

HERE AND NOW in HUNGERFORD

No. 21 in a series of regular briefings from the Council

JANUARY 2015

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For followers of politics 2015 is a special year, on 7th May not only do we have a General Election but also a District Council election and most importantly of all, election to the Hungerford Town Council. Over the next few months, *Here and Now* will feature profiles on our existing councillors and hopefully leave you with the impression that they are all regular people just like you, who want to make Hungerford a better place in which to live.

These profiles will, I hope, inspire some of you to actually throw your hats in the ring and stand for election in the Spring and take a more active role within our community.

ROGER THOMPSON...

COUNCILLOR FOR 8 YEARS

Retirement! I finally arrived there after a lifetime of three separate hectic careers. So was the experience of a lifetime to be totally wasted? Hungerford Town Council was in the doldrums with a bad local reputation and seemed to provide an opportunity to keep the old skills sharp. With no single issue in mind, up I stepped, and have now come to the end of a fascinating eight years.



Fast forward through that time as a councillor. Fascinating projects have included professionalising the Town Council office, and finding good staff. Helping to establish the charter for the Freedom of the Town, and develop the relationship with Bn. REME, balancing time as Chairman of the Highways and Transport Committee, monitoring WBC highways expenditure to ensure we received a fair share of their budget, and as a member of the Planning Committee. Involvement in the Penny Farthing Close project, and promoting council involvement in the Town Plan and Local Development Plan, a still open chapter in the history of the Town, has been challenging.

What now? Hang up the badge with the satisfaction of having made a small contribution to the Town in which I live. Time now to enjoy the wide circle of acquaintances made as a councillor, a few more nautical adventures, and perhaps an allotment.... to misquote the sage "... beneath the bough, a flask of wine, a book of verse....."

RICHARD HUDSON...

COUNCILLOR SINCE 2002

It been a few years now and it seems just a part of my life. Most Monday evenings popping along to the Town Hall for a meeting, either the Full Council, Planning or



Transport. My background is as a professional transport planner, so I have mainly aimed to assist with planning and transport related matters. In the early years the Council was a bit turbulent, but this is now well behind us and the Council is now a friendly team. We have a great set up with an office and a Clerk to help.



I was chair of the Transport Committee for several years, but I tend to take more of back seat these days as I'm rather busy with work. This year I have been trying to help with planning and housing as these are major issues for the town as it is so important that we try and protect it and the Area of Outstanding Beauty around us.

I'd recommend being a Councillor if you are interested in your community and you really can make a difference. Key achievements that I've been heavily involved in include the pedestrian bridge over the canal and the Town Plan. Don't be scared off by the process and formality as you soon get used to it.

DAVID SMALL...

COUNCILLOR ON AND OFF FOR 21 YEARS

I have lived in Hungerford since 1985, living on Salisbury Road, a widower with 2 sons and a dog named Charlie Brown. I am a solicitor practicing from an office off the High Street, and also manage a family commercial property management company in Somerset, do occasional 'gigs' as a semi-professional musician as well as having an active involvement with Hungerford Chamber of Commerce, Friends of St Lawrence's Church, the Croft Hall and the town's Rotary Club.



As a councillor my main interest is on the recreation side, which is of great interest at present as we are in the process of purchasing the freehold of the Triangle Field and taking a long lease of the Croft Field to ensure that this remains a valuable community asset. We also maintain and look after the town's playgrounds, sports fields, war memorials, churchyards and the Community Centre. For all potential new councillors I would recommend being part of a team which safeguards Hungerford as the town we know.

FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

Is there someone you know who you think ought to be recognized for their service to the town? Freedom of the Town nominations are open again for this year.

Forms are available at the Council Office in the Library building or can be found online at www.hungerfordcouncil.co.uk

You can contact the council by letter: **The Library, Church Street, Hungerford, RG17 0JG**
phone: **01488 686195** e-mail: d.benneyworth@hungerford-tc.gov.uk or visit the office.