

Hungerford



Hungerford Town Council - representing your town

Opening the conversation...

“ A warm welcome to all Hungerford residents from Hungerford Town Council. I hope you enjoy reading our newest publication, designed to recap and reflect the past year, but more importantly to share some of Hungerford Town Council's exciting new projects and discussions. As the road map out of lockdown allows, we're really looking forward to reconnecting, representing and celebrating our very special community. Please connect with us so we can 'open the conversation....' ”

**Cllr Helen Simpson,
Hungerford Town Mayor**



INTRODUCTION...

This has been an incredibly busy year with many planned projects put on hold through the pandemic now finally proceeding, a very exciting time for HTC and the residents we represent.

Currently plans are well underway for the rebuild of Hungerford's skate park, the original park is reaching the end of its life. HTC is currently fundraising and is really looking forward to progressing this much anticipated project.

Plans are progressing for improvements at the Croft Field Activity Centre, another large project, which will see the building reworked to give full disabled access to the building and better facilities for all to enjoy.

The Town Clerk has also been working towards Local Parish Council Awards, we've been eager to receive this accreditation in Hungerford and are hopeful of completion soon.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Hungerford Skate Park Project

At the start of the year a survey was produced to gain feedback from current users of the Hungerford skatepark to tell us what they'd like to see at a new, improved facility.

Popular suggestions included a skate bowl, rails, stairs, ledges, ramps, a quarter pipe and half pipe. We're now pleased to report that we have appointed a contractor and a public consultation to gain your opinion on the suggested designs is now live. To feedback go to the home page of our website or click on the link

www.maverickskateparks.co.uk/hungerford



We're currently seeking funding to help us achieve these plans and every £1 donated on the fundraising platform will be match funded by Greenham Trust. Please support us on www.goodexchange.com, ref 19493 and keep an eye on our website or follow us on social media to find out more in due course!

Neighbourhood Plan H2036

We have been busy progressing Hungerford 2036, a neighbourhood plan project that will shape the future of Hungerford over the next 20 years. A change in government legislation has given us more time to work on our plan. As it was a while ago that we put out a call for sites, we have decided to conduct a second call where we invite local landowners again to put forward any sites that they would like considered for development during this time. If you have already submitted details of potential sites to West Berkshire Council HELAA and there has been no change you do not need to duplicate any entries. If not, and you have a site you would like us to consider we would encourage you to contact us to confirm your interest by completing the application form and emailing it to claire.barnes@hungerford-tc.gov.uk ahead of our deadline of 30th December 2022. The form is available on our website. We are not just considering sites for housing but for other land uses such as employment, leisure or retail.

Environment

We have come to an arrangement with West Berkshire Council for the upgrading of half of the Town Council owned streetlights to LED hopefully this financial year which should save a considerable amount of energy and mean that future maintenance and running

costs of these streetlights will be passed to WBC.

Cllrs Downe and Knight have been working hard to achieve an energy efficient Hub/Library building, and recently have overseen the successful installation of improved thermostatic heating controls and an Air Source Heat Pump to replace the failed gas boiler which will reduce the carbon emissions by two-thirds. Cllr Downe was also instrumental in converting a council owned residential property in the same way.

The Council is keen to improve electric

vehicle charging services in the town and has been vigorously encouraging West Berkshire Council to add suitable charge points in the town's car parks and provide for more on-street facilities.

Following a detailed survey carried out by Cllr Fyfe, West Berks Council has agreed to approximately £200,000 of funding to be allocated to Hungerford Footpath Maintenance in 22/23. This will see improvements to the A338 north and south initially, followed by improvements on the A4 to Froxfield and outside Dobbies. This will enable safer walking and cycling to and from Hungerford.

UPDATE ON EVENTS

Remembering Queen Elizabeth II

Following the passing of our late Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, Hungerford Town Council along with residents paid tribute to her Majesty in several ways in the ensuing days.

Flags were immediately flown at half-mast until the morning following the Queen's funeral and a Book of Condolence was opened in the Town Hall where floral tributes could also be left on the Town Hall steps.

