

Southam Town Council

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2013

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk



MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas time is here again and the multi-coloured lights will be glowing all around the town, brightening up these cold and dark nights.



In my time on the Council, I have grown to appreciate the time and effort so many volunteers put in each year to help Southam and its people enjoy this beautiful market town of ours. Whether it's the Town Council, Southam Christmas Lights, Southam in Bloom with its colourful floral displays or Southam Lions raising money for the needy and hosting events for us all. These are just a few of over 40 volunteer organisations in Southam that all have the same goal; to make Southam a nicer, friendlier more enjoyable place to live.

To ALL who volunteer in the town, I thank you, and to all who currently don't, I would encourage you make a New Year's resolution, get involved in your town, you will meet lovely people and there is great satisfaction in saying "I did that".

With a population of over 7000, Southam is still growing and 2014 may see the town grow further, with new housing developments in the planning stages and a new Sheltered Housing facility and Library well under way in the town centre. We at the Town Council have been working hard on plans for a facelift for the town centre, which you will all be consulted on very shortly. This will see some of the tired parts of the town centre transformed and bring the History of Southam shining through. Please get involved in this consultation as it will be the biggest thing to happen to this town in over 100 years.

All these things are positives for the town and the future of Southam is looking very bright. I hope you all enjoy the festivities and don't forget your New Year's resolution "Get involved in Southam"!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Southam Town Mayor

Councillor Jason Ward

TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY SPACE AVAILABLE TO LET

It is anticipated that Southam Town Council will have three community spaces of varying sizes available to let to voluntary or charitable organisations from April 2015.

The spaces, 20sq m, 31sq m, and 62sq m, will be let out on three year leases to groups who can add value to and contribute to the life of the town centre. There is a possibility that some of the space could be shared by two organisations but each would be required to commit to a three year lease and to pre-determined opening hours to ensure maximum use of the time available. Rents would be set at a level to cover the Council's costs and pro-rata to room sizes.

Applications forms are available from
www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

or

Southam Town Council
Town Clerk
The Grange Hall
Coventry Road
Southam CV47 1QA



Closing date for application 31st December 2013

THE MAYOR'S CHARITY

Each year the elected Mayor of Southam chooses a charity to support and raise money for throughout the Mayoral year. I have chosen the Multiple Sclerosis Society, as a friend of mine was diagnosed with the condition in his early adult life and I have seen first hand how the condition has affected his life. It also robbed the world of a fantastic footballer.

Donations can be made at my just giving page,
www.justgiving.com/Mayor-Jason-Ward

or by cheque made payable to the Town Mayor's Fund and sent to Deputy Clerk, Southam Town Council, The Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam

Keep in Touch with Southam – To be included in our resident notification emails, send your email address to the Deputy Clerk
deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

December Christmas Recess No Meeting
Thursday January 9th 2014 (Precept only)
Thursday January 23rd 2014
Thursday February 27th 2014
Thursday March 27th 2014
Thursday April 24th 2014
Thursday May 8th 2014 (Mayor making & Annual Town Meeting)
Thursday May 22nd 2014
Thursday June 26th 2014
Thursday July 24th 2014
August Summer Recess No Meeting
Thursday September 25th 2014
Thursday October 23rd 2014
Thursday November 27th 2014
December Christmas Recess No Meeting



Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Coventry Road Southam and start at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome and may make representation to the Council at the start of the meeting.

GRANTS

At it's meeting in September, Southam Town Council awarded Section 137 grants to:-

- Southam Area Action Group HS2 £1000 to keep Southam informed on the HS2 proposals
- Southam Christmas Lights Association £1344 for the replacement of electrical control boxes
- St James Church £500 contribution towards essential tree works
- Southam & Bishops Itchington Congregational Church £5000 towards essential structural repairs of the Church building in Wood Street

The Council also resolved to spend £500 on natural species bulbs to be planted by volunteers in Park Lane recreation ground.

Grants will next be considered in February 2013. Application forms may be obtained from the Council offices in the Grange Hall or are available from the notice board of the website at www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk and should be returned to the Deputy Clerk by Monday February 3rd 2014.

TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

Southam Town Council are holding surgeries in Southam Library, Brewster's Corner, Pendicke Street on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment is necessary and Councillors will be available to help and advise residents.

SAVE A LIFE—GIVE BLOOD

The next Blood Donor session will take place at the Grange Hall in the afternoon and evening of Thursday 2nd January 2014



DOG FOULING!

Dog Fouling continues to be of concern to Southam residents. Additional patrols are still taking place, paid for by Southam Town Council. **Fixed penalty tickets are being issued!**

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.

CLEAN IT UP!



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

TEL 01926 814004

SALT BIN USE

Members of the public are welcome to use the salt in the yellow bins to make the public highways and footways safer during icy weather. Please remember to replace the lid after use. Grit for use on private property can be purchased from builders merchants!



Telephone 01926 814004 to report an empty bin.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Community Forums give **YOU** the opportunity to have **YOUR** say and keep up to date with what is happening in **YOUR** Community.

Warwickshire Police promote 'Safer Neighbourhoods' through the Community Forums. Additionally the Safer Neighbourhood Teams hold a surgery prior to the forum from 6.30 to 7.00pm during which time tea/coffee is available.

