

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have had a fairly quiet time since the last full Council Meeting. On 22 November I hosted the switching on of the Christmas Lights in the High Street assisted by Stig, my grand daughter Charlotte and Alistair a young lad from Manorbrook who had won a painting competition. The evening was extremely successful and our thanks go to the Christmas Lights Association whose members give up so much of their time every year to make the town look so festive. On the 3th December I attended the Senior's Christmas Party where approximately 120 of our senior citizens were present. They all had tremendous time and the entertainment was given by Thornbury Band another one of our great Town assets. On 19 December I was invited to ACT's Mumping Night where performances by various artists were held in every room of the Chantry. Another really enjoyable evening.

Tickets are now on sale for my Fashion Show to be held in the Armstrong Hall Complex on 2 March. Local Thornbury shops supplying a range of ladies, gents and children's wear are involved in what promises to be an enjoyable evening. All businesses and organisations are welcome to join in. All proceeds will go to my Charity Meningitis Research Foundation. I also attended Marlwood Speech Day which is always an exciting occasion seeing the young people collect their prizes and certificates.

Finance & Policy Committee meeting on 15th December 2011

Community Speed Watch where members of the public check drivers speeds in different places around the town led to 1300 letters being sent to drivers during its first year. Unfortunately two people have been fined for causing alarm, harassment and distress and one minor assault on the volunteers.

How the Town Council will mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations this year will be decided at the next meeting on 26th January when all ideas received from councillors and public will be considered. Also list of what other parish councils are intending will be examined for further ideas.

Pullins Green has been experiencing all manner of anti-social behaviour and crime over a number of years now. Following a meeting of residents, councillors and the Police a bid was made for CCTV to be installed. It looks like this will be happening by the end of January. Special thanks are due to PC Natalie Draper.

Public participation in all committees and council meetings now takes place at either the beginning of the meeting (normally 7:30 pm) or when an item of interest to a member of the public is taken during the meeting. All are welcome.

Neil Halsall
Chairman
12/1/12

Town Development meeting 13.12.11.

A meeting is being arranged with Mr Walsh, the South Gloucestershire Council staff member responsible for car parking enforcement, to consider a number of issues related to car parks in the town. The committee considered aspects of the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy, particularly as it relates to the review of the Green belt around Thornbury and the protection of the medieval fishponds..

The working group on the development of a Thornbury Community plan reported that they are planning a public meeting on March 15th at 7pm in the Armstrong Hall complex. The hope is that local people will wish to take on the task of developing a plan.. All welcome.

The committee was asked about the number of empty houses in Thornbury. It was agreed to consult the South Gloucestershire Council's Empty Housing officer to get an answer'.

Vice chair; Maggie Tyrell.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

I would like to report a few items this month; we are working with the Thornbury Litter Busters team to agree signage to go on litter bins around the town supporting Litter Busters and the good work they around town and at special events to make sure that the town always looks tidy.

Members of the committee are looking into the providing a map of Thornbury showing all the dropped kerbs throughout the town. A number of kerbs have recently been adapted and pedestrians have found them very useful but they are not sure all the locations around town.

Together with the Tree Warden, who sits on the Environment Committee we are seeking to gain a licence to manage the area opposite St Paul's the Hackett. The area has been derelict for a considerable period and the committee supports the sensitive management of this area.

The committee have approached South Gloucestershire Council to investigate how the path around the sweet chestnut tree in Castle Street, near the entrance to the vicarage can be widened. At the moment they have indicated that this request will be added to the next financial year's list of projects. However, at this stage there are no indications that it will actually be completed due to a significant number of requests they are considering.

Thornbury Town Council Playing Fields

The large sweet chestnut tree in front of St. Mary's Church was a victim of the storms during the early hours of Tuesday 3rd January. Fortunately nobody was hurt and the only damage was to the church yard wall and the fencing on the other side of the road. Work is due to start shortly to clear the fir trees on the land at Poulterbrook (adjacent to the Mundy Playing Fields and beyond Daggs Allotments) in advance of the main contract to construct two football pitches and an environmental area. Quotations have indicated that it will be cheaper to remove the trees as a separate contract rather than leaving it until the main contract is ready.

The cantilever swing basket has been replaced at Eastland Tump and the safety matting repaired following fire damage last summer. Cracks in the bottom of the paddling pool on the Mundy Playing Fields developed last year and will be repaired during the winter months.

Following a complaint from a local resident about the use of the Chantry Field the committee has asked the highway authority and police about parking on Gloucester

Road. They are discussing other issues with the sports clubs including changing room facilities.