



THE CHARTER

BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL
SUPPORTING FAIR TRADE

ISSUE 19

DECEMBER 2010

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND
BEST WISHES FOR 2011

Mrs Claire Boyne

Town Clerk

Mrs Jula Janney

Deputy Town Clerk

Beccles Town Council

The Walk

Beccles

NR34 9AJ

01502 712109

admin@beccles.info

www.beccles.info

Now is the time to think
about becoming a Beccles
Town Councillor



Beccles Town Council
Chamber

Mayor and Councillor's
seating positions



The Pride in Beccles Group are proposing planting bulbs and flowers around the trees and the planting of shrubs around the edges at Kilbrack Cemetery.

An Information Board telling the area's history, along with information on the flora and fauna planted there, has also been proposed.

Pride in Beccles would love to hear your comments about these proposals.

Please contact Councillor John Sigsworth on 01502 711473.

Before you consider becoming a Beccles Town Councillor there are four necessary requirements as follows:

1. You must be 18 years of age and reside in the area you wish to stand
2. Own property or land within the area you wish to stand
3. Work in the area you wish to stand
4. Live within 3 miles (as the crow flies) of the Parish Ward.

In May 2011, all of the sixteen Town Council seats will be up for re-election. This is an important time for the town of Beccles as it gives residents the chance to represent the local community, deliver services to meet local needs and strive to improve the quality of life in the local area.

What do Local Councillors do?

As a Councillor you are in a great position to help identify the needs of your community and to deliver projects and initiatives that will help to make your town a better place to live.

To get a taste of Council life, you could always come to a Town Council meeting, held twice a month on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Once a Councillor you could become the Mayor of Beccles, elected every year by the Council. This is an important position in the Town and you will be expected to attend Civic Functions, Annual General Meetings (as President of some organisations) and hold a Mayoral Reception and Civic Church Services along with many other events. You will need to choose an Appeal for your Mayoral Year, which might be something near to your heart, or for the Town.

Councillors have three main areas of work

1. **Decisions:** By attending meetings and committees with other elected members, Councillors decide which activities to support; where money should be spent; what services should be delivered and what policies

should be implemented.

2. **Monitoring:** Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

3. **Getting involved:** As local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organizations.

How can I become a Councillor?

- A Notice of Election will be published in March 2011. This will appear on the Waveney District council website (www.waveney.gov.uk) and copies will be sent out to Beccles Town Council for them to display around the area. **Nomination Papers** can be collected or sent from the Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ 01502 712109, or from Sharon Shand at WDC, Town Hall, High Street, Lowestoft NR32 1HS 01502 562111. (See page 4 for more info)



Carns & Sing-along
Under the Christmas
Tree in Exchange Square.
Everybody welcome at
4.30pm on Friday 10th
December. Sir John Leman
band and choir along with
'Fusion' and participating
schools MCA group.

Editor Mrs Jula Janney

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DO YOU HAVE SIGHT LOSS?

Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation, ensuring blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives. If you know of anyone in need of advice or information, this organisation may help you, and them, find out how.

Applying for Benefits:
The majority of visually impaired people do not receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled.

'Action for Blind People' provides specialist advice on what is available and can assist with the filling of the relevant claim forms, help with reviews and appeals or tribunals. Also on offer is a range of practical support relating to IT; from advice on assistive technology, to buying the best computer for your needs.

Employment advice:
'Action' will help you prepare for work or retrain, find the perfect job or help

you continue to stay in your employment if losing your sight. Also advice and support is provided if you are thinking of starting your own business.

Housing Support: This is designed to help visually impaired people live in the home of their choice, as safely and independently as possible, with assistance identifying the options available. Visit:-
www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk



Baby Guide Dog

Suffolk County Council is encouraging residents, who do not wish to receive junk mail, to register for the Mail Preference Service on www.mpsonline.org.uk or call 0845 7034599

FED UP WITH JUNK MAIL? Read on -

DID YOU KNOW ?



UNUSED and stock-piled **MEDICINES** cost the NHS at least £100 million every year and approximately £2 million of this is from the Gt Yarmouth and Waveney area.

Many medicines that are prescribed go to waste simply because people stop using them or decide not to take them in the first place. Unused medicines cannot be reused, even if they have never been

opened, but all unused medicine should be returned to your pharmacy so that they can be disposed of safely. Waste medicine has to be destroyed by incineration causing further cost, damage and pollution to the planet.

To help tackle this major waste of NHS funds, please order your prescriptions wisely. Before ordering your next prescription please:

1. Check what medicines you

still have at your home.

2. Think carefully before ticking the boxes on your repeat prescription form and only order what you really need and intend to use.
3. Let your Doctor or Pharmacist know if you have a problem or no longer want to take any of your medicines.
4. If you are going into hospital, take all of your medicines with you.

Beccles Medical Centre Patient Participating Group.

