



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL



The Town Crier

Quarterly newsletter of
Dawlish Town Council

March 2008

Where to find us:

The Town Council offices located at:

The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish

Open Monday to Friday 9.30a.m. to 12.30p.m. and
1.00p.m. to 3.00p.m. or telephone 01626 863388



Forthcoming Meetings and Events:

March 2008:

4th Planning
5th Town Council
18th Planning
20th Finance and
General Purposes
26th Civic Amenities

April 2008:

1st Planning
2nd Town Council
9th ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
15th Planning
17th Finance and
General Purposes
23rd Civic Amenities
29th Planning

May 2008:

7th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
13th Planning
15th Finance and
General Purposes
27th Planning
28th Civic Amenities

The Town Council offices will be closed on the following working days:

Good Friday - 21st March 2008 and Easter Monday 24th March 2008.

Bank Holidays Monday 5th May and Monday 26th May 2008.

TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT AND BUDGET FOR 2008-2009

The Town Council approved its budget for the year commencing on the 1st April 2008 and ending on 31st March 2009 at its recent meeting in February.

Estimated expenditure for the year is £294,600 with income anticipated at £65,500. This means the Precept for the forthcoming financial year will be £229,064.

This increase of just over £48,000 will equate to an average increase of less than £4.63 per year for electors in the town - less than 1p per day.

The increase will put the town in a strong position to accept more responsibilities. Under the "power of well-being" which has already become law, Quality Town Council's such as Dawlish, will be able to fund improvements to improve the quality of life for Dawlish residents through:

- Encouragement of economic growth
- Promoting good health through provision of quality facilities.

Town Councillors unanimously approved the plans and are looking forward to working with local community groups in the forthcoming year on exciting projects including:

- The re-furbishment of the waterfowl compound in Brunswick Place and provision of new waterfowl.



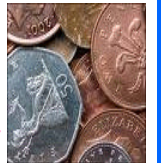
- Assisting the Chamber of Trade with a webcam to enable residents and visitors to view the newly-stocked waterfowl.



- Setting up a Youth Council for young people to have their say on local issues.



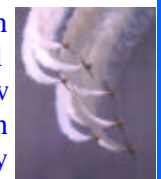
- The introduction of a new grants scheme to enable Councillors in each Ward to make small grants for projects specifically within their Wards



- Working with Dawlish Action for Youth on the management of the new skateboarding park once constructed.



- Working closely with Dawlish Carnival Committee and Air Show and Dawlish Museum in their 40th Anniversary year.



Full details of the Town Council's aims for the forthcoming year are set out in the Annual Report published in April 2008.



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 2008



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 S9

The Annual Meeting for Dawlish will be held on **Wednesday 9th April 2008** in the Council Chamber, The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish commencing at 7.00p.m.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

Electors of the Parish of Dawlish who wish to discuss Parish affairs at the meeting should inform the Town Clerk in writing no later than 12 noon on the 4th April 2008

Signed: Cllr. Mrs. Rosalind Prowse
Town Mayor



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY 2008



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
S15 SS1-10

The Annual General Meeting of Dawlish Town Council will be held on **Wednesday 7th May 2008** in the Council Chamber, The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish commencing at 7.00p.m.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend and witness the election of the Town Mayor for the coming year 2008-2009

Signed: John Winchester
Town Clerk.

Dawlish Town Council—Internal Review

On 12th February Dawlish Town Council held an Internal Review to answer a complaint by a local elector that the Town Council had withheld information which should have been made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Internal Review Panel, Chaired by Cllr. Francine Tullis, heard evidence from both the complainant and the Town Clerk and, after lengthy consideration of the issues, made the following decision:

The Complainant has complained that his request for information with regard to a 'special arrangement' for waterfowl practices was not supplied.

The Panel has established that there is no written record of any 'special arrangement' between Dawlish Town Council entered into at the time the former Waterfowl Warden was employed.

