



BISHOP'S CASTLE



EXTRA
NEWSLETTER



Welcome to this extra edition of our Newsletter produced because there is a lot of news to bring you on a local level that we were unable to include in the last edition.

The Town Council suffered an outage of its IT and email for a number of periods from 7th February to 21st February and it would appear that some emails were lost – if you sent an email to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk during this period and have not received a response (or an error message) can we please ask you to resend it again.

Some of these articles ask for your contributions so please can you get involved where possible as your comments will help with the decision making on a number of items.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

Bishop's Castle Town Council is working with the local community to prepare a neighbourhood development plan.

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to prepare a shared development vision for their area. This neighbourhood plan seeks to shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development by influencing the planning policies and decisions made by Shropshire Council in Bishop's Castle Parish.

Neighbourhood plans must conform to local plan policies and can amplify the planning decision-making framework.

This neighbourhood plan will help ensure that planning proposals take account of Bishop's Castle Town's circum-

stances and needs.

Decisions about planning applications must comply with policies in the Development Plan. In Bishop's Castle, this means that planning decisions must pay heed to the policies in this neighbourhood plan when it has passed its Referendum in 2022.

Shropshire Council has informed the Town Council that land for around 40 new houses will be required to meet local need up to 2038. The neighbourhood plan seeks to ensure that this housing provides the necessary infrastructure and protections to ensure that the Town will continue to be a wonderful place to live. The neighbourhood plan pays special attention to Bishop Castle's unique environment and character and seeks to protect this as well.

The plan has been prepared by a Steering group of Town Councillors and has had input from Town Council staff and members of the public.

WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT POLICIES IN THE PLAN.

We want our final plan to reflect the community's views.

Please give us 15 minutes of your time and complete our survey and look at a copy of the plan by clicking <https://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/REGULATION-14-DRAFT-BISHOPS-CASTLE-NDP-JANUARY-2022.pdf>

The consultation runs from 7/222 – 21/3/22 we will consider your views and submit a final version to Shropshire Council.

The plan will be subject to further consultation at that time and the final version will be given to the Bishop's Castle community to pass at a referendum.

QUEENS JUBILEE

We would like to encourage everyone to celebrate this achievement by holding Street Parties over the weekend of 4th and 5th June whilst we will mark the Jubilee at our BIG THANK YOU party being proposed for the autumn. At the onset of the Covid Pandemic with the first lockdown we stated that it was our intention once restrictions had been lifted to host a Thank You Party to thank those members of the local community who went above and beyond to help their neighbours, friends and the community at large during the last two years. We are hoping to hold this event in September but in the meantime are opening nominations now. Please send your nominations to the Council via any Town Councillor or the Clerk.

DOG FOULING

There have been a number of complaints recently about owners not tidying up after their dogs especially in the Playing Fields and certain areas of the town. We do not wish to go down the enforcement route with this issue as it will have cost implications for us all but please can you tidy up after your Pet.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

The Bishop's Castle Diabetic Support Group is restarting meetings from Monday 25th April at 6.30pm in the Grange Road Community Centre on Grange Road. New Members are

very welcome and for more information please call Margaret on 01588 630134 or Charlotte on 01588 630330.

PUBLIC HALL

The Town Council are Custodian Trustee's for the Public Hall and with the recent plans for the development of the adjacent site and the loss of the hall's tenant the hall would appear to be at a crossroads. We would very much like to see a NEW Management Committee be appointed which along with the community at large as well as local and national bodies can develop a strategy for the future. This might involve a refurbishment of the current building, the construction of a new facility on the current site, the provision of other facilities elsewhere in the town or the disposal of the hall and site with the proceeds used to fund alternative programmes in the town. This is all up for debate but can only be done so with the formation of a new committee. The Constitution of the hall allows for local user groups of the hall or potential user groups to appoint a representative from their group to the management committee. An Open meeting will be held in late April but in the meantime if you wish to become involved with this project please email publichallsy9@gmail.com and keep an eye out for meetings to be announced shortly.

CHARITY SHOP

The Severn Hospice Shop politely request that donations are NOT left at the Shop when it is closed. Recently a number of bags of donations have been left in the doorway over a weekend or overnight and this is not only a fire risk but al-

so attractive to vermin and can cause wider issues. Please can you only take donations during opening hours.

YOUTH

“DEVELOPING YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES IN A MARCHES TOWN”

In September 2021 a motion was put to the Bishop’s Castle Town Council (BCTC) as follows:

That the Council reaffirms its commitment to working with young people specifically regarding the upgrade of the skate park, and more generally so that they feel that their concerns are valued, listened to, and acted on where possible ;

That the Council agrees to a piece about the young persons’ initiative be put on the appropriate Facebook pages

That the Council supports attempts to obtain grant money for the employment of a youth worker/leader whose terms of employment (should grant applications be successful) would be determined between the Council and the South Shropshire Youth Forum.

This note is an update of where things have got to.

