk) Telephone 01926 412515**

**SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETS ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Thursday 28th March 2013  
 Thursday 25th April 2013  
 Thursday 9th May 2013 - Annual Town Meeting & Mayor Making  
 Thursday 23rd May 2013  
 Thursday 27th June 2013  
 Thursday 25th July 2013  
 August Recess - No Meeting  
 Thursday 26th September 2013  
 Thursday 24th October 2013  
 Thursday 28th November 2013  
 December Christmas Recess No Meeting



Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Coventry Road Southam and start at 7.30pm, with the exception of the Annual Town Meeting which starts at 6.45pm. Members of the public are welcome and may make representation to the Council at the start of the meeting.

**GRANGE HALL**

**Room Hire  
 for  
 Weddings  
 Birthdays  
 Anniversaries  
 Christenings  
 Children's Parties  
 in fact  
 All Your  
 Celebrations  
 Family Functions,  
 Meetings & Workshops  
 Licensed Bar Available  
 Competitive Rates**



Contact Carole at The Grange Hall on  
**01926 813933**  
[carole@thegrangehall.co.uk](mailto:carole@thegrangehall.co.uk)  
[www.thegrangehall.co.uk](http://www.thegrangehall.co.uk)

**GRANGE HALL—COMING SOON !**

Coventry Savoy Presents  
 Gilbert & Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance  
 Friday 24th & Saturday 25th May 2013



Claude Bourbon  
 Guitar - Romantic,  
 Medieval & Spanish  
 Blues  
 Friday 31st May 2013



Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Cllr Linda Tasker	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817426	<a href="mailto:linda@priority-people.co.uk">linda@priority-people.co.uk</a>
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Cllr Les Hewer		01926 814180	<a href="mailto:alexhewer@gmail.com">alexhewer@gmail.com</a>
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Cllr Victor Shepherd		01926 817010	<a href="mailto:victor@shepherd3092.fsnet.co.uk">victor@shepherd3092.fsnet.co.uk</a>

**MAYOR: Councillor Mike Gaffney MBE TD (Tel 01926 811028)**

**EDITOR: Councillor Ann Forster (Mobile 07845 997680)**

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