

Southam Town Council Newsletter



JULY 2015

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

MAYOR'S REPORT 2014/15

During the past 12 months I have had the privilege to be your Mayor. Although at times it has been difficult to juggle both work and mayoral commitments I have enjoyed the experience and believe that I am a better person because of it. My wife Rachel and myself have had the pleasure of the company of some very inspiring individuals who too continue to work at the forefront and behind the scenes to make the town of Southam a great place to live. This is also true of people whom we have met from neighbouring towns and parishes during my mayoral duties.

I have enjoyed many events this year as Mayor and a few stand out in my mind. The annual 'Side by Side' production at the Royal Spa Centre and the WW1 100th anniversary service in Warwick were both truly inspiring. The annual Switch On of Southam Christmas Lights turned out to be another success. A large crowd turned out in what was good weather. This could have been so different if I had carried out the request by Bob Broly to sing 'Jingle Bells' in front of everyone. Maybe the Mayor next year can start a new tradition?

The construction of Tithelodge, the redevelopment of the old Victor Hodge's site, is nearly complete. With this, the relocation of the new library will bring a much required community service back to the centre of the town. Stratford District Council in partnership with Warwickshire County Council and taking into account Southam Town Council's representations, has now started the improvement of Market Hill and Wood Street. **This follows extensive consultation with every address in Southam being surveyed. Seven hundred residents and traders responded to the survey.**

My chosen charities this year were Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. My family has first hand experience of the care which Marie Curie can provide and the air ambulance is regularly above the skies of Southam. It is reassuring to know that these services are available should they be needed. With that in mind it is with pleasure that I announce that £2187.87 will be shared between both charities enabling them to support the people within the Southam area.

During my time as Southam Town Councillor I have been proud to serve the town next to some very dedicated individuals. Many of them have since moved on to new challenges in their lives; some have simply retired from the council having served for many years, and others continue to serve. To all of you, I thank you for your time, guidance and dedication. I wish you all well for the future. I would also like to thank my wife, family and friends who have supported me during my time as Mayor.

Finally and not least I would like to say thank you to Debbie, Denise and Carole for their support during my time as Councillor and Mayor. At times their tireless work goes unnoticed but without them the Town Council would simply not function. Thank you.

ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

At the May meeting Councillor Jason Ward was elected to serve a second term as Mayor.



The Mayor's diary is managed by the Deputy Town Clerk. If you wish the Mayor to attend an event, please write or email giving brief details of the event. We will check the diary for the Mayor's availability. If he is free, an event form will be sent asking for further details of what is required of the Mayor on the day.

The Mayor will make every effort to be able to attend your event, giving priority to Southam organisations.

TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES

Despite two elections having been arranged insufficient people were nominated to fill the seats on the Town Council.

Following the first election the Council was inquorate and two members of the previous council were appointed by Stratford District Council to allow the routine business to continue. All those elected were elected unopposed.

Additional volunteers then came forward and these too were elected unopposed making the Council quorate and allowing those temporarily appointed to step down. Eight vacancies remain and further volunteers are **urgently** needed. A few hours per month of your time is all it takes.

The Town Council intends to co-opt additional members at the July meeting. If you are interested in serving your town, please write to the Town Clerk giving brief details of why you wish to become a councillor.

VASA HAS MOVED to the GRANGE HALL



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS AND WHEELCHAIR HIRE CAN NOW BE FOUND IN THE GRANGE HALL MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10AM TO 12 NOON

01926 817525

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND COUNCIL MEETING PAPERS

can be viewed at Southam Town Council Offices at the Grange Hall between the hours of 9am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

Plans are also available online at

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk
or www.stratford.gov.uk

DOG FOULING

PLEASE do not permit your dog to urinate in shop or residential doorways. Always clean up after it! Failure to pick up after your dog may result in a **£75 fixed penalty fine**. Properly wrapped dog waste can be placed in litter bins.



