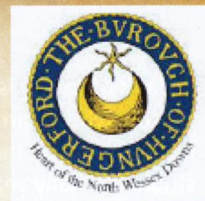


HUNGERFORD MATTERS...♦♦

Edition 2 – July 2018



Welcome to July's Hungerford Matters. Hungerford Town Council (HTC) has had a really busy couple of months following my appointment as Mayor back in May. Keith Knight former Mayor is serving as my Deputy this year.

HUNGERFORD NEEDS YOU! VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

We currently have places available on HTC and hope to fill these vacancies shortly by co-opting new members in September. If you are interested in joining our team or would like to know what's involved, please contact Claire Barnes (Town Clerk) on 01488 686195 or drop in the office just inside the library building for an informal chat.

WHAT WILL HUNGERFORD BE LIKE IN 18 YEARS – HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY

We have received a good response to our first questionnaire to gather your views for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

But there are still two weeks to go so if you have not sent in a questionnaire, complete it on-line at Hungerford2036.info or collect an extra copy from the Hungerford Library.

This is our first consultation exercise and we will be giving you feedback and holding a series of workshops throughout the Autumn

The whole point of a Neighbourhood Plan is that it is community-led and that means researched, written and voted on by the people who live in the neighbourhood – that's you and your neighbours!

It will, at the end of the process, have significant influence on the way Hungerford changes once the plan has been sanctioned by a town referendum.

Don't leave it to someone else, make sure your view is heard

GRASS CUTTING

I've received many emails and phone calls about the poor state of Hungerford's grass verges and open spaces. Like many of you, I'm deeply disappointed at the maintenance levels in Hungerford. District Councillors James Podger, Dennis Benneyworth and Paul Hewer took our concerns on board and escalated this through WBC. The conclusion was, late snow and heavy rain meant the contractors were behind by a couple of weeks. The verges (when finally cut) left thick arisings which looked extremely unsightly; these should improve with each cut. Personally I've never seen Hungerford look so unloved and I know many of you like me are unhappy. I hope to continue to monitor the situation and perhaps look at alternative solutions to this WBC budget reduction concern.

LEASE OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING

After nearly 3 years work from the Friends of Hungerford Library and the newly formed charity (established to manage the asset) HTC are thrilled to announce our successful lease of the library building from West Berkshire Council (WBC). The library service will remain with WBC but the charity will run the building and rent it out for community use. This innovative idea has saved the library service and protected our much loved library staff. It's also given HTC a permanent home, and protected this important building for our town. The newly named 'Hungerford Hub' will re-launch on 8th Sept at 10am, please come and support them if you can. Huge thanks to everyone involved, what an incredible outcome for Hungerford!

ARMED FORCES DAY

Thank you 6 Armoured Close Support Battalion Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME) for a spectacular parade in full dress uniform to mark Armed Forces Day in Hungerford. I was so disappointed not to be able to take the salute but huge thanks to Keith Knight (Deputy Mayor), Ellie Dickins, (Constable of the Town & Manor) Jack Williams, (president of RBL) and High Sheriff of Berkshire Graham Barker who took the salute on the Dias. The parade was led by the band of the Royal Logistics corps and followed a dedication of a memorial tree planted on the Common. REME kindly hosted a BBQ at the Royal British Legion following on from the parade, which was well-attended and great fun. Thank you again REME you make us all extremely proud.



*Helen Simpson & Keith Knight
Mayor & Deputy Hungerford Town Council*