Beccles Community Arts are holding a Public Meeting on Thursday 17th February 2011 on the Regeneration of the Quay for a proposal for a Park Area/ Bandstand. Venue - Bear & Bells at 7.00 pm

ABBAYFIELDS—INDEPENDENT LIVING WITH THE BONUS OF SUPPORT

Abbeyfield Society is situated close to Beccles Quay and a short walk from the Town Centre. This pretty development built in 1987 and renovated in 2003 in St Benedict's Road off Ravensmere, offers accommodation comprising of 11 studio flats, including mobility standards and wheelchair properties. There is non-resident management staff and a community alarm

service. Facilities include lounge, dining room, laundry, garden and conservatory in which to meet both residents, relatives and friends. The Manager, Mrs Heather Bell, advises that 'Residents have the privacy of their own accommodation, combined with the companionship of others, and the security and support of the dedicated house staff. Applications are welcome

from all sections of the community where residents can enjoy home-cooked meals together every day. Charges are fully inclusive of food, cooking, utility bills and council tax.' Eligibility for Housing Benefit and other financial support and advice is readily available. **Call 07587 135719—Area Housing Manager or Heather on 01502 716735.**



Abbeyfield Society—Housing with support—rooms available now

THE CHARTER



New Support Group

Are you a parent of a child with challenging behavior or additional needs? Then here is the opportunity to share thoughts and worries regarding your child by joining a new support group at **Bungay Youth Club. Held on the first Wednesday of every month from 1.00pm until 3.00pm.** Free refreshments available. **Call Chrissie on 07595088147**



One cold Winter in Beccles—remember?



READY FOR THE WINTER? TIPS ON CLEARING SNOW/ICE

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you will be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the snow code when clearing snow and ice. **1. Don't be put off clearing paths because you are afraid someone might injure themselves—remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. To prevent slips—you might need to use more salt on steps and steep pathways.** **2. Clear ice and snow early in the day as it's easier to clear when fresh** Remember to put some salt on the pathway before nightfall if necessary to

prevent re-freezing. **3. Do not use water** to melt the snow/ice it could turn to black ice, once again, use salt, sand or ash (sand or ash won't prevent ice forming, but provide grip). **4. Take care where you shovel the snow, don't block paths or drains** and make a pathway down the middle of the area. Offer to clear neighbours' paths if they have difficulty themselves. Suffolk County Council will grit the main roads a list can be found on their website.

www.suffolk.gov.uk or Directgov

SCHOOL ELECTIONS

On Tuesday 19th October, in my role as a Governor and Ward Councillor, I was asked to arrange a Ballot Box and Confidentiality Screens for the Crowfoot School Elections, with the help of Waveney District Council Electoral Services Department. All year groups had obviously done some preparatory work in canvassing and promoting their chosen candidates. In some classes

there were several who were on the ballot sheets. At 9.30am each class came into the room set aside for the Elections. Two senior members of staff involved explained briefly how local democracy works and then introduced me as the Returning Officer. I have been involved with this on several occasions, spending the morning with each class as the Elections began. At the conclusion of voting the

counting took place. There were 2 clear winners for most classes, usually one girl and one boy. It was a very close run election, with the Teachers making the final decision as a result of a tie in two instances. All the children really enjoyed the experience and those elected, I know, will serve their classmates well.

*Councillor A Thwaites
Deputy Mayor of Beccles*

Everybody has a place in their community from a policeman to a resident of our Suffolk towns. Young people are important within the community because they are the future of Britain and it's important that they contribute now, to try and sustain good, prosperous foundations for a future 'Greater Britain'. I have seen, since April, School Councils, Youth Clubs and other organisations who work hard for others, to get the best opportunities that they can. From Darby Park play area to Waveney Youth Council, these are the things that keep the heart of young people pumping in the community, even with the latest budget cuts, we shouldn't jeopardize that.

Sam Kenward, Member of Youth Parliament for Suffolk

FOUR TOWNS CRIME PREVENTION PANEL

Members of the community, Waveney Community Forum and the Police meet quarterly to discuss matters of concern in Beccles, Bungay, and the outlying areas. At their Annual General Meeting on 28th October 2010 issues were raised regarding events attended, such as the Bungay Christmas Fair where they had a promotion stall. The highlight for the group was the opening of the Darby Road Play Park in which they had supported the WeCount2 youngsters.

A mobile Police Station is also part of the Four Towns Crime Prevention Panel tackling Anti Social Behaviour.

The Chairman at the AGM, advised the meeting of a new website, Fear

less.org, which enables young people affected by crimes to get proper information and also to pass on information anonymously which is 'linked to Crimeoppers'.

Unfortunately the 4 Towns Bus run by the Community Forum is struggling for funds and may have to have restricted use if funds are unavailable. This Bus offers IT and other skills training, costing from £45-£50K annually to run. Support for this scheme would be very much appreciated from the community.

In 2011 quarterly meetings are as follows starting at 7.30 pm

3rd Feb—Halesworth Police Station

28th April Southwold Town Hall

7th July Beccles Town Hall

27th Oct—Bungay Town Council Chambers

Contact Councillor Alan Thwaites on 01502 714161 for more information.

