

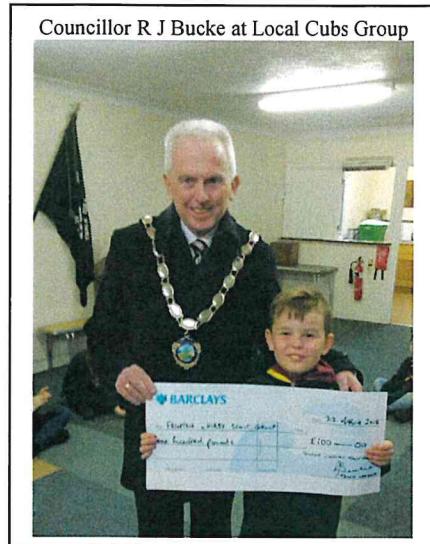


TOWN COUNCIL **OF FRINTON AND WALTON**

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT **2017/2018**

COUNCILLOR ROBERT BUCKE

Introduction



It has been a great pleasure and honour to serve the area again this year as the Town Mayor. I have thoroughly enjoyed the many events that I have attended during the year and the many people that I have met who give their time freely to run these events and help others in so many ways. The Town Council thanks you very much indeed.

Crime and Disorder

The Town Council has continued to work with our local Police force in keeping crime and particularly anti-social behaviour to a minimum in our area, through the funding of six PCSO's and also through the regular Crime and Disorder meetings which are held at the Council House. The Town Council have investigated and achieved various initiatives to keep crime very low in our towns and villages, and many other areas of Essex would be pleased to be able to report such low crime figures and good Police liaison. We will continue to explore new initiatives to combat crime and antisocial behaviour in our Town Council area. The Town Council are convinced that in these days of Police service cuts, our local PCSO's are invaluable, and we will continue to work with local Police to ensure that our area remains a low crime area to live in and visit.

Seafront Shelters

The Town Council continues to maintain seafront shelters, owned by Tendring District Council, and we are currently looking at refurbishing and repairing some of the other shelters. All seafront and bus shelters are cleaned monthly during the spring and summer months. If you see anyone vandalising the shelters please let the Police or Councillors know, as we have had an increase in vandalism this year, which must be addressed in some way.

The Columbine Centre

The Town Council is continuing to promote the Columbine Centre for local clubs to meet, a well-equipped theatre and an ideal wedding venue. The centre also accommodates the ever-popular Walton Indoor Bowls Club. Some very good and well attended events have taken place during the year. Maintenance of the centre is an ongoing programme and we are currently changing the lighting over to LED for a more cost-efficient system. Please see our centre website: www.columbinecentre.co.uk.

Financial Management

The Town Council received a clear audit 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 a bit more besides. The precept for this forth coming year is £437,690.

Notice Boards and Public Seats

Notice boards are currently receiving more attention and repairs are ongoing. It is hoped that seats will also be included in a rolling programme during the next financial year.

Allotments

We have short waiting lists at all sites, so if you would like to be considered for a plot then just enquire at the Town Council Offices to get your name on the list for one of the sites.

The Spinney

Town Council has decided to take control of improvements to The Spinney, in order to improve this valued natural amenity at one of the prime entrances to Frinton, a plan is being drawn up and will be implemented over the coming months.

Website

Our website, hosted free of charge by Essex County Council, is up to date with minutes and agendas uploaded regularly. The website address is: www.essexinfo.net/frinton-and-walton-town-council

Please refer to separate website address for the Columbine Centre.

Walton Market

Walton Market allows for interested stallholders to apply on line for a regular or occasional stall. However, Walton Market is currently subject to revised negotiations with Tendring District Council as to the future viability of the Market.

Toilets

Town Council does not support the closure of Tendring Council toilets in our town centres. We have sought to negotiate retention of facilities with Tendring District Council, but with no sustainable offer agreeable, we are now hoping to rent the Old Way, Frinton toilets in order to improve and maintain that facility.

At Mill Lane, Walton, the situation is less encouraging, and we shall be looking at alternative provision of toilets at other town centre locations.

Planning Applications

During the course of the year the Town Council has considered and made recommendations on 328 planning applications and Tree Preservation Orders. Of this number only 51 have been at variance with the decisions of the District Council. This percentage has remained fairly constant for a number of years.

Staffing

I would like to thank our staff for their work on your behalf during the past year. The Council House deals with many questions and queries from our residents on many matters not just Town Council issues. The office at the Triangle Shopping Centre is open from 9 am to 1 pm Monday to Friday.

Conclusion



At the end of April we say 'Farewell' to our Town Clerk, Mrs. Myrna Liles, and we wish her very well in retirement after a long career in public services. Thank you most sincerely Myrna.

I would also like to thank Cllr. Mrs. Iris Johnson, my Deputy Mayor this year, for her steadfast support and commitment to all that is good in our area. I thank all Members too for their excellent community work in our respective wards in Frinton, Walton, Great Holland and Kirby.

Councillor Robert J. Bucke
Town Mayor