



The Greyhound

The Official Newsletter of Marlborough Town Council Issue no. 16 September 2006

Litter in Priory Gardens & Coopers Meadow

The Town Council's outdoor staff are having to spend increasing amounts of time clearing up litter in The Priory Gardens and Coopers Meadow. Irresponsible users of the gardens are leaving behind food wrappers, bottles and other general litter that takes over an hour every morning to collect. However, at a recent meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee Councillors discussed the possible

impact of the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 on the litter problems.

Under the Act Parish and Town councils are given new powers to issue on the spot fines for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog fouling. The Committee agreed to carry out further investigation into the costs of training the Town Council's outdoor staff to carry out the new powers.



CHANGES TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING IN MARLBOROUGH

What is a DPE?

Wiltshire County Council in partnership with Kennet and North Wiltshire District Councils, is preparing to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE). This means

That the County Council will take over the enforcement of on-street parking restrictions from the Police. Kennet and North Wiltshire District Councils will then manage the enforcement process on behalf of the County Council. Under the current legislation the District Council are responsible for all On-street parking enforcement. However, when DPE comes into force, the District Councils will manage both on and off street parking enforcement which will enable the District Council to

direct resources to specific problem areas.

There will be no changes to the existing parking restriction at this time however maintenance work is being carried out to ensure that the signs and lines are correct.

DPE goes live throughout the districts of Kennet and North Wiltshire on 4th September 2006.

What are the benefits?

- * A co-ordinated and locally accountable parking enforcement service can be achieved across the County both on and off-street.
- * Roads can be kept clear of illegally parked vehicles which create safety and obstruction issues.
- * Improved enforcement will support town centre needs by encouraging use of long stay car parks to free up the short stay places.

* An improved turnover of short stay parking restrictions which will benefit the commercial viability of town centres.

* Improved enforcement will assist blue badge holders by ensuring that the dedicated spaces are not abused.

* Residents parking schemes will be able to be introduced and enforced effectively.

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RECYCLING SCHEME 2006

There are now permanent recycling facilities available for cardboard and plastic in the George Lane Car Park

SOS – MARLBOROUGH'S CREDIT UNION

Marlborough's own credit union (part of Kennet Credit Union – KCU) has been running now for about 12 months – but it needs some help to enable it to expand further. Several Town Councillors are already actively involved, but more volunteers and members are needed.

The Credit Union is a local savings and loans scheme, run by and for its members. It provides an alternative to the main banking system (it can for example offer small loans which might not interest a High Street bank) and to the 'door step' lenders or even "loan sharks".

The scheme is not intended to encourage people into debt, but

links its loans to continued saving by the member.

Members are encouraged to budget for and save for those bits of expenditure which might otherwise tip the family budget into 'the danger zone' and loans (at low interest rates and without hidden charges) are there if needed.

In Marlborough the Credit Union operates a collection point at Christchurch on Tuesdays between 11.00am and 12noon. This provides an opportunity for members to deposit savings or arrange to withdraw sums of money. The Credit Union is in discussion with Sarsen Housing with a view to opening one or two other collection points.

The Credit Union is not just for those on low(er) incomes, although helping the financially disadvantaged is a large part of its mission. KCU can be as strong as its membership base.

As well as volunteers we also need more ordinary saving members to give us the firm foundation from which we can offer more services.

Can you help by joining the Credit Union, becoming a volunteer helper, or by spreading the word about KCU in Marlborough? If so please contact either Councillor Mrs Peggy Dow (512074) or Mr John Thomson, Vice Chairman (516190)

To find out more about credit union activities in this area.

SHOULD COUNCIL BE A SCROOGE

Following disappointment with the Christmas lights in Marlborough last year the Council agreed to consider becoming involved with provision of lighting in future years. Although Marlborough Town Council had never been involved before they were aware that neighbouring Town Councils such as Devizes, Hungerford and Calne all contribute significant amounts of public money to provide displays.

Subsequently representatives from the Town Council, joined with the Chamber of Commerce, the Spirit of Christmas Committee, Marlborough Area Development Trust, the Rotary Club and others to discuss what would happen in 2006.

At the meeting on the 30th May, those present unanimously agreed that it was not viable to erect Christmas Lights this year, unless they were of a standard they could be proud of.

The meeting also decided to work in partnership to plan for a new scheme of lights for Christmas 2007 and it was agreed that the community would be consulted to give everyone a chance to contribute.

The capital or setting up costs of such a scheme will probably be in the order of £15,000 to £20,000, with additional annual costs.

