



THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

SPRING 2018

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 6.30PM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND

RECREATION & AMENITIES
MONDAY 12TH MARCH

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS
TUESDAY 13TH MARCH

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS
TUESDAY 3RD APRIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES
MONDAY 9TH APRIL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY 23RD APRIL

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS
TUESDAY 24TH APRIL

RECREATION & AMENITIES
MONDAY 14TH MAY

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS
TUESDAY 15TH MAY

MAYOR MAKING
SUNDAY 20TH MAY AT THE FRANK HUTCHINGS COMMUNITY HALL

FULL COUNCIL
MONDAY 21ST MAY



Please recycle this newsletter

CIVIC AWARDS 2018

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES SOMETHING AMAZING FOR THATCHAM'S COMMUNITY?

Nominations are invited from members of the public for the Thatcham Town Council Civic Awards 2018. The Awards are given to individuals or groups in recognition of the work they do for the benefit of the community of Thatcham.

Each year a maximum of three Gold Awards are presented. The presentations will take place by the Town Mayor of Thatcham at Thatcham's Annual Town Meeting on Monday 23rd April.

Previous winners have included Jane Wells who as an active member of the Spring Charity Fundraisers helped raise over £100,000 in 10 years for local organisations and was the inspiration behind Thatcham Family Fun Day with her Junior Fun Run.

West Berkshire Therapy Centre received an award for the fantastic self-funding centre they provide, overseen by unpaid trustees that has become a lifeline to people with disabilities needing somewhere safe and accessible to exercise.

A group presentation was made to Iain Dunn, Leo Pieri and Brian Woodham who have been active members of Thatcham Flood Forum since its inception in 2008. They have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the residents of Thatcham, through raising awareness, providing information to residents, seeking funding for major flood defence works and completion of the Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham.

There are some amazing people working behind the scenes in Thatcham's community and this is the perfect opportunity to give them the recognition that they deserve.



Please get nominating now as all nominations will be carefully considered.

Nomination forms are available on the Town Council's website or by telephoning the Town Council offices on 01635 863592. Nominations must be submitted to the Town Council Offices by midday on Monday 19th March.

CCTV RETURNS TO TOWN CENTRE

Thatcham Town Council has installed a new CCTV system in the town centre. The system is now live and has already proved valuable in assisting both the Police and local residents. The system aims to provide a safe and secure environment for those who live, work and visit the town centre, and:

- to create a safer community
- to reduce the fear of crime
- to reduce the vandalism of property
- to prevent, deter and detect crime and disorder
- to gather evidence by a fair and accountable method
- to assist the police, Thatcham Town Council and other Law Enforcement Agencies with identification, detection, apprehension and prosecution of offenders by examining and using retrievable evidence relating to crime, public order or contravention of bye-laws
- to deter potential offenders by publicly displaying the existence of CCTV: having cameras clearly sited that are not hidden and signs on display
- to assist all Emergency Services to carry out their lawful duties



HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD ON THE CCTV SYSTEM:

Your Rights

Subject to certain exemptions, you have a right to be told... continued on page 3

SPOTLIGHT ON THE TOWN COUNCIL

Thatcham Town Council offers a wide range of services to residents, some you will be familiar with and others you may not. In each publication of this Newsletter we will put one of the Town Council's services in the spotlight, helping our reader's gain a better understanding of what the Town Council does. In this edition we're spotlighting...

HENLEYS ALLOTMENTS

Just north of the A4 London Road, Henleys Allotments is a thriving green lung at the heart of the Town boasting nearly 200 plots of varying sizes under the care of 169 green-fingered tenants. The Town Council operates a very short waiting list for budding Thatcham residents hoping to join the growing community at Henleys. So, what could you look forward to as an allotmenteer in Thatcham?

- Reap the rewards of your labour with fresh fruit and vegetables
- Zero air-miles; your food couldn't get much more local!
- You can keep hens on your allotment to bolster your storecupboard with fresh eggs
- Enjoy the active lifestyle; studies have found that green-fingered 60 year olds are healthier than their non-gardening counterparts
- Boost your vitamin D levels by spending time outdoors
- Get involved; Henleys Allotments has its own Gardening Club which organises coffee mornings, open days and an annual prize giving

Would you like to become a tenant at Henleys Allotments? To find out more information please contact the Council Offices.



