



CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report

Year Ending 30th April 2013

Chatteris is now able to boast improved leisure facilities thanks in no small part to the Town Council and these were officially opened during the year.

In October Olympic gymnast Lewis Smith officially opened the new state-of-the-art gym and dance studio, which are considered to be among the best in the region. On the same day the All Weather Pitch was also officially opened by Mr Barry Fry, Director of Peterborough United. Both projects received significant funding from Chatteris Town Council with additional funds coming from Fenland District Council, the Football Foundation and Cambridgeshire County Council.

A new town notice board was also officially unveiled. The notice board commemorates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and was financed by the Town Council and a grant from FDC. It is proving to be very popular and even though it is a very large structure it is often difficult to find room for all the community and council notices.

The Council also:

- a) Helped to organise and run the Historic Jubilee Festival, three days of festivities which combined the annual historic festival and celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Activities for all the family were planned and took place despite some atrocious weather. Special thanks go to the hard working volunteers and staff from Fenland District Council who helped to make it happen.
- b) Fought Boundary Commission proposals for new electoral arrangements for the town which will see the existing four wards of roughly equal numbers of electors replaced by seven wards representing widely different numbers of electors. The fight continues...
- c) Considered County Council proposals for the upgrading and removal of street lights. The Town Council is still fighting plans to replace the lighting columns in the centre of town which are integral to the Christmas Lights display.
- d) Helped in the creation of a new pocket park by supplying the land where Women's Institute members (assisted by the Clerk) planted over 100 trees,

- e) Sought funding under the Local Highways Improvements scheme for safety improvements to the Victoria Street/West Park Street/Huntingdon Road junction.
- f) Helped a member of the public get plans for a cycle route around Chatteris underway.
- g) Wrote objecting to the possible closure of Chatteris Police Station.
- h) Agreed to plant a tree in memory of Cllr Rosemary Stimson.
- i) Welcomed the opening of the Multi Use Games Area and new play equipment at Furrowfields Recreation Ground and Parkour play equipment at Wenny, requested new seating at both recreation grounds and looked into the idea of a BMX track at Wenny.
- j) Agreed, with Manea Parish Council, to host community led neighbourhood forum meetings.
- k) Carried out structural repairs to the Council Offices.
- l) Entered into a three-year service level agreement with FDC to maintain and monitor the CCTV cameras.
- m) Continued to oppose the unnecessary felling of trees.
- n) Under Cllr Carney's leadership organised a conducted walk along the Old Railway Line with the aim of establishing a Friends of the Railway Line group.
- o) Helped local PCSO's, the FDC Street Scene officer and Highways representatives to carry out an environmental audit of Chatteris.
- p) Continued to fight for better street lighting in Wood Street.
- q) Organised and funded the ever popular Summer Fun shows for children.
- r) Administered over 130 allotments which are being well cared for by keen allotment holders.
- s) Cllrs Shad and Newell continued the fight for better public transport for the town.
- t) Lobbied for improvements to and the retention of Gibside Car Park.
- u) Pushed for parking restrictions near the cafe in Wenny Road to be enforced on safety grounds.
- v) Requested steps to ensure estate roads are adopted in a timely manner.
- w) Gave grants to a number of local organisations including the Christmas Lights Committee, In Bloom, the Museum and helped with the administration costs of the King Edward Centre.
- x) Adopted a new Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- y) Investigated the ownership of Topham's Yard.
- z) Urged BT to upgrade a broadband cabinet in Eden Crescent.

Speakers and guests at Town Council and working group meetings included:

PCSO's Martin Bogunovic and Sam Dyer who attended regularly with police updates.
Sgt Martin Monger on policing in Chatteris.

Mr Richard Cassidy, Fenland District Council, who attended regularly with FDC updates and spoke about dog control orders.

Mrs Anne Marshall, FDC, with Street Scene updates and dog control orders.

Cllr Alan Melton with FDC and Cambs County Council updates.

Mr Mick Oliver and Mrs Jean Gallyer, of the Community Carts Youth team, on youth provision.

Mr Richard Walpole, the College of West Anglia, on adult education courses in Chatteris,

Mrs Jo Philpott, of FACT, on the Fenland Association for Community Transport service.

Mr Martin Wright and Mr Stuart Nunn, of F-15 MX, the new owners of the Block Fen Motocross track on plans for the track.