Dog Fouling enforcement is the responsibility of STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PLEASE CONTACT THE DOG WARDEN ON 01789 260839 OR YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ON STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community/dog-warden-services.cfm>

CLlr Andy Crump 07899904189
CLlr Tony Bromwich 07879670599

VANDALISM

Once again Southam has been suffering from a spate of very costly vandalism. If you know anything that could help catch those responsible for wasting **YOUR** money then please call Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team on **01926 684984**

or email southam.snt@Warwickshire.police.uk

RUBBISH IN THE RIVER STOWE IN PARK LANE

Southam Town Council 's contractor regularly removes rubbish from the River Stowe where it runs through the Park Lane Recreation Ground.

Please report to the Southam Safer Neighbourhood team 01926 684984 or the Town Clerk 01926 814004 if you know who is responsible for dumping this rubbish.

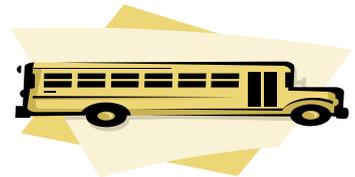
TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE OVER 65s!

Generous residents of Southam have handed back a further £500 worth of Travel Tokens to the Town Council. As previously, this money will now be used to assist **Southam based organisations** provide travel for the over 65s.

Grants of a maximum of £100 each will be awarded to Southam based organisations to be used to provide subsidised or free travel for Southam residents aged over 65. The travel may be for any purpose, e.g. providing help to attend meetings, events, appointments, day trips etc.

Send to the Deputy Clerk, Southam Town Council, Grange Hall, Southam CV47 1QA or email deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

Grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis.



Application for Travel Grant

Name of Organisation.....

AmountMaximum £100

Purpose of funding.....

.....
.....
.....

I confirm that this organisation is based in Southam and that any monies awarded will be used exclusively to assist with travel for Southam residents aged over 65 years of age and that I will provide feedback to the Council once the grant has been spent.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....
.....
.....

Date.....

Designation.....

Office use only Date received.....

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

YOUR TOWN

2014/15 saw the long running saga of the Tollgate Play area lease finally resolved. A compromise solution was reached giving St James School enhanced open space to meet the needs of the curriculum and retaining a reduced area of public open space for community use. Also during the year, the lease on the Mayfield ended and, to the regret of the Council, was not renewed by the Diocese. This was public open space that Southam could ill afford to lose. Work on the Town Centre Development has progressed well and the end of the year should see the building occupied. The completed development will consist of a new library, community space which it is hoped will house VASA, MENCAP and SOUTHAM HERITAGE COLLECTION as well as extra care accommodation for part ownership and rent. Southam Town Council has continued to fund the VASA volunteer driver scheme giving valuable help to local pensioners. CAB too is supported by STC and continues in the library.

Work is ongoing to improve pedestrian safety and enhance the appearance of Market Hill, High Street and the entrance to Wood Street by the Post Office. This latter area is to be pedestrianised and entrance to Wood Street car park will then be via Daventry Street. Changes to the existing parking arrangements on Market Hill, the installation of a pedestrian refuge and the provision of hard standing for bus passengers are also included in the works. An upgrade of the existing flexible footway and carriageway will also take place. Other works include upgrading of the existing street furniture, signage and road markings.

The burial ground working party has made significant progress in recent months on the search for a suitable site and legal negotiations are ongoing. The programme of upgrading of the concrete street lights has also continued during the year with a further eighteen columns replaced.

THE AIMS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

- To improve service whilst ensuring best value
- To work with others to improve safety, the environment and the 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

THE COUNCIL

During the year, fourteen public meetings of the Town Council were held. At many of these meetings members of the public took the opportunity to speak in the Public Representation part of the agenda.