Photograph by Pam Cruise for Thatcham Festival 2016

REPORT IT...

Have you seen something worth reporting that we haven't spotted yet? It's easier than ever to let the Town Council know about things like broken glass, dog fouling and litter using the mobile friendly "Report It" page on the website. And even if it's not something that's under the Town Council's jurisdiction, staff in the Council Office should be able to point you in the right direction.



So, whether its a littering hotspot, graffiti or a faulty streetlight, hop online and let us know about it
or
call the Council Offices on 01635 863592
or
visit a Council Surgery, details on page 4.

Annual Town Meeting

Monday 23rd April
at 6.30pm in
Thatcham Town
Council Chamber

Residents of Thatcham and representatives of charities, local businesses and community groups are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting in the Council Chamber. Join Councillors to find out about the past year and what is planned for the next.



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk



Mayor Making

Sunday 20th May
at 3pm at the
Frank Hutchings
Community Hall

The Mayor and Councillors of Thatcham Town Council warmly invite members of the public to the Mayor Making Ceremony and Annual Meeting of the Town Council to be held at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall with light refreshments served afterwards. A new Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be sworn in and their Chaplain and nominated charities will be appointed.

BE PART OF SOMETHING THIS YEAR...

Thattham Town Council organises a range of events every year. Some are annual and grow bigger and better every year, and others are special one-off events to commemorate an important milestone for example this year's WWI Armistice Centenary.

Two of the largest events that take place are the Thattham Family Fun Day to be held on Sunday 24th June and the Thattham Festival which runs for two weeks commencing Saturday 6th October. These events have become very successful owing to the community spirit of local groups, organisations and charities who take part creating a brilliant diversity. Now is the time to get in touch if you have something exciting to add for 2018.

At Thattham Family Fun Day there are opportunities for musicians and dancers to perform in the arena and plenty of space for local charities and businesses to have stalls. If you are part of a sporting organisation, would you like to put on a demonstration in the arena, or run have-a-go sessions and perhaps attract new members?

During Thattham Festival there are so many different ways for organisations and individuals to get involved. The aim is to have a different talk, concert or performance on each evening plus regular groups open their weekly meetings to the general public. There are special events laid on specifically for the Festival including the Leisure & Craft Fair which takes place at St. Mary's Church and on The Broadway Green; for 2018 this will be held on Saturday 13th October. The Fair showcases local craftspeople and community groups offering leisure activities.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved or taking part in a Council event then please contact the Community & Civic Manager, Jennie, at the Council Offices. Contact details can be found on page 4.



Photograph by Alan Woolfenden for Thattham Family Fun Day 2017

EDIBLE THATCHAM - GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!

Edible Thattham will be launching its edible Turnfields Garden next to the Town Council Offices in March and people are invited to join monthly work parties to meet new people, learn new skills, encourage pollinators and help Thattham look brighter.

The first session will be in the garden on Sunday 8th March, 2pm - 4pm, ending with tea and cake.

This session will include a tour of the garden, an introduction to growing fruit and veg and how the garden will be maintained going forward.

Future work parties will be on the last Sunday of each month:

Sunday 29th April 2pm - 4pm

Sunday 27th May 2pm - 4pm

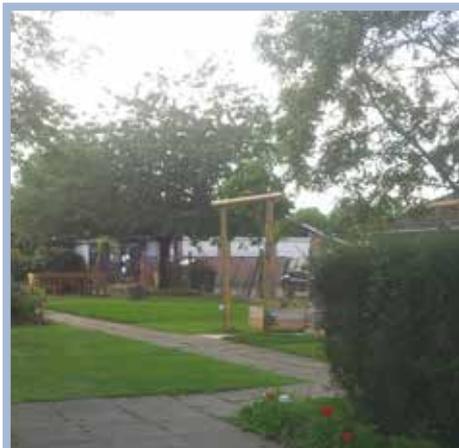
Sunday 24th June 2pm - 4pm

Sunday 29th July 2pm - 4pm

Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience, to share skills and experience and learn together.