On Sunday 11th September Hungerford's Mayor, Cllr Helen Simpson read out the official Proclamation of the new King on the

steps of the Town Hall. The ceremony, attended by current and past Councillors, Freedom of the Town dignitaries, civic officers, Town and Manor Trustees and local residents, marked the formal Proclamation to the people of Hungerford of the beginning of the new King's reign. It then concluded with joining together to sing the new National Anthem.

Mayor Helen Simpson reflected on Queen Elizabeth II 70-year reign, commenting "Her Majesty the Queen has been a huge inspiration, completely devoted to public service, showing empathy and compassion throughout her reign".

Jubilee

We look back in fondness of the Jubilee events held earlier in the year. With the magnificent 70th Platinum Jubilee in June for Queen Elizabeth II, Hungerford Town Council commenced the Town celebrations with a striking Beacon Lighting into the evening sky. The Rugby Club opened its bar, selling food and refreshments all accompanied by lively music from our talented Town Band.

Celebrations continued later that weekend with a Picnic on the Croft Green. Residents new and old browsed the stalls, joined in the activities, including a Tug O'





War organised by the Rugby Club and danced to lively music and singing.

For those who wanted to test their British bake-off skills, there was the chance to dust off rolling pins and enter our baking competition making a 'Hungerford Platinum Pudding' or '3 sweet or savoury scones' Creativity continued with a competition to decorate a Jubilee hat, arranging a posy for the Queen and creating a picture that illustrated a part of the Queen's life.

To commemorate the celebrations, a Jubilee shield is now installed in the foyer of the Library and our Jubilee bench is in place in the high street for the public to enjoy.

Grants

Hungerford Town Council operates an annual grants scheme whereby grants are awarded to local organisations offering services to Hungerford residents. Grants are usually awarded in May / June with an awards ceremony taking place in July. Although we

can consider late grants, please note that there is no guarantee funds will be available later in the year. HTC administers its grants scheme via The Good Exchange website and encourages all applications to be made directly on The Good Exchange website in order to be considered for matched funding.

Details of the grants awarded this year and information on the organisations can be found on the HTC website www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk/grants

Hungerford in Bloom

The month of May sees Hungerford bursting into colour with the launch of our annual event, Hungerford in Bloom. Residents, community groups and businesses are all welcome to enter the annual competition – there's always the chance to put gardening hobbies to the test. We're open to entries from Private residential properties, volunteer and school gardens and commercial premises.



For full details of Hungerford in Bloom including entry forms, clarification of categories, judging criteria and prizes, please call HTC on 01488 686195, email admin@hungerford-tc.gov.uk, download an application form from the news page of the HTC website (www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk) or collect a copy from the HTC office.

Thank you to the wonderful Smarten Up volunteer team for the tending of the round tubs by the benches and the troughs on the pedestrian bridge which always look beautiful!

Next year we look forward to wildflowers growing on the roundabout by the Co-op garage. We welcome ideas for enhancing the area.

Awards

In September this year we held a joint Civic Ceremony to present the grant recipients and winners of the Hungerford in Bloom competition with their certificates and prizes.

Hungerford Mayor, Cllr Helen Simpson, says:

"The annual Grants Awards is one of my favourite civic events. So many of these local organisations and charities offer invaluable support to the residents of Hungerford and meeting with the deserving groups to recognise what they accomplish is incredibly humbling. On behalf of all the Councillors, we cannot thank them enough for all the work and time that they give up for the benefit of the community".

Cllr Helen Simpson adds:

"It is also such a pleasure to be presenting the prizes to the green-fingered, talented residents in Hungerford. We had yet again such a fantastic response to the Hungerford in Bloom competition this year with a showcase of colour and creativity from the smallest of courtyard gardens to some of the larger commercial properties. I love to see what the community can create in even the smallest or most challenging spaces and meeting with the winners I'm hoping to put to test some of their useful tips!"



New Councillor news

We're delighted to report that we have gained two new councillors,

Welcome to Keith Carlson! A graduate of Reading university, where he read history; achieving his post-graduate diploma in law and his legal certificate at Nottingham law

School. He moved to Hungerford with his wife in Sept 2021 and currently works at a national advice firm as Chief Operating Officer.