GRANTS

Section 137 Grants were made to the following local organisations during the year. John Turner Festival £270, Southam Carnival Committee £1160, Southam Christmas Lights £3000, The Royal British Legion £88.50, Southam Volunteer Centre £850, Southam First £2000, Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance £500, Southam & District Lions £1000, Shakespeare Hospice £500, Southam in Bloom £2250, Southam Area Action Group HS2 £1000, Southam (2028) Squadron £400, Southam Produce Association £1500. Under powers to provide information and advice £750 was given to maintain the CAB service in the library. Also a grant of £3500 was awarded to SCAN for the purchase of defibrillators under the power to provide lifesaving equipment.

PLANNING

A total of 61 planning applications were considered, discussed, sites visited, meetings attended and comments reported to Stratford District Council during 2014/15. When objections were raised, Councillors travelled to planning committee meetings to put their objections in person. Work to produce a neighbourhood plan was initiated and the designation of the area went to public consultation and was agreed. Neighbourhood planning is a key component of the Government's Localism Act, introducing a new tier of planning. The Localism Act devolves greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods, giving local people new rights to shape the development of the communities in which they live by taking a more active role in the development of planning policy at a local level. The Act makes it clear that a Neighbourhood Plan will have to generally conform with the Core Strategy produced by the Stratford District Council and this too is still in progress.

GRANGE HALL HIRE

All Your
Celebrations
Family Functions
Meetings & Workshops
Licensed Bar!

**ARE YOU CONSIDERING SETTING
UP A NEW HOBBY CLASS OR
FITNESS SESSION?
VARIOUS SIZE ROOMS AVAILABLE!**

Competitive Rates

Contact Carole at The Grange Hall on
01926 813933

carole@thegrangehall.co.uk

www.thegrangehall.co.uk



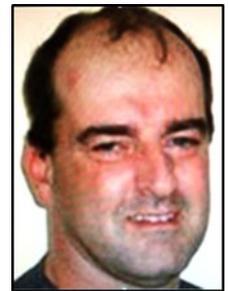
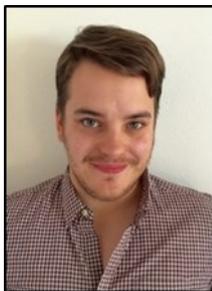
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

23rd July 2015
24th September 2015
August Recess (No Meeting)
22th October 2015
26th November 2015
December Recess (No Meeting)



Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Coventry Road Southam and start at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome and may make representation to the Council at the start of the meeting.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SOUTHAM – To be included in our resident notification emails, send your email address to the Deputy Clerk
deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk



Cllr J Ward

Cllr A Crump

Cllr D Hunter

Cllr G Barratt

Cllr M Cunningham

Cllr T Bromwich

TOWN COUNCIL EIGHT VACANCIES—IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE YOUR TOWN HELPING WITH ISSUES SUCH AS PROVISION OF NEW BURIAL GROUND, NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AND PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK DETAILS BELOW

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Mayor Cllr Jason Ward	Browns Bridge Ward	07887863257	WAJAS3@AOL.COM
Cllr Andy Crump		01926 815745	andycrump@btinternet.com
Vacancy	Contact	01926 814004	clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk
Vacancy	Contact	01926 814004	clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk
Deputy Mayor Cllr Tony Bromwich	Mill Hill Ward	01926 811965 / 07879670599	tony.bromwich@gmail.com
Cllr Gerry Barratt		01926 814106	gerry.barratt@btinternet.com
Cllr Mark Cunningham		07543975427	markc5063@gmail.com
Vacancy	Merestone Ward	01926 814004	clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk
Vacancy		01926 814004	clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk
Cllr Declan Hunter	Southam Fields Ward	07415055655	declanhunter@me.com
Vacancy	Contact	01926 814004	clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk
Vacancy	Contact	01926 814004	clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

MAYOR: Councillor Jason Ward 07887863257

**TOWN CLERK: Mrs D Carro, Town Council Offices, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA
(Tel: 01926 814004) email: clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk.**

Editor: Councillor Tony Bromwich 07879670599