The Town Council were recently accused incorrectly in the press of cancelling Christmas, this prompted

a group of concerned representatives of the Marlborough business community, to meet and try to raise money for Christmas lights for this year, their successful fund raising efforts have been reported in the Wiltshire Gazette. The Town Council have been asked to debate the inclusion of funds within their 2007/08 budget towards the provision of Christmas lighting. If the Council agree this would mean the costs would be levied on the precept.

Should the Council be Scrooge or should the Council work in partnership with others to provide a display that the Town can be proud of?

What do you think?

MARLBOROUGH LATE SKATE

A series of consultation exercises with young people throughout Wiltshire and within the Kennet District have shown that alternative sports such as skate boarding are more popular than traditional sports such as cricket.

To that end the young people of Marlborough have the opportunity to receive specialised skate boarding coaching from Rubicon Skateboards (Andover) to help them learn and develop new skills and tricks.

Following local consultation John Bordis (Police Community Support Officer) said "After talking to young people in Marlborough, skateboarding came high on the list of activities they wanted to do". Therefore Kennet District

Council and Wiltshire Police worked in partnership to secure funding from the Kennet Community Safety Partnership and Sarsen Housing, with Marlborough Town Council kindly offering the use of the former tennis court site at Salisbury Road which made the project a reality. The session will run every Tuesday from 25th July to 26th September 2006 from 7pm–9pm at The Recreation Ground, Salisbury Road, Marlborough.

Councillor Paula Winchcombe was delighted that Kennet had listened to and been able to react to local need and said that "It's great that local agencies, organisations and Partnerships have been able to work together to supply a local need that helps make young people more active".



John Bordiss (P.C.S.O.) & WPC Emma Brown with Claire Draper from Kennet District Council Leisure Services



Mayor Councillor Castle, Deputy Mayor Councillor P. Dow, John Bordiss, and Emma Brown with some of the youngsters.

MARLBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME

The Scheme run entirely by volunteers, has now been offering a good neighbour service in Marlborough and the surrounding villages for 9 years and each year the number of requests for our service continues to rise.

We are now reaching the stage where the number of volunteer drivers, who are paid a mileage allowance and who take clients to hospital, surgeries, shopping or local visits has not kept pace with the increasing number of requests received.

WE NOW URGENTLY REQUIRE NEW VOLUNTEERS

If you are looking for a rewarding way to help those in the community but do not wish to make a regular commitment, and have a clean driving licence, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Helen McKim on 01672 515944 she will be only too pleased to hear from you and give you details of the Scheme



Council supports Fair Trade

At a recent meeting it was resolved that "Marlborough Town Council actively support Fair Trade and will commit to using Fair Trade products at their meetings and for staff where applicable."

A spokesperson for the Marlborough Fair Trade Group welcomed the support of the Town Council, which is a big step towards gaining Fair Trade status for the Town. Details of retailers who stock Fair Trade products can be obtained from the Council Offices at 5 High Street.

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Marlborough Christmas Craft Fair will be held in the Town Hall on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd of December 2006 between 10am and 5pm.

There will be unique and unusual crafts and gifts for Christmas and the home.

A donation will be made to the Mayors charity.

TODDLER'S PLAY AREA SALISBURY ROAD

The Town Council have had to take the decision to remove two items from the toddler's play area on the Salisbury Road Recreation Ground. Following a report by the Town Council's Health and Safety Officer two items are considered to be a hazard to children due to de-lamination of



the structure.

The area has suffered from vandalism in the past and the pieces of equipment and fencing have been damaged. The Town Council will be considering a strategy for the play area at a future meeting.

If you wish to comment on any planning applications within the Marlborough Parish, please send your letter to Kennet District Council's Planning Department and a copy to Marlborough Town Council.

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Compiled by Linda Chapman Civic Secretary

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Mayor

Councillor B. Castle 513955

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow 512074

Councillor S. R. Dobson 512691

Councillor M. P. Cooper 514747

Councillor W. B. Cavill 516479

Councillor G. Francis 519067

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford 513181

Councillor N. Fogg 512656

Councillor M. Gray 514392

Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson 515700

Councillor M. C. Curtis 515391

Councillor D. I. Parker 514004

Councillor R. J. Allen 511184

Councillor P. B. Cossey 512587

Councillor A. R. Ross 512169

Councillor A. Kirk Wilson 513861



SURGERIES

Councillors hold a regular surgery every month in the Library from 10.00am to 11.00am.

The dates and Councillors due to be present in September, October and November are:

Saturday 2nd September 2006

Councillor B. Castle (West Ward)

Councillor D. Parker (East Ward)

Saturday 1st October 2006

Councillor Mrs C. Jackson (West Ward)

Councillor Mrs E. M Hannaford (East Ward)

Saturday 4th November 2006

Councillor N. Fogg (West Ward)

Councillor Mrs P. Dow (East Ward)