Want Superfast broadband for Beccles? Be one of the 1,000 people needed to show their interest by visiting the BT website - BT Infinity go to: www.prodactionandservices.bt.com

COUNCILLOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

COUNCILLOR	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>CENTRE</u>		
Peck, D W	8 Waveney Road, Beccles NR34 9NW	01502 712627
Richardson, C	12 South Close, Beccles NR34 9PB	01502 719744
Scott, C J	3 Firfield Close, Beccles NR34 9YE	01502 714831
Woodruff, B	13 Meadow Gardens, Beccles NR34 9PA	01502 713053
<u>COMMON</u>		
Bubb, Mrs S	'Greenacres' Clarke's Lane, Barsham NR34 8HN	01502 713314
Doherty, M F	4 Kilbrack, Beccles NR34 9SH	01502 716324
Featherstone, Miss J	6 Old Farm Road, Beccles NR34 9RW	01502 715606
Smith, D M	14 Station Road, Beccles NR34 9QJ	01502 718018
<u>RIGBOURNE</u>		
Catchpole, G	32 Coney Hill, Beccles NR34 7AZ	01502 715819
Sutch, Fr Antony	2 Grange Road, Beccles NR34 9NR	01502 713179
Thwaites, A (Deputy)	20 South Road, Beccles NR34 9NY	01502 714161
Topping, Mrs C	7 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JG	01502 717276
<u>DARBY</u>		
Harris, J D	26 Hungate, Beccles NR34 9TT	01502 717237
Sigsworth, J	14 Janet Hadenham Close, Worlingham NR34 7SL	01502 711473
Taylor, B (Mayor)	2 Fairfax Court, Beccles NR34 9XG	01502 713307
Walmsley, J	37 Kemp's Lane, Beccles N34 9XB	01502 717853

**B E C C L E S - T H E P R E S E N T - B Y B E R E N I C E
B R O O M (C O N T I N U E D F R O M I S S U E 1 8)**

Council usually meets before the "Mayor Making" meeting to discuss the position of the Mayor and Deputy and to "sound out" those who might be interested in the post. *It would be most embarrassing if the candidates chosen by Council turn round on the night and say they didn't want to stand!* The Mayor is the public face of the Council and he has the difficult job of keeping the peace at meetings! A **Deputy Mayor** is also elected. The Mayor and Deputy hold office for one year, although they may be re-elected for a further term of office should no-one else wish to take over the "honour". The Mayor receives an annual allowance to help defray the expenses of the many functions and events he/she has to attend in this official role. The Mayor has a **Sergeant-at-Mace**, Mr Fred Davey, to lead official functions, and a **Mayor's Cadet** chosen annually from the Town's Cadet services. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor both

sign Declarations of Acceptance of Office as well as Declarations of Interests. All Councillors have to sign similar Declarations on a four-yearly basis. Councillors are expected to abide by the "Councillors Code of Conduct" and individual Councils have their own Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which govern the way in which the Council is run. **Councillors** are elected, appointed or co-opted and, unless they become disqualified for any legal reason, or move out of the three-mile radius of Beccles, cannot be removed from office until the next election. The role of a Councillor is to represent the whole electorate, not just those who voted for them. They should not be swayed by political or other pressures, but must make decisions according to the facts before them. Councillors cannot lawfully make decisions as individuals.

The Council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own, quite separate from that of its members. The Council's role is

the provision of facilities and services for the community, to be the voice of the community and to liaise with other authorities. **Council Makeup:** There are three Committees, Finance and Grants, Personnel and Planning. Working Parties are set up to research matters to be brought to Council for decision/approval. The **Finance Committee** meets on a bi-monthly basis and is responsible for ensuring that the budget is adhered to and financial regulations are observed. The **Grants Committee**, which is a sub-committee of the Finance Committee, meets three times a year in June, November and February. **Personnel** meets as the necessity arises and monitors staff appraisals. **Planning** meets twice a month and make recommendations to the District Council of its views on plans submitted. **Members for committees "volunteer"** on an annual basis for whichever committee they are interested in—luckily there is always more than one person for each committee! The **Town Clerk** is the Proper Officer of the Council and under-

takes many duties as required by the Council. The Clerk is responsible to the Council as a Body and has an important role in discovering the needs of the community and being in touch with all that is going on. The Town Clerk can also have the Role of Responsible Financial Officer and manage the financial affairs of the Council. The Town Clerk is there to carry out the policy decisions of the Council, but may have some delegated powers to act on behalf of the Council through Standing Orders. Council has a **Deputy Town Clerk** and her role is to underpin the work of the Council, to deputise for the Town Clerk when necessary and to be the first port of call for visitors to the Town Hall. The Deputy Town Clerk is also the Mayor's Secretary and has responsibility for producing the quarterly Charter and is the Friday Market Manager. *To be contd*