Since moving to Hungerford, he has found the town to be extremely welcoming and sees acting as a councillor as an opportunity to help shape the future, in line with the 2036 Neighbourhood plan to hopefully ensure that the residents continue to enjoy and expand the benefits of living here. He wishes to help the council in delivering its objectives.



Welcome to Mark Greenwell! Resident in Hungerford for over 20 years, Mark has been enjoying his early retirement helping within the community for example with the Town and Manor, the Canal & River Trust and Hungerford Environmental Team (HEAT).

He's also a member of Sporting Bears Motor Club; a national fund-raising club, raising money for children's charities as well as keeping busy volunteering as a mentor in the ENACTUS UK organisation, supporting UK students in delivering community impact projects.

Mark's a keen member of many sports and interest groups. Hoping to be back on his bike soon after a recent injury, watch out for Mark exploring some of the local cycling routes in and around Hungerford.



Meet our councillors

All the councillors live in the Town Council area and are passionate about their commitments to the Town and role they can play in serving on the Council.

Cllr Helen Simpson

"I'm currently serving my fifth term as Hungerford Mayor. I try to attend all committee meetings because it's hugely beneficial to have a full understanding of all areas of council life. I also chair the Recreation and Amenities committee looking after Parks, War Memorials, Cemetery and Gardens/Green open spaces.

I have enjoyed many civic events over the last year, the highlight was the incredible celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, hundreds of residents held a party in the Croft to celebrate the tremendous contribution from her late Majesty. This amazing celebration has been made even more poignant because of her Majesty's sad passing. Another very special event was being invited to attend the Commandants Parade at Sandhurst with the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire Mr James Puxley and Deputy Lieutenant Richard Anderson. The parade showcases the military at its finest and I will treasure this personal invitation immensely. The horse going up the steps at Sandhurst and my God Son being one of the officers passing out in the parade will remain a treasured memory. There are so many events to mention such as Hocktide lunch, Bowls club open day, Hungerford Band Concert, Hungerford Theatre Company Production, Twinning Association anniversary and Sundial opening, Summer Festival Portrait competition to name just a few from my civic calendar.

I am extremely proud of the work the councillors do within the community, HTC has an exceptional team of councillors who are all volunteers and work incredible hard to support our residents within the community. I personally enjoy supporting the many charities, groups, clubs and organisations within the town. Hungerford is definitely Small but Mighty!"



Cllr Claire Winner

"As Chair of the Finance & General Purpose Committee I am vigilant in steering the annual budgeting process to ensure Hungerford Town Council has sufficient funds to carry out the aspirations of the Town, whilst being conscious of keeping the increase to the residents' precept to a minimum. I have been actively involved with developing two major projects this year; to replace the Skate Park and to renovate the dated Croft Field Activity Centre building, which are planned to be completed in 2023".



Cllr Alistair Fyfe

"This past year I have succeeded in my campaign to improve CCTV in the town and secured significant funding from WBC to improve much neglected footpaths along the A338 and A4. This work should be completed this financial year. I will be conducting further study of the condition of all Hungerford footways and work passed to WBC this year will lead to improvements in Public Rights of Way (PROW) signage".

Cllr Mark Greenwell

"I joined HTC earlier this year and have been involved in the Highways & Transport and Environment & Planning committees. I am currently working, with Cllr. John Downe, on our Environmental Action Plan".



Cllr Ellie Yakar-Wells

"I have enjoyed another year of being part of the council, particularly so being able to be more involved in meeting the community in person without Covid restrictions. My highlights this year were seeing the town come together for the Jubilee celebrations and getting to see all the lovely gardens and owners for Hungerford in Bloom".



Cllr Keith Carlson

"I moved to Hungerford in September 2021 and joined the council in February 2022. So far, I've learned so much about the town and the many factors that make it a such a great place to live. As a councillor I want to help Hungerford retain and build on these features for the continued benefit of the people and the businesses based here".



Cllr Richard Hudson

"I tend to be mainly working on highways and transport related matters. My main achievement has been the introduction of the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) which I've been campaigning for over 10 years. We had to agree the locations with West Berkshire, and we have two SIDs that are rotating around the town. The A4 near the garden centre and A338 just south of Priory Road seem to be making a real difference, reminding drivers of the speed limits. Let us know of a speeding problem location for additional sites".