The verbal contract with the former Waterfowl Warden was entered into with the best of intentions. In hindsight, and taking account of the fact that procedures and statutory obligations placed on this Council have progressed, it appears that the verbal contract made with the Waterfowl Warden, although complying with regulations extant at that time, would not be considered adequate or appropriate today.

The Town Council gained Quality status in 2004, less than two years following the present Town Clerk's employment, a process which required examination and up-dating of the Council's procedures and policies and included an up-date of staff contracts, terms of employment and adoption of policies and statutes including the

Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Panel finds that the generic statement released by the Town Council was intended to reassure electors that there was no mal-administration or financial wrong-doing by the Town Council and to clarify waterfowl operations carried out by the Town Council. We are all Council tax payers and concerned that public monies are spent appropriately by the Town Council and therefore are pleased that individuals such as you, bring to the attention of the Council any perceived irregularities in order to ensure that we represent the electorate appropriately.

It is also the opinion of the Panel that any expenses incurred in waterfowl maintenance at the time of the former Waterfowl Warden's employment were fully justified at that time by the benefits brought to the community.

In conclusion, the Panel finds that the complaint is not upheld by the Panel for the following reasons:

the information requested does not exist in written form. It was a verbal agreement between the then administration and the Waterfowl Warden.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act, this Council is not permitted to release personal information relating to a current, past or future employee, whilst that person is still a living identifiable individual.

The Panel's decision has been communicated to the complainant in writing and the decision was made public at the March Town Council meeting in accordance with the Dawlish Town Council Complaints Procedure.

Black Swans and waterfowl



The Town's stock of Black Swans has now increased to eight following the donation of a pen found by the RSPCA in Cornwall. She has recently been introduced to a lone male already owned by the Council and so far, it seems that love has bloomed!

In addition four new black swans have been purchased, two pens and two cobs and it is hoped that, once they have settled on the brook, residents and visitors will be able to see some cygnets in 2008.

The Waterfowl Warden has been clearing the 'nesting' islands and one pair have already produced 5 eggs which, it is hoped, will hatch out in time for Easter.

The planned re-furbishment of the waterfowl compound has been delayed slightly but it is hoped that a chicks will be on display at the waterfowl compound window for Easter with the planned refurbishment taking place towards the end of the year.

Avian flu up-date

Following the recent outbreaks of the **H5N1 avian flu virus** at the Abbotsbury Swannery, Dawlish Town Council's **Outside Services Team** are continuing normal bio-security measures and disinfection routines to safeguard the town's Black Swans and ornamental waterfowl.

The flock is registered with Defra and the Town Council will be monitoring the situation and following any advice given.

A black swan owned by the Town Council, which died in October last year was referred to Defra as a precaution. The autopsy found it had died from a tumour on the neck and there was no connection with the H5N1 virus.

Defra's current advice is:

Do not touch any dead or sick birds sighted and contact Defra on: 08459 335577

Skateboard Park

Teignbridge District Council Planning Department recently gave the go-ahead for the Skateboard Park at Sandy Lane which means that the £90,000 funding received from The Big Lottery Fund can now be utilised to start work on the new facility.

The Town Council is looking forward to working closely with Action for Youth to ensure that this essential facility for the young people of Dawlish will be up and running as soon as possible.



New Youth Council



Plans are well under way for the setting up of a new **Youth Council for**

Dawlish.

Dawlish young people from local youth and church groups, uniformed youth groups, Dawlish Community College and other youth organisations in the town.

The Town Council has been assisted by Teignbridge District Council's Service Lead for Community and Culture, Mr. Steve Matson and Celia Hadow, Teignbridge Youth Council Officer. They have also received help from PC Kevin Parsons and PCSO Gary Cairns, who has been an enthusiastic supporter of the skateboard park project.

The Youth Council is being set up to give the young people of Dawlish an opportunity to convey their ideas, aspirations and priorities to the Town Council and other agencies in the town. It is hoped it will also act as a means for the Town Council to consult with them as valued members of the community.

