



Bungay Town Council

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

Bungay Town Council is changing the way it operates with a move to improve how we connect with residents and better represent the interests of the town. Through more effective communication we hope to listen more carefully, provide more up to date information and undertake forward planning guided by the needs of residents. This newsletter is part of that approach.



You may have noticed that the council website has started to improve; that our notice boards are clearer and more informative; and that non-councillors are working with councillors on specific working parties. Our newly established offices in Broad Street, with a full-time clerk and a part-time assistant clerk mean it is much easier for residents to access the Council and their councillors.

Come to our Open Morning to celebrate our new offices and share a cup of tea with your councillors on 16th March, 10.00 a.m. -12.00 noon.



Bungay Town Council

So what else have we been doing these last 6 months?

- Acted to ensure that the Council is now compliant with all local authority legislation.
- Subsidised 1-hour free car parking costing £11,000.
- We have appointed a Street Cleaner/Groundsman so that together with the new staff team we can now serve the community much better
- Carried out bus stop repairs.
- Carried out critical repairs, essential maintenance and installation of safety railings to the Riverside Centre totalling about £12,000.
- Introduced a new IT system with secure encrypted emails to achieve compliance with GDPR legislation.
- Put in place a new financial system that allows us to be more transparent and complies with Auditor's requirements.
- Arranged a Radio Suffolk visit to raise the profile of Bungay within the county
- Liaised with our local press to improve coverage and information in The Beccles and Bungay Journal
- Donated about £7,000 to local groups including Christmas Lights, WW1 Commemorations, Bungay Arts & Theatre, Fireworks, Honeypot Trust, High School, Foodbank, Sea Scouts and BEBA.
- Developed a 3-year plan.



The Bungay Riverside Centre at The Staithe



Bungay Town Council

What have we planned for Bungay in the next 12 months?

- Installation of CCTV in the Town Centre to discourage anti –social behaviour and identify criminal activity.
- Installation of electric car charging points.
- Installation of Speed Indicator signs.
- Work to achieve 1st stage Council Quality Award.
- To work more closely with key groups within the town.
- Continue to develop stronger working relationships with local police.
- Create an electronic book of remembrance.
- Reintroduce the Lorry Watch scheme
- Install more waste and dog bins
- Continue to subsidise parking
- To continue to support the completion of the Neighbourhood Development Plan by the Steering Group.
- Improve Play Areas.
- Develop Residents' Liaison Group.
- Co-ordination of Christmas events.

Precept

At this point in the year financial planning and budget setting for 2019/2020 is at the top of the Council agenda. Considerable care has been taken to ensure that we have implemented all recent new legislation, fully addressed all financial responsibilities as well as absorbing the unforeseen costs needed to ensure that the Council was both transparent and fully compliant with the law as we go forward.

This has led to a decision to make a modest rise to the precept which will amount to 27 pence per week for those in band D housing. It is important to note that the final precept charge still compares favourably with other local councils like Halesworth – a town similar in size to Bungay.



Bungay Town Council

What are we working on for Bungay over the longer term?

- To achieve the Gold Standard in the Council Quality Awards
- To reinstate a 24-hour ATM in the town centre
- Planning the infrastructure needed for town expansion, social infrastructure, tourism, employment and leisure.

How to Contact Us

The council office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00am to 1.00pm

Telephone: 01986 894236.

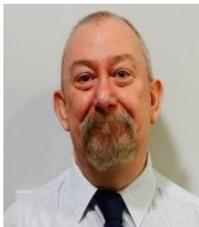
Email:

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Website: www.bungaytowncouncil@onesuffolk.net



Jeremy Burton – Town Clerk



Dell Adkins – Assistant Clerk



Steve Beckett - Groundsman