Cllr John Downe

"I've been a member of HTC since 2018. During the last year I've been very active on HTC's and our town's climate changing carbon emissions which largely come from road transport and domestic heating. I identified issues with the energy efficiency of the house that HTC are responsible for and formulated and oversaw an approach to significantly reduce the tenant's energy costs and the carbon footprint of the property. On road transport, I have been vocal and active on improving the infrastructure for zero emissions electric vehicle owners and visitors to the town. I've also been a long-standing member of the town's Neighbourhood Plan project team and as joint chair brought the project to a pivotal decision point during the year



Cllr Jerry Keates

"One of my achievements this year, have been pulling together a 15-person committee to organise the Queen's platinum Jubilee picnic at The Croft".



Cllr Derek Alford

"I work mainly with young people in Hungerford. I am a Hungerford Youth Centre Trustee. I have helped start up a youth Council which will be up and running within the next month or so. I believe young people need a strong voice in their local community and have a say in their future".



Cllr Nick Schlanker

"I have now been a Hungerford Town Councillor for over a year and have welcomed the opportunity to serve the town. As chair of Highways and Transport I've championed the purchase of the Speed Indicator Devices which are a key tool in our aim to help reduce the speed of traffic and improve road safety for us all"



Cllr Daniel Lewis

"My interest in the Town Council is to help the young people in our community grow and have things to do that will both build their CV's for later life and give them confidence in themselves. Myself and another Council members have started the Hungerford Youth Council to enable the youth of the town to have a say in what goes on in their community and make a difference. This is at its infancy and will only grow stronger and stronger over the coming year and beyond. Being on the Town Council gives us volunteers a chance to try and make a difference in our communities".



Cllr Keith Knight

"I have been attending regular meetings with the Mayor regarding the new 3G pitch planned for Hungerford in 2023 with the John O' Gaunt school and Hungerford Football Club. I also work as Chair of CHAIN and the Hungerford Library & Community Trust which keeps me busy. I have now taken over as the editor of CHAIN MAIL since the start of 2022".



Councillor vacancies

At full capacity the Town Council consists of 15 volunteer Councillors who are supported by the Town Clerk's team. This year we have waved goodbye to a long serving member Rob Chicken and to our Deputy Mayor Jon Shatford. We thank them both for their contribution to the community.

We currently have two vacancies and can consider filling them by co-option. All our

scheduled Town Council meetings are open to the public. There is always the option to come along and listen. Should you wish to speak at a meeting please let the Clerk know.

Elections

The ordinary elections, which take place every 4 years, are next due in May 2023. All 15 spaces will be available, so you may wish to consider putting your name forward in the spring.

If you're interested to find out more or wish to apply, please contact the Town Clerk or refer to our website for further details.

District Councillors

We continue to work closely with our District Councillors. If you have any issues you are struggling to resolve with West Berks Council, you may wish to contact them on dennis.benneyworth@westberks.gov.uk, claire.rowles1@westberks.gov.uk, james.cole@westberks.gov.uk





Recipients of the Freedom of the Town 2022

An awards ceremony took place on Sunday 9th October in the Corn Exchange to present three very worthy recipients with the Freedom of the Town. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Sarah Scrope presented the medals and read out the citations below. The Mayor, Helen Simpson presented the certificates...

Freedom of the Town is an event which fills you with pride and warmth. Hungerford

residents have a rich pool of recipients to choose from. As a town we really do punch above our weight when it comes to community volunteers. You cannot fail to be humbled by their enormous commitment to our community.

I cannot imagine Hungerford without the care, kindness and compassion each of this year's awardees has given to our community. Huge congratulation to Penny, Martin and Jennifer on your very deserved awards.





Martin Crane OBE

Martin joined the Town Council in 2008 and during his time as Councillor he held the office of Mayor of Hungerford for a total of 5 years, longer than any other Mayor in the history of Hungerford, finally stepping down as a councillor in 2021. This extraordinary commitment alone is deserving of this award.

