



Corfe Mullen Town Council
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CORFE MULLEN TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

- **What services does the Town Council provide**

The Town Council part owns and part leases 44 acres of recreation ground and manages the sports provision in Badbury View Road. Our grounds team work hard to maintain the open space for its residents to enjoy walks, young families using the play area and skate park along with the sports facilities, including cricket, football, and tennis.

For those residents in the south of the village the Town Council also manages part of Springdale Road Open Space which again is a lovely area for walks, with or without a dog in tow.

As well as the play area at the Recreation Ground, the Town Council also owns the play area and goal end next to the Council offices on Towers Way and maintains the play area next to Henbury View First School.

The list of services provided goes on, as we also look after the planting and maintenance of both Windgreen and Cogdean Roundabouts, maintain some street lighting, village signs welcoming visitors to Corfe Mullen and own and manage both the old and new cemetery, and are very proud to have one of the best kept cemeteries in Dorset.

Our allotment site on Broadmoor Road, offers residents with the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and whilst the Town Council maintains the communal areas, the allotment holders do an excellent job and take pride in the site, which is enjoyed by many.

In addition, the Town Council works with Dorset Council on a range of issues of concern, such as parking restrictions, speeding traffic, highway improvements and maintenance, hedges and trees, footpaths, and rights of way, etc., all of which can be reported directly to Dorset Council via their website.

- **Annual Parish Meeting**

Residents are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 14 March 2024, where the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick will be presenting to the meeting from 6.30pm in the main hall of the village hall on the work of Dorset Police and combating anti-social behaviour in Dorset.

The Mayor will also present the Town Councils annual report of the work carried out or in progress during the last year.

- **Councillor Surgeries – *who, where and when.***

Would you like to know what is happening in your community? Do you have a question for your local Town Councillor? Would you like to meet the Councillors representing you? If yes, then please join us at one of our surgeries. Councillor surgeries provide residents with an opportunity to talk to a Councillor face to face. They are here to help and listen to you if you have a particular concern that you feel a Councillor can assist you with.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour & Vandalism**

Sadly, anti-social behaviour and vandalism continues to impact the village which has a negative effect on our community. Examples of anti-social behaviour include continued vandalism of the public toilets at the Recreation Ground, damaged memorial benches at the Cemetery and Towers Way Green Space, damaged play equipment at all play areas maintained by the Town Council, along with graffiti and fly-tipping.

It is disappointing that the minority are spoiling the enjoyment of others. The Town Council encourage the community to report any anti-social behaviour and/or vandalism to Dorset Police, by either phoning 101 or reporting online. As a community, we need to come together to stop these kinds of behaviours. Dorset Police can only put additional resource into the village, if they are made aware of the unacceptable behaviours being experienced by its residents.

- **Future Developments**

The Town Council are keen to develop the sports pavilion at the Recreation Ground to provide a hub for the village. This will be a huge project for the Council, with section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies earmarked for the project. However, the Council will also need to take out a Public Works Loan for the remainder of the funding.

To enable the Council to progress with this work, community engagement will need to take place, to understand what residents want. Although the Council had planned to have this work underway, unfortunately due to workload and resources, this has not happened. The Council recognises the importance of engaging with the community and hopes to be able to start this following the elections on 2 May 2024.

- **Celebration of Service**

The Mayor of the Council will be holding a civic event on Sunday 21 April 2024 at St Nicholas Church to highlight those in the community who have gone above and beyond for the benefit of Corfe Mullen for no personal gains. Revd Jane Burgess will take the service with the Mayor presenting awards to those nominated within the community as a thank you.

- **Youth Trust**

The Youth Trust is a charity managed by the Town Council as Sole Trustee. The youth trust provides important youth club facilities for school years 7, 8 and 9 and out of school activities. The youth support workers engage with the young people in the village to achieve positive outcomes for them and to ensure they have a safe and welcoming environment to talk with the youth workers on any issues they might have.

Following the retirement of Nigel Christopher at the end of 2023, who has been involved with the youth club for many years, Jo Bissell, has taken up the role of senior youth support worker, who is a familiar face to the young people and will continue the good work of the charity.

- **Village Hall**

The Village Hall is also a charity managed by the Town Council as Sole Trustee. If you are looking to hire a room for a party, family gathering or maybe a social event, please visit the Town Council website for more information on the facilities available to hire and charges. You can also book the facilities online via the website.

- **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Town Council resolved to implement a Neighbourhood Plan for Corfe Mullen. This is an important piece of work, to structure future development in Corfe Mullen.

Members of the community and Town Councillors along with the appointed consultant met to go through the process of producing the plan. A steering group was formed, made up of volunteers from within the community and Town Councillors.

The steering group prioritised community engagement and approached all residents in Corfe Mullen through an online survey and drop-in events to understand the desired vision for the future of Corfe Mullen, such as environment & green spaces, housing needs with sympathetic design and sustainability, transportation, and infrastructure.

The steering group worked closely with the climate change working party formed following the Town Council declaring a climate emergency in August 2019. Through the work of the steering group, it highlighted the priority of residents to protect its green spaces, natural environment and wildlife surrounding Corfe Mullen for future generations to enjoy.

Unfortunately, the steering group struggled to retain sufficient members due to other commitments to allow further progress in developing the draft plan. The Town Council took the difficult decision to pause the development of the plan until following the forthcoming elections in May 2024. It is hoped members of the newly elected Council along with members of the public will join and re-energise the work of the steering group to progress to the final stages prior to publishing a draft document ready for its first consultation. Every household, business, and stakeholder in Corfe Mullen will be invited to attend drop in events to engage with the steering group and discuss the content of the draft plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is Corfe Mullen's resident's opportunity to shape the future of Corfe Mullen together. If you are interested in making an important contribution to drafting the plan, please contact the Town Council office.