As many readers will know, a resident of the town wanted to donate a bench to the skate park in commemoration of her husband, who dies 6 years ago, and in recognition of the joy



she and her husband got from talking to young people at the skate park on their daily walks through the park with their dog. After many difficulties, the bench was finally installed just before Christmas, and was featured in both the Shropshire Star and the South Shropshire Journal.

The BCTC has commissioned a 12 person shelter from a local metal worker and has pledged £6000 towards said shelter. The balance will be made up by a very generous donation from Connexus and Staffordshire Community Foundation. At some point in the near future there will also be a consultation with skate park users about updating and replacing the very old ramps there.

In terms of the three proposals above, the BCTC made a grant application to Severn Trent and were delighted that our bid for £19000 was successful. This money will be used to buy in youth leader and youth worker time from South Shropshire Youth Forum for three specific activities; the development and leadership of a weekly youth club for the younger age group (8-12s); the development of a drop-in centre for the older age group (13-17); and the development and leadership of a Youth Forum, with a direct regular input into the Town Council, so that the concerns, worries, hopes and expectations of young people in the town and surrounding villages are heard, listened to and, wherever possible, acted on.

Councillor Andy Stelman has already received great support from local parents and hopes that support will continue and that anybody interested in assisting with this project will contact Andy either on 07773 006413, or by email to andystelman.t21@btinternet.com.

2022 MICHAELMAS FAIR

We are hopeful of running this years Michaelmas Fair on Saturday 17th September after a two year break. It will be the 25th time the Fair has been run.

Almost all of the previous committee have stood down after many years excellent service but we are very pleased that a new team of volunteers have taken up the challenge - but they need your help!

The Fair had become a very complex and diverse event which demanded a great deal of effort to manage, in order to keep it running we intend to reduce the number of venues and entertainment which the committee organise to:

The Main Stage – Below the Town Hall

Stalls in the Street

The Vehicle Processions at 13.00 and 17.00

The Lantern procession at 19.45

But of course we will still have to do all the boring things like arranging insurance, road closures, toilets, car parking, signs, a programme, publicity etc.

This leaves a great many venues around the town where your club, society or school can set up stalls, workshops, entertainment to show visitors what a great place Bishop's Castle is. If you would like to help or have any ideas then please let us know, we will co-ordinate all the activities (such as making sure two sets of musicians aren't playing next to each other) and advertise your event in the programme and on the web site.

So please come and talk to us and lets work together to make the 25th Michaelmas Fair one to remember.

The Michaelmas Committee
info@michaelmasfair.co.uk

HEAT AND WIND PROJECT

At a November meeting with Grant Perry, Jane Carroll and Ruth Houghton, it was agreed that the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan [NDP] would be submitted without containing the Heat Network project as an item, but with a supportive statement that would propose its insertion in a future release of the NDP. But at the moment it's unclear when any revision to the NDP might take place or how it might be funded.

There are two streams of project work: the Heat Network study (i.e. the location of the Heat Hub and the pipe network connecting it to the Town's buildings) which will start in April and for which Dave Green (Sharenergy) has got funding.

The second stream is the Wind Turbine which will power the Heat Hub. The Town Council's NDP Consultant has asked for an exhaustive list of deliverables before this can be included in the NDP. It had been suggested we discuss this with the Town Council's Consultant, which we were keen to do, however this has not been possible at this time.

Adrian Cooper (Head of Climate Change, Shropshire Council) has expressed support for the project, hoping it will en-

courage similar projects in Shropshire. He will see if funding can be made available for the additional Wind Turbine work, but agreement is first needed on what this work should include.

The Report can be found at: BCCAP | Lightfoot Enterprises

COMMUNITY SEED BANK

The Community Seed Bank has been present at the January and February Farmers' Market with free packets of vegetable, herb and flower seeds available, either as a one-for-one swap or for a small donation. The stall will also be at the March Farmers' Market. Details on how the Seed Bank operates can be found on the Little Woodbatch General 2 — Little Woodbatch Market Garden

'GOING WILD IN BC'

The Town Council has given the project £600 towards the cost of making and installing Swift boxes. The boxes are being made by the team at Walter's Shed, and the Swifts' group will be helping with checking the suitability of applicants' houses. A grant of £2,500 has been received from the National Lottery which has enabled the recruitment of a social media co-ordinator to help the project reach a wider community audience. The series of 'Winter Talks' continues with Simon Cooter of 'Nature England' talk on 'People and Nature of the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve' at the Town Hall, on

3rd March. Two leaflets: one about Swifts and another on Bug Hotels have been circulated in the Town Newsletter, and a third is planned on 'No Mow May'.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

An Annual Review of the Plan will take place in July. Meantime, an updated version of the Plan has been issued containing the Transport chapter. For a copy of this go to BCCAP | Lightfoot Enterprises or Sustainability – Bishop's Castle Town Council (bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk) (The latter is temporarily out of action).

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

We have been advised of a further delay in installation of these points in Harley Jenkins Car Park because of "software issues", but there should be some work starting "in a month". WPD will put in the power supply first. Installation of charging points in the new Business Park are being planned. These will be within the park boundary but will be available for public use. We've been told that it is not intended to lock the Business Park overnight (unless there is a security issue) and the charging points will, therefore, remain available.