His work on Tourism and bringing visitors to Hungerford was his passion and he succeeded in putting Hungerford on the map by helping the town become part of the Great West Way. He was instrumental in improving the High Street, campaigning tirelessly for the renovation of run-down buildings, and for introducing welcome signage. Martin established connections with local businesses and set up an annual event at the school to help leavers connect with local jobs and industry.

He continues to give his time in his 80s and is often seen out painting locks, weeding or planting trees with ARK and the church. He regularly mows the grass by the co-op garage and cuts back overgrown vegetation. He volunteers at Sunday School.

Penny Locke

Penny works tirelessly to organise events, promote local charities and businesses. She is a positive force for good in the town and wider community and an extraordinary networker and connector. Along with her

husband she produces Penny Post a weekly online newsletter and website promoting local events and organisations.

She started Hungerford Food Festival which has grown into regular monthly markets for local producers with an emphasis on sustainability and helping the environment. She is a member of the Hungerford Environmental Action Team and Hungerford Swap shop.

Penny has been involved with the local secondary school, John O Gaunt, as PSA Chair and helped run many fundraising events. She is also an ex-cub leader. Penny deserves official recognition for her exceptional contribution to the community over a number of years.

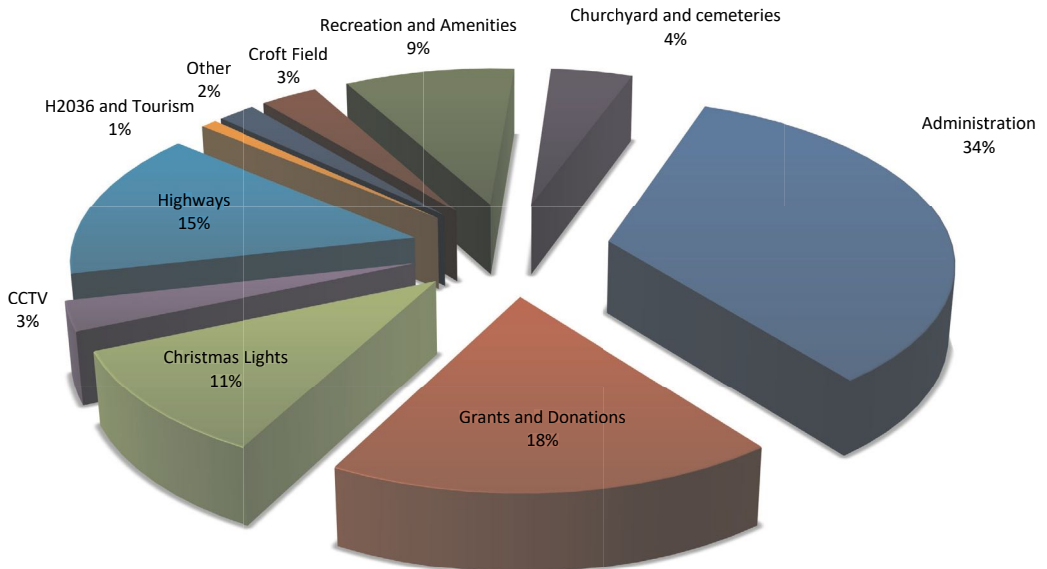
Jennifer Barrter

Jennifer has dedicated herself to the community for decades and aside from running the Bowls Club as membership secretary for a number of years, she is heavily involved with community support organisations.

She started and runs Hungerford Food Bank and despite this being a sharp learning curve, she goes out of her way to deliver food and other products to the housebound, isolated and homeless people in the town. Without her, many families in Hungerford would not cope.

Cost to Taxpayers

Breakdown of our Expenditure



Your feedback

If you think there is something you would like to see done or if you want to help in anyway, we welcome your feedback. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contact Hungerford Town Council via email admin@hungerford-tc.gov.uk or by phone 01488 686195.

You can follow us on Facebook or twitter.

www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

Finding out more about HTC's activities

HTC's website at www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk is regularly updated and has a wide range of information on all HTC's activities, including the agendas and minutes of meetings and a list of all the councillors and officers with their contact details. Lookout for our regular newsletter published by Penny Post Hungerford in the first week of each month which includes a summary of HTC's main activities. Subscription is free.

The Fortnightly Adviser (*a free fortnightly printed publication*) regularly features our Hungerford Matters article about our work.