Mrs Peta King-Parcell, of Balfour Beatty, and Mr Daniel Sage, of Cambs County Council, on street lighting proposals for Chatteris.

Mr Bob Ollier, FDC, with play and leisure facilities updates.

Mr Philip Clark and Mr Graham Siggs, of Somersham Parish Council, and Ms Laura Watson, of the Wildlife Trust, on plans for the Old Railway Line Footpath and Bridleway

The Council

Cllr John Chambers was elected Mayor in May and has since represented the Council at a number of events. He staged a ball raising a significant sum for local charities. Cllr Chambers has been ably assisted by Cllr James Carney who was elected Deputy Mayor.

Sadly the Council lost one of its longest serving members in August; Cllr Rosemary Stimson had been a hard working member of the Council for 22 years and is still missed. The vacancy was filled by co-option with four people applying for the position. Cllr Ian Taylor was duly co-opted at the November meeting.

Shown below is the number of full meetings of the Council members attended during the year (with the total number of full Council meetings in brackets). Several members also attended monthly meetings of the planning working group and/or bi-monthly meetings of the leisure and general purposes working group. Councillors also represented the Council on numerous outside bodies.

L Ashley	10 (13)	J Burrow	9 (13)
J Carney	11 (13)	J Chambers	13 (13)
C Colbert	9 (13)	R Cross	10 (13)
C Howes	12 (13)	P Murphy	12 (13)
F Newell	13 (13)	M Petrou	6 (13)
T Shad	13 (13)	I Taylor	6 (7)

Contact details for the Council are as follows:

Birch Ward

Cllr James Carney, Tel: 692256, 10 Church Lane, Chatteris, PE16 6JA,

Cllr Christine Colbert, Tel: 695770, 19 Pound Road, Chatteris, PE16 6RL

Cllr Mark Petrou, 29 London Road, Chatteris, PE16 6AS

The Mills Ward

Cllr James Burrow, Te: 696452, 15 Anvil Close, Chatteris, PE16 6DP

Cllr John Chambers, Tel: 696770, 3 West Street, Chatteris, PE16 6HA

Cllr Ian Taylor, Tel: 07712778997, 19 Curlew Avenue, Chatteris, PE16 6PL

Slade Lode Ward

Cllr Richard Cross, Tel: 07885499824, 15 Curlew Avenue, Chatteris, PE16 6PL

Cllr Chris Howes, Tel: 695770, 19 Pound Road, Chatteris, PE16 6RL
Cllr Peter Murphy, Tel: 692582, 28 High Street, Chatteris, PE16 6BG

Wenneye Ward

Cllr Linda Ashley, Tel: 692666, 133 London Road, Chatteris, PE16 6LT
Cllr Florence Newell, Tel: 651001, 7 Turnbull Road, March, PE15 9RX
Cllr Terence Shad, Tel: 760043, 2 Cricketers Way, Chatteris, PE16 6UR

Town Clerk – Mrs Joanna Melton and **Financial Officer** – Mr Ivan Cooper, Tel: 695166, e-mail chatteriscouncil@btconnect.com, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, PE16 6JA

The Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of the month and the meeting includes a 15 minute Open Forum when members of the public can raise issues. During the year these forums have been very well attended and a number of issues have been raised including: the creation of a new cycleway, the adoption of the road at Fairbairn Way, a request for double yellow lines, the messy state of a shop, a request for a bus to link in with the busway, a call for the return of the diabetic screening service, a complaint about an FDC notice board, the preservation of former gas streetlights, the lack of classes offered by the College of West Anglia in Chatteris, the role of a learning champion, complaints about windows in a listed building, the success of the library and a request for help at the Midsummer Festival.

The Council's planning working group met most months and made recommendations on 93 new and revised planning applications. The leisure working group met bi-monthly to discuss plans for the town's recreation grounds and footpaths and to consider how best to communicate the Council's achievements to the electorate, to compile a list of those achievements and to look at future projects for the Council. For the first time a member of public was appointed to the leisure working group.

Three members of staff are employed by the Council – the Clerk, the Financial Officer and the gardener. The Council's gardener for the past 12 years retired at the beginning of April and was thanked for his hard work. A new gardener was appointed and began his duties in March. The Financial Officer prepared the annual return (which was passed by the Internal and External Auditors), prepared the budget, advised on the precept and increasing the level of reserves, invested the Council's money, carried out a financial review and attended meetings of the Fitness Suite project group and the All Weather Pitch management group.