

Southam Town Council Newsletter

PRECEPT EDITION 2011

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk



SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT FINANCIAL YEAR 2011/2012

NO INCREASE ... Again

For the third year in succession, Southam Town Council has kept its Council Tax Charge at the same level. The Council set a budget of £174,340 and the Town Council tax for a Band D property remains at £73.72.

A programme to upgrade street lighting, begun in 2007, is paying dividends because Warwickshire County Council is now responsible for lighting costs in the up-graded areas. Consequently the Town Council's street lighting costs are lower than they might otherwise have been. In addition there are now more council tax payers in the town because of new housing developments.

This year the Council has decided to invest in a major refurbishment of Park Lane Recreation Ground (partly paid for by housing developers and funds from the Council's own reserves) and to press ahead with plans for a play area for under eights at Mayfield Road. £4,600 has been allocated to help maintain St James churchyard and £7,500 for travel tokens for disabled residents and those over 65 years of age. Up to £10,000 is available for grants to community groups.

Over £5,000 remains in the Credit Crunch budget from which the Council has facilitated Citizens Advice Bureau visits to Southam by renting space in Southam Library from Warwickshire County Council.

The Council's Aims are: -

- * To improve the service it provides whilst ensuring best value for money.
- * To work with others to improve safety, the environment and quality of life in the town, paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable members of the community.
- * To regularly and effectively consult the community.
- * To promote the local economy.

TOLLGATE ROAD PLAY AREA

Southam Town Council is currently in negotiations with Warwickshire County Council to renew the lease on the Tollgate Road Play Area.

The governing body of St James Primary School has asked that WCC fence off a section of the area, not occupied by play equipment, to provide a school playing field that would be for the exclusive use of the school during school hours but open to the public evenings weekend and school holidays.

Southam Town Council objects to this proposal, which it considers to be unworkable; it would involve the town in additional expense for maintenance and grass cutting and result in the loss of valuable public open space. The Town Council wishes to renew the lease in its current form. This allows the school use of the area but not exclusivity.

Negotiations continue!

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS 5th MAY 2011

Would **you** like to **influence** the way local services are provided?

Why not become a Town Councillor?

Town Councils have an overall responsibility for the well being of the local community. Their work falls into three main categories.

- * Representing the local community
- * Delivering services to meet local needs
- * Working to improve quality of life in the town.

As a Town Councillor you will be involved in decision making through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, deciding which activities to support, where local council tax money should be spent and what services should be delivered.

Nomination papers will be available from the Town Council Office, Tel. 01926 814004 or email clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk and must be returned to Stratford District Council by noon on 25th March 2011

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT ON REQUEST

**SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING DATES 2011**

Thursday 24th March 2011
Thursday 28th April 2011
Thursday 26th May 2011

Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Southam and start at 7.30pm - members of the public are welcome and may speak at the start of the meeting.

SOUTHAM GARDENS OPEN DAY

Southam In Bloom is organising Southam Gardens Open Day this year – last held in 2005. Big gardens, small gardens, some with work in progress – you'll certainly go home with new ideas!



SUNDAY JULY 17TH 2011, from 11am – 5pm

PLAY AREA UPDATE! MAYFIELD ESTATE & PARK LANE



At the time of going to press Orbit Housing has submitted a planning application to SDC for its joint project with Southam Town Council for a new play area on the **Mayfield Road Estate**. The scheme will go ahead once planning permission is granted.

Following extensive consultations with residents, children and young people, the orders have now been placed for exciting new equipment for the **Park Lane Recreation Ground**. Work on this major refurbishment is scheduled to be completed by **May 2011 in time for the Carnival**.

DOG FOULING in Southam streets and open spaces is an increasing problem and Southam Council has received numerous complaints.



Please clean up after your dog! You may be liable to a £75 fixed penalty fine if you fail to do so.

Dog waste can now be disposed of in ordinary litterbins providing it is properly wrapped.

The Town and District Councils take dog fouling very seriously and if you are caught allowing your dog to foul in any space which is open to the public including bridleways and footpaths you will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED! !

SAVING AND BORROWING

Would you like –

- An easy way to save?
- To borrow at a good rate?
- To be part of a money-saving organisation that serves its members not outside shareholders?

If so your local Credit Union could be just for you. South Warwickshire Credit Union collection point at Southam is at the Graham Adams Centre, every Friday, 10am to 11am. For further information come along on a Friday or ring 07853 423287.

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
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