



TOWN COUNCIL OF FRINTON AND WALTON

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

COUNCILLOR MRS IRIS JOHNSON

Introduction

Once again it has been an honour and a privilege to represent the Town Council as Town Mayor and during this second year some of my plans have been brought to fruition. Having the support of Cllr Jack Robertson as Deputy Mayor has helped us achieve goals for this Council that will benefit the residents in the coming years.

Crime and Disorder



The Town Council has continued to work with the local Police Force in keeping crime and particularly anti-social behaviour to a minimum in our area. Through the Crime and Disorder Working Party held regularly at the Council House we have been kept in the loop of what is happening in our towns and villages. The decision to fund six PCSO's was a major one for a Town Council

and this was carried through without the need to increase the precept. Local Officers, including the PCSO's have achieved various initiatives to keep crime low in our towns and villages. Many other areas within the County would be pleased to be able to report such low crime figures and good liaison with the Police. The Town Council is convinced that in these days of cuts, with more to come, our local PCSO's are invaluable.

Seafront Shelters

The Town Council continues to carry out maintenance to the Seafront Shelters and is currently looking at work needed to the shelter opposite Bathhouse Meadow and the Clock Tower Shelter in Frinton.

Columbine Centre

The Town Council continues to promote the Columbine Centre and a new concept was to hold a Food and Craft Fayre there in November which proved to be very popular. The weather was also kind to us. Our first Civic Wedding ceremony will take place in May and it is wonderful to report that a local couple will be taking their vows on that day. Registrars from Clacton on Sea will come out to conduct the ceremony. Another enjoyable event in August of last year was Frinton Summer Theatre taking over the Centre for a week to run an enjoyable production which included a lot of local people as cast members. Some members of the audience were very surprised to find such a splendid theatre in their town, not having been before but intending to enjoy the facilities in the future.

Financial Management

The Town Council received a clear audit once again, this year. The value of our three year rolling programme is also now apparent and looking back, it is cheering to see that we have done most of what we said we would do and quite a bit more besides. We must thank our staff for their efforts in ensuring that the Council receives a gold star each year. The precept for the coming year is £349,996 (also in receipt of £45,572 Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant from Tendring District Council).

Bus Shelters, Notice Boards and Public Seats

General maintenance takes place throughout the year and several bus shelters were thoroughly cleaned and re-painted. This is an ongoing job as people misuse them. Notice boards and public seats will get more attention within the coming year.

Allotments



Kirby le Soken Allotments

We again have a waiting list on all sites, so if you would like to be considered for a plot then just enquire at the Town Council office to get your name on the list for one of the sites. Fresh vegetables and keeping fit at the same time.

Website

Our website, hosted free of charge by Essex County Council, is up to date with Minutes and Agendas uploaded regularly. The frequently changing "Hot Topics" page illustrates, quite surprisingly sometimes, the range of Town Council work. The website address is: www.essexinfo.net/frinton-and-walton-town-council

There is a separate website address for the Columbine Centre and also one for the Walton Market which allows interested stallholders to apply on line for a regular or occasional stall. This site also gives information of any extra days or events. Regular market days are Thursday all year round, Mondays on Bank Holidays and every week from the end of May to August Bank Holiday. There are some new stalls attending, so why not pop along for some bargains.

Planning Applications

During the course of the year the Town Council has considered and made recommendations on 324 planning applications and Tree Preservation Orders. Of this number only 32 to date have been at variance with the decisions of Tendring District Council Planning Department. This percentage has remained fairly constant for a number of years.

Staffing

I would like to thank all our staff for their work on our behalf during the past year. The Council House deals with many questions and queries from our residents on many matters. We hope in the near future to be able to extend that help to all our residents. We should also recognise the efforts made by our staff at the Columbine Centre and Walton Market.

Food Bank



I decided again this year rather than send out Christmas Cards to ask everyone at the Town Council to donate goods for the Food Bank. This proved another success and the organisers were very pleased to receive the collection just before Christmas. I was also very pleased to be able to donate the sum of £500 to assist with the purchase of a wheelchair for a 4 year old boy from

Walton. This will prove to be an ideal assistance towards his independence when starting school in September.

Conclusion



I have attended many events and met many local people who work diligently for the benefit of the residents of our Town Council area, supporting local businesses that whenever I can. It has been both a pleasure and an honour to have represented the Town Council and I hope that whoever takes over the reins will get as much satisfaction as it has given me to be your Town Mayor once again.

Councillor Mrs. I. Johnson
Town Mayor