

THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL

King's House, King Street, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2AP

Tel: 01842 754247

Fax: 01842 762567

Email: mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Offices Opening Hours:

Public counter service available from 9.00a.m. to 1.00p.m. Monday to Friday



THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Moving Thetford forward



Town Clerk: Ed Chambers

Dear Resident

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Town Council newsletter, but the first to appear in 2009. On the following pages you will find news relating to some of the work the Town Council has been carrying out over the past few months. To keep up to date and informed you can attend the Council meetings which are held in the Council Chamber, King's House. The dates of the next meetings are 25th February and the 25th March. The Council meetings are preceded by an Open Forum starting at 7.00pm. The Open Forum provides fifteen minutes for the press and public to ask questions and pass comments. You can also go online to the Town Council website on www.thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk where you can find Council news, agendas and minutes of past meetings. We are currently working on this website to give it a new up-to-date look and be more user friendly.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL - FINANCIAL PLANNING 2009/10

The Council has set its Budget for 2009/10, a summary of which is set out below. The precept is the amount collected through the Council Tax and is being increased by 2.5%. As the number of taxable dwellings in the town has increased slightly during the past year, the Council Tax increase will be limited to 2.3%, with the Band 'D' charge increasing from £78.87 to £80.67 (an increase of less than 4 pence per week).

The Council has managed to reduce and/or contain its costs in some areas of its operation over the past year while at the same time taking on additional responsibilities such as the bus station toilets (the money received from Breckland Council only covered the toilets in Cage Lane and Castle Park) and the new Castle Park play area. It has also decided to increase its financial support of the Diss, Thetford & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

	Budget 2008/9	Projected 2008/9	Budget 2009/10
Cultural and Environmental Services			
<u>Cultural and Related Services:</u>	£	£	£
Civic	30,300	29,588	27,557
Guildhall Complex	66,940	71,718	53,779
Allotments	5,650	3,175	1,800
Markets	-4,888	-1,153	-938
Amenities/Maintenance & Community Support	141,982	147,961	175,196
<u>Environmental Services:</u>			
Burials	44,945	45,556	31,565
Central Services			
Properties	-36,560	-38,494	-56,300
Administration	266,566	272,129	263,797
Interest and Investment income	-10,500	-16,250	-9,400
Reserve movements	11,500	11,500	41,500
Precept	-516,000	-516,000	-528,900
Budgeted or Projected Surplus / Deficit	-65	9,730	-344
<u>Notes on above figures</u>			
a) Services figures: plus = net cost / minus = net income			
b) Precept figures = council tax income			
c) Bottom Line figures: plus = deficit / minus = surplus			

THETFORD PRIORY

Thetford Priory and Holy Sepulchre Sites

The Council has entered into a contract with English Heritage, which has provided funding to enable the Council to take responsibility for the day-to-day management of these important sites. There is now a gate to the Priory site, unlocked first thing in the morning and locked at dusk. It is hoped that this will offer a greater measure of protection. There is also a dedicated litter collection service around both sites, with the litter bins emptied regularly. Talking of which...



Litter and Dog Waste Bins

The Council will be installing litter and dog waste bins in various locations around the town between now and the end of March in response to many requests received over recent months.

The next Council newsletter will appear in the Spring and include the Council's 2007/8 Annual Report, providing readers with a comprehensive review of the current year's activities.

ALLOTMENT UPDATE

There has been a lot of activity at all the allotment sites since May 2008. After much planning and discussions the security fence has been installed around the Mundford Road site. Keys have been issued to all allotment holders on that site.

The terms and conditions that are issued to all allotment holders have been updated to make them easier to understand.

There is now the facility to hire half size plots if a full plot is too large for your needs.

On the Mundford Road site there have been seven new full size and five half size plots marked and these have all been allocated.

It has been a busy year with a renewed interest in hiring an allotment. Thirty eight new plots have been allocated since May across all sites.

There are several allotment holders that have been served with a notice to quit. This means these plots will be available and they will be offered out during January.

The waiting list currently stands at forty-two across all sites. This has reduced from one hundred and thirteen as at 1st August 2008.

Letters have been sent to registered holders not cultivating their plots requesting that they cultivate their plot or give them up so that we can reallocate to people on the waiting list.



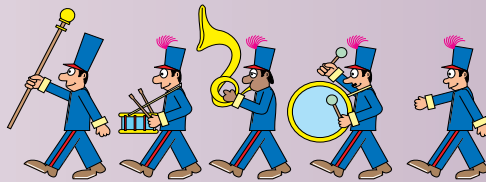
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Christmas has come and gone and we have removed the Christmas illuminations from the town centre. This year we were pleased to extend the icicle lighting into Bridge Street and Guildhall Street and make a special feature of the Guildhall. After our appeal to the businesses for donations towards the Christmas illuminations it was possible to purchase more illuminations. It costs £10,000 to install the lights and then take them down again which all has to be done to the strictest health & safety code. We are very pleased to report that there was no vandalism with only one bulb going missing. The businesses listed below together donated a total of £2,665 towards the appeal and we would like to thank them for their support.

Shadwell Estate Company Ltd
Roys (Wroxham) Ltd
Mac Inns - Deers Leap
Car Care Centre Ltd
Specsavers Opticians
Jeyes Ltd
Garmet Ltd
Crowe Livestock Underwriting Ltd
Norwich & Peterborough Building Society
The Wreham House Hotel

Purely You
Hughes Electrical
Thetford Glass Company
Metcalfe Copeman & Pettefar
Simon Long Removals Ltd
Leaping Fish
Simark Accountants
Baxter Healthcare Ltd
Guardline Technology Ltd
Larry Gray

Forthcoming Band Concerts



7th June	11.30	King's House Gardens as part of the Thomas Paine celebrations
5th July	2.30	King's House Gardens
2nd August	2.30	King's House Gardens
6th September	2.30	King's House Gardens
4th October	2.30	Sing-A-Long in the Carnegie

Refreshments are available. There are raffles in aid of the Mayor's charity. Chairs are limited so please bring a blanket to sit on. If it is wet, the concerts are held in the Carnegie Room.

CASTLE PARK PLAY AREA



The Castle Park play area was completed in time for Christmas. It is proving to be very popular which is very pleasing. The replacement of the old equipment with all new equipment was made possible by the organisations listed below funding the scheme.

Thetford Town Council
Big Lottery
Round Table

Thetford (Breckland) Lioness Club

Breckland Council
Wren
Shadwell Stud Ltd



KING'S HOUSE GARDENS

King's House Gardens are managed by the Town Council on behalf of the Staniforth Trust.

The gardens have been closed to the public whilst they were undergoing a winter seasonal tidy up. At the time of writing the weather is too cold to plant the winter bedding and evergreens, however by the time you read this the planting should have been completed.

CGM Landscaping Services are preparing a weekly, monthly, and seasonal schedule with an ongoing plan for the garden which they will be working to over the next twelve months.

The shrubs at the front of the house to the right have been removed. A new bed which will be filled with winter bedding plants surrounded by turf is being created.