The Constitution for the Youth Council has now been finalised and it is hoped that elections will take place in Spring so that the new Youth Councillors can take up their seats soon afterwards.

The Youth Council will consist of 12 members aged between 13 and 19 years of age. They will be elected by

The Town Council has set aside funding to set up the Youth Council and to facilitate elections. Administrative support will be provided by Town Council staff. Once in place, the Youth Council will have its own budget to spend on projects specifically to help the young people of Dawlish.

Supermarkets



Dawlish Town Councilors attended both the recent public consultations by Tesco's for a supermarket at Sandy Lane and by Sainsbury's for a site on the Exeter Road. No formal planning applications have yet been received by the Town Council but residents are reminded that the Town Council's Planning Meetings are open to the public and any applications received will be notified through the relevant Agendas.



Your Councillors and how to contact them:

Your local Councillors can be contacted at the following telephone numbers.

If you are unsure of which Councillor to contact, please call in or telephone the office on 01626 863388 where staff will be pleased to direct your enquiry to the Councillor best able to deal with your enquiry.

Cllr. Mrs. Rosalind Prowse (Mayor of Dawlish) 4 Nash Gardens, Dawlish Tel: 01626 866621 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. Wally Protheroe (Deputy Mayor) Mount Pleasant Inn, Mount Pleasant Road, Dawlish Warren Dawlish Tel: 01626 863151

Cllr. H. Clemens (Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee) Manor Farm, Holcombe, Nr. Dawlish Tel: 01626 863020 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. G. Price (Chairman Planning) Mewstone, The Mews, Dawlish Tel: 01626 867088 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. G. Wills (Chairman Civic Amenities Committee) 13 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish Tel: 01626 888074

Cllr. Mrs. Jackie Bush 2 Elm Grove Drive, Dawlish Tel: 01626 865704

Cllr. Mrs. Pauline Bloomfield 50 Cofton Hill, Cockwood, Nr. Exeter. Tel: 01626 890200

Cllr. Derek Collins 5 Little Week Gardens, Dawlish Tel: 01626 862103

Cllr. Mrs. Janet Garland 10 Luscombe Terrace, Dawlish Tel: 01626 888312

Cllr. Ted Hockin Aalsmeer, Exeter Road, Dawlish Tel: 01626 862088 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. Mrs. Helen Humphries Flat 1, 6 Marine Parade, Dawlish Tel: 01626 862233

Cllr. Mrs. Mary Mugford 'Seaforth' 7 Mount Pleasant Road, Dawlish Warren Tel: 01626 863516 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. Tom Scobie 8 Westwood Hill, Cockwood, Nr. Exeter 01626 890879

Cllr. Mrs. Patricia Smith 22 Brunel Court, Richmond Place, Dawlish 01626 865003

Cllr. Francine Tullis Branscombe Cottage, Branscombe Lane, Dawlish 01626 864424

Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wills 13 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish Tel: 01626 888074

Devon County Councillor: Cllr. John Clatworthy 23 West Cliff Road, Dawlish Tel: 01626 864091

New Administration Officer for Dawlish Town Council

The Town Council has recently advertised for an additional Administration Officer at the Town Hall. The new Officer will be responsible for the Youth Council, allotments, Planning and the Town Council's website amongst other duties.

It is hoped that the Administration Officer will be in place by the start of the new financial year in April 2008

Brown's Brook Allotments



Plot holders at the Town Council's allotments will be taking up new one-year tenancy agreements in April for the start of the 2008 growing season.

There are currently 27 plots with 25 current plot holders deciding to keep their allotments for a further year.

The Town Council's waiting list is currently 25. If you would like further information about allotments, please contact the office.

Don't miss
The Mayor's
Civic Evening and
dinner dance
at
The Langstone Cliff Hotel

Friday 4th April 2008

All Welcome
Tickets £25.00
available from the
Town Council Offices