Your next Community Forum meetings will take place at Harbury Rugby Football Club on 11th December 2013.

SOUTHAM TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

After much discussion and hard work, a visual display of the long awaited proposals for the refurbishment of



Market Hill, High St and the pedestrianisation of the top half of Wood Street has been prepared by Warwickshire County Council Officers in consultation with Stratford District Council and Southam Town Council.

Three drop-in sessions will take place at the Grange Hall on Saturday November 30th from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday December 3rd from 3pm to 8pm and Saturday 7th December from 10am to 4pm. A leaflet explaining the scheme will also be delivered to all Southam addresses. Please come along to see the displays and talk to the Officers about what is being proposed.

The primary focus is to improve the streetscene and raise the profile of Southam as a destination for businesses, local people and visitors.

It is hoped that, following the current consultation with residents and traders, the refurbishment will be achieved by utilising the remaining Tesco Section 106 funds. These funds must be spent in the area of the Town Centre specified in the legal agreement between Tesco and Stratford District Council and to the specified time scale.

This is our opportunity to significantly improve the centre of Southam to the benefit of all. Time is of the essence, so please return your consultation response form to WCC without delay.

Consultation closes on 13th December 2013.

Subject to a positive response to this consultation, construction for the Southam Community Highways Improvement project could commence in the summer of 2014.

PARKING AROUND SCHOOLS COMMUNITY FORUM PRIORITY

Inconsiderate and illegal parking in the vicinity of schools is a continuing problem in Southam.



It received the highest number of votes at the community forum and has now been identified as a priority for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Regular patrols will be made at school opening and closing times. Please park safely!

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The Town Council office will be closed from Monday 23rd December 2013 at 1pm and re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2014

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Extraordinary Meeting

A public meeting followed by an extraordinary meeting of the Council was held on 3rd October to discuss the WCC proposal for an emergency stopping place for up to 12 touring caravans.

Approximately 150 residents attended, many of whom spoke against the proposal. Southam Town Council then resolved to make a formal objection to the planning application. The Town Mayor, Councillor Jason Ward and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mark Willoughby will attend the planning meeting on behalf of the Council to reinforce those objections.

October Meeting

The October Council Meeting too was attended by a large number of residents again concerned about planning; this time the proposal to build on the historic Holy Well field. The Council voted unanimously to object to this application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND COUNCIL MEETING PAPERS

can be viewed at Southam Town Council Offices at the Grange Hall between the hours of 9am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

Plans are also available online at

www.stratford.gov.uk or

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

HOLY WELL SAFETY!

For some months it has been necessary to keep the Holy Well gates locked as the spring has been running high creating algae on the stones which makes them extremely slippery and dangerous.

The flow of water has now been controlled and once permanent warning signs have been sourced and fitted the gates will be re-opened. The site will be monitored and should the same conditions occur again the gates will be relocked. Please do not enter when the gates are chained.

DANGERS ON BUILDING SITES

Leadbitter, the town centre developer, has begun a programme of visits to local schools to deliver a SPLAAT (Safe Play At All Times) presentation. The children are being invited to use the information they have learnt to create safety posters to illustrate the message. The posters will be enlarged and displayed on the hoarding surrounding the site.

Building sites look exciting; they look like the greatest of adventure playgrounds, but building sites can and do kill!

Parents, please make sure that it is not your child playing on a building site.



THE GRANGE HALL, SOUTHAM

"A JOLLY BROLLY CHRISTMAS"

With Bob Brolly, MBE



SELLING FAST! GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2013, 7.30pm

TICKETS: £12.00

(to include free mince pies and nibbles)

BOX OFFICE: 01926 813933

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
www.thegrangehall.co.uk

FOLLOWING THE ABBA SELL OUT..

MERCURY & MAY
perform a tribute to
QUEEN

SATURDAY 5TH April 2014
TICKETS £12—AVAILABLE NOW!

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Cllr Linda Tasker	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817426	linda@priority-people.co.uk
Town Mayor Cllr Jason Ward		01926 812796	WAJAS3@AOL.COM
Cllr Neil Gascoigne		01926 259384	neil.gascoigne@outlook.com
Cllr Chris Worsh		01926 817122	cllr.chrisworsh@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr Ann Forster	Mill Hill Ward	07845997680	annforster@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Jane Soni		01926 812966	jroni@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Bransby Thomas		01926 812607	bransbythomas@btinternet.com
Cllr Lesley Smith		01926 813986	smith.lesley47@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr John Smith		01926 815658	johnsatstc@aol.com
Cllr Mike Gaffney MBE TD	Merestone Ward	01926 811028	mike@mandggaffney.plus.com
Deputy Mayor Cllr Mark Willoughby		01926 814257	markjwillo@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Eddie Thornley		01926 259115	mail@eddiethornley.com
Cllr Carol Pratt		01926 812533	carolannpratt@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Victor Shepherd		01926 817010	victor@shepherd3092.fsnet.co.uk

MAYOR: Councillor Jason Ward (Tel 01926 812796)

EDITOR: Councillor Ann Forster (Mobile 07845 997680)

TOWN CLERK: Mrs D Carro, Town Council Offices, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA
(Tel: 01926 814004) email: clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk.