

# Southam Town Council

## Newsletter

### PRECEPT

FEBRUARY 2019

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

#### PRECEPT MEETING

Southam Town Council resolved to set a budget for the financial year 2019/2020 of £234,110; this is to be offset by income of £6,540, £5,000 taken from General Reserves and a Council Tax Reduction Grant of £2,120.



The Town Council's portion of the Council Tax for a Band D tax payer will increase by £1.63 or 2.02% per annum.

#### TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2019/2020

##### GENERAL

##### Management £

Contribution to Grange Hall utilities	1,434
Audit Fee	1,200
Insurance	3,550
Legal Fees & Services	1,500
Neighbourhood Plan	500
Telephone/fax/email	2,161
Postage	900
Office	2,330
Bank Charges	375
Intruder Alarm	386
Web Site Maintenance	611

##### Total Management 14,947

##### Salaries

Total Salaries (Inc. costs)	69,970
Travelling Expenses (Cllrs & Staff)	350
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Expenses</b>	<b><u>70,320</u></b>

##### Information

Newsletter	2,473
Stationery	812
Membership Associations	1,863
Conference/Training Fees	700
Advertising	1,000
<b>Total Information</b>	<b><u>6,848</u></b>

##### Mayoral

Allowance	1,860
Regalia	1,650
<b>Total Mayoral</b>	<b><u>3,510</u></b>

##### Miscellaneous

Fields Farm Solar Grant Distribution	5,000
Election	1,000

##### TOTAL GENERAL 101,625

##### Recreation & Amenities £

Trees	15,000
Holy Well	3,000
CCTV	6,947
Footpaths	5,000
<b>Total Recreation &amp; Amenities</b>	<b><u>29,947</u></b>

#### TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET cont. 2019/2020

##### Maintenance & Repairs:

Repairs/inspect's/replacements	5,000
Aquasentry Maintenance	675
Grounds Maintenance Services	8,262
Hire of portable toilets	400
<b>Total Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>	<b><u>14,337</u></b>

##### TOTAL RECREATION, AMENITIES & MAINT 44,284

##### OTHER

##### The Grange Hall

Capital Expenditure	1,000
<b>Total Grange Hall</b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>

##### Street Lighting

Maintenance	1,817
Supply of Electricity	7,365
Columns & Repairs	33,000
<b>Total Street Lighting</b>	<b><u>42,182</u></b>

##### Grass Cutting (Play Areas & Churchyard)

Grass Cutting	15,590
<b>Total Grass Cutting</b>	<b><u>15,590</u></b>

##### Community Grants

Volunteer Transport Support	11,000
Section 137 grants	13,000
Cab LGA 1972 S2a	209
Southam Christmas Lights	2,220
Southam in Bloom	3,000
<b>Total Community Grants</b>	<b><u>29,429</u></b>

##### TOTAL OTHER 88,201

##### TOTAL BUDGET £234,110

Less Total Income -6,540

Less taken from General Reserves -5,000

Council Tax Reduction Grant -2,120

**PRECEPT UPON SDC £220,450**

##### Band D Taxpayer

2018/19 £80.45                      2019/20 **£82.08**

Increase for a band D property £1.63 or 2.02% per annum

#### COUNCIL MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting will take place at the Grange Hall, Southam on Thursday 21 February 2019 starting at 7.30pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak at the start of the meeting.

## YOU CAN BE A TOWN COUNCILLOR IN 2019

What do you think of your Town Council? Do you think you could do better? Although (at the time of writing) no general election is planned for 2019, local elections will be held on Thursday 2 May and this year all seats on Southam Town Council will be subject to re-election.

Some members of the current council will not be standing for re-election and there is already an unfilled vacancy. It also is bad for democracy if seats on the council are uncontested. This means Southam needs new candidates to come forward.

The qualifications to be a candidate are simply that you be over 18, a British or Commonwealth citizen and live or work in the council area. You would also need to have some free time in the evenings to prepare for and to attend meetings (especially on Thursdays). Training classes are regularly available for new councillors and you soon pick up what you are expected to do.

Being a Town or Parish councillor is a voluntary role so you don't get paid for your time but it can be an interesting and very rewarding experience. Topics dealt with can range from tree management to commenting on planning applications and helping other volunteer organisations for the benefit of residents.

For more information please see [www.walc.org.uk/information/become-a-councillor](http://www.walc.org.uk/information/become-a-councillor) or attend the briefing session in the Grange Hall on Thursday 7 February at 7pm. Feel free to contact a member of the current Council or the Town Clerk if you have any questions.



## FRENCH MARKET TO RETURN TO SOUTHAM

The ever-popular French Market is set to return on Sunday 7th April. Assuming stallholders are not held up at post-Brexit customs, all your favourite stalls will be there. If you are a retail business in Southam and you wish to take advantage of the opportunity of visitors to the town, why not open for the duration to attract new customers? Of special interest would be those selling drinks (hot or cold) to help wash down the continental delicacies.

For more information on this and how your business can be involved please contact the organisers, Southam First at [info@southam.co.uk](mailto:info@southam.co.uk) or call Katherine Geddes on 07787 293945.

## SOUTHAM'S DEFIBRILLATORS



Did you know Southam has a number of emergency public defibrillators distributed about the town?

They are located at St. Wulstan Court, Tesco Store, the Fire Station and Southam College.

Instructions are on the front of each cabinet.

## NEW "WELCOME TO SOUTHAM" MAP

The town map on the notice board in the centre of town has been updated and will soon be installed. This will make it easier for visitors to find their way around. Thanks to Southam Civic Ideas Forum and David Thompson of Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions for their efforts to regain the master files and make the updates.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS THANK-YOU

Following another spectacular display in 2018, the Town Council, on behalf of the town, wishes to express its thanks to the Southam Christmas Lights Association and all the volunteers for the hard work in fundraising, maintenance, installation and removal of the lights. This work goes on throughout the year, not just Christmas and it is much appreciated.

## GRANGE HALL WEB SITE REFRESHED

The new Grange Hall web site recently went live with more up to date style and content. There are also more details on the spaces for hire, current availability and pricing. The new platform also makes it easier to stay informed about groups with regular activities there. Why not try it out? [www.thegrangehall.co.uk](http://www.thegrangehall.co.uk)

**MAYOR:** Councillor Lee Ellard  
**TOWN CLERK:** Mrs D Carro, Town Council Offices, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA  
(Tel: 01926 814004) email: [clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)  
**Editor:** Councillor Graham Foster 01926 812183