



Bungay Town Council **NEWSLETTER Summer 2019**



On the 16th May my fellow councillors voted for me to lead the council and represent Bungay as the town mayor for the coming year and for Bob Prior to be our deputy mayor. This is a great privilege and an opportunity to build upon the considerable progress already achieved.

Bungay is a beautiful and welcoming town with a strong sense of community, but for it to thrive and grow it is important that as a Council we work diligently within our powers to minimise the impact of the challenges faced by communities such as ours; build on our strengths, and plan responsibly for the future. This newsletter gives some highlights of how we are implementing this within the context of our long-term plan. We hope we have your support in all that is being undertaken on your behalf.

My chosen charity this year is the Fisher Theatre. This local charity represents in many ways the character of Bungay. Not only is it a critical part of our social, cultural and historic heritage which contributes to the local economy but it also acts as a hub for a wide range of activities for local groups of all ages and abilities. Recently the theatre has been given the opportunity to own outright the building if it can raise £150,000. I hope that with community wide support this can be achieved so as to secure its future for generations to come.

Sue Collins, Mayor

Bungay Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP)

It is hoped to have the BNDP completed by the end of this year. Once adopted it is legally binding just like the recently completed district wide

Waveney Local Plan. This means that future planners and developers must adhere to it when building new homes and putting in place the community infrastructure essential for the town's future. Local surveys and expert advice from government bodies will ensure that the unique character of Bungay is reflected in the modern designs of the 557 homes to be built south of the town whilst incorporating 21st century technology. Soon a first draft of key policies will be circulated to all residents followed by a final draft which will be put to a referendum before it can be adopted. The reception area of the council offices have displays from local survey results.

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

As part of our commitment to reducing traffic speeding through the Town, the Council has installed 2 portable SID's which will be rotated between 6 locations. Suffolk County Councillor David Ritchie supported this project with a grant which part funded the purchase of the SID's.

These devices record vehicle numbers, speed and size. This information can be passed onto the Police to assist with speed enforcement and used for the longer-term planning of traffic control within the town.

Policing in Bungay

In a meeting between Inspector Liz Casey, the town clerk and councillors concerns were raised regarding the deficiencies of the 101 system. She emphasised that even with the problems it is important to continue to report incidents and confirmed a dedicated police officer will be visible in Bungay to assist with anti-social behaviour and parking issues. The police support the installation of the SID's and CCTV as positive measures in fighting crime. It is anticipated that the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement will commence towards the end of the year.

CCTV

In response to the loss of a Bungay based Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) we began an assessment of a CCTV system. Recent crime

statistics are surprisingly much higher than anticipated; for 2018 there were 57 Anti-Social Crimes and 32 Public Order crimes.

Our assessment involved advice from the Police, nearby towns with CCTV systems, experts in planning and enforcement as well as security companies. A risk assessment was undertaken to make sure we complied with the Data Protection Code of Practice for Surveillance Cameras and the Gathering of Personal Information published by the Information Commissioners Office.

13 CCTV cameras will be located on 6 buildings and a receiver on the Council Offices. The Receiver Unit will be in a locked room and images will be viewed only by designated town council staff or the Police.

Planning Applications for installation of the CCTV cameras are with East Suffolk Council and it is expected camera installation will begin in September of this year.

Goodbye and Hello to Fellow Councillors

Prior to the May local council elections, Cllr. Lizzie Samkin decided for personal reasons not to stand again. We thank her for her contribution to the operation of the council. However, Lizzie will continue to play an active part in the litter pick which we expect to run at regular intervals.



We welcome the return of Judy Cloke to the council and two new co-opted councillors; Michael Atterwill and Lorna Richardson. Lorna went to both Bungay Middle and High Schools. She currently works as

a lecturer at the UEA, and is an archaeologist, with a recent background in planning and historic environment protection. Michael has lived in Bungay all his life and is regularly seen at many local events as he is a volunteer with the St John Ambulance charity.

Bungay Town Council's New Status

Thanks to the successful completion of the CiLCa Award, Jeremy our Town Clerk has raised our status to that of *Competent Council*. This status provides greater authority for the council to act on behalf of the community and councillors wish to take this opportunity to congratulate him for his hard work in achieving the award.

Community Matters

As part of the Council's commitment 'to work more closely with key groups' there are now plans to introduce a Good Neighbour Scheme and a separate project to highlight volunteering opportunities across the local area.

The Good Neighbour scheme will link volunteers with those who are living independently but could do with a bit of a hand from time to time. If you would be interested in using such a service or would like to volunteer please complete the online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BungayNeighbour>. Forms are available from; the GP surgery, library, Fisher Theatre and the Council offices.

The Live Well project is also being developed. It has a broader scope and aims to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities for those who would like to get more involved in our community but not sure where to start. This is an opportunity to help promote new and existing groups and clubs in and around Bungay and has the potential to forge new networks and bring people together to reduce loneliness, keep active and generally improve quality of life. More details about both projects will be shared shortly.

How to Contact us

The council office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am to 1.00pm
Telephone: 01986 894236

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