If you have a site on which you would like to grow fruit or nut trees, or vegetables, le-mail ediblethatcham@gmail.com

Visit the @EdibleThattham Facebook page for a list of one day courses coming up.



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

CCTV RETURNS...

Continued from page 1... whether any personal data is held about you. You also have a right to a copy of that information in a permanent form except where the supply of such a copy is not possible or would involve disproportionate effort, or if you agree otherwise. Thattham Town Council will only give that information if it is satisfied as to your identity. If release of the information will disclose information relating to another individual(s) who can be identified from that information, Thattham Town Council is not obliged to comply with an access request unless:-

- The other individual has consented to the disclosure of information, or
- It is reasonable in all the circumstances to comply with the request without the consent of the other individual(s)

Thattham Town Council's Rights

Thattham Town Council may deny access to information where the Act allows. The main exemptions in relation to information held on the CCTV system are where the information may be held for: -

- Prevention and detection of crime.
- Apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

Should the release of the data be likely to prejudice any of the above purposes then access can be refused.

Fee

A fee of £10 is payable for each access request.

Recorded Images

All CCTV recordings are retained for a minimum period of 31 days. If no legitimate request for retention of the recordings has been made, it is then erased or overwritten.

All requests for retention of recordings are considered against the provision of the Data Protection Act and the CCTV Code of Practice.

To apply for access to information held on the CCTV system please contact the Thattham Town Council offices or visit the website at: <http://www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/council/council-facilities/cctv/>



Uniting a family of Nations in common purpose and understanding around the world

**Monday 12th March
at 9.45am, outside
Thattham Town
Council Offices**

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

BEFRIEND WEST BERKSHIRE

Having regular interactions with other people can help to combat loneliness and improve quality of life, physical health and mental well-being, which is why Befriend West Berkshire are recruiting and training volunteers to become befrienders. The Befriend West Berkshire project can help people who are at risk of becoming socially isolated and are:

- Over 50 years old
- Living in the West Berkshire area

Individuals can refer themselves, or be referred by a third party, such as a friend, family member, medical professional, voluntary organisation or social services.

How can you help?

Befrienders and clients will be carefully matched based on shared likes, dislikes, values and interests. Each befriender connection will be unique, but just like a friend, you will take the time to pop in regularly for a friendly chat. The activities you share could grow as the support develops, such as occasional outings.

You will be trained and fully supported throughout the period of your volunteer befriending.

This is an ideal volunteer opportunity for good listeners with empathy, patience and a friendly nature. The time commitment can be flexible to suit you, your lifestyle and commitments.

Why is a befriending project important?

We all experience loneliness at some point in our lives, so imagine how it must feel to be lonely every day. This is a particular problem for older people, with research showing that 1 in 10 saying they often feel lonely.

There are many reasons why people become lonely, such as lack of friends, family members living far away, poverty or rural isolation. But whatever the reason, loneliness can have a devastating impact on quality of life, often leading to depression, feelings of low self worth and can be a big risk to physical health.

Contact Jackie Letsome at Volunteer Centre West Berkshire T: 01635 49004 E: befriend@vcwb.org.uk



Would your community group or charity benefit from a moment in the spotlight?

Contact us to find out how to feature here. Call T: 01635 863592 or E: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk



COUNCIL SURGERY

Members of the public are invited to meet with a Thatcham Town Councillor and a West Berkshire District Councillor for Thatcham on the Broadway Green between 10am and 12noon on the dates below:

Saturday 3rd March

Saturday 7th April

Saturday 5th May

Members will give advice and information, follow up any complaints relevant to Thatcham or perhaps discuss any good news you might have to share about the town.

We do photocopying...

Black & white A4 copies are only 6p, colour A4 copies are just 30p each, we can also print and laminate A3. Call the Council Offices on T: 01635 863592.

CONTACT THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Each Thatcham Councillor can be contacted by e-mail using the format name.surname@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

South & Crookham Ward

Cllr Dominic Boeck
Cllr Dan Carter
Cllr Rob Denton-Powell 07776 221213
Cllr Julie Goode 07951 043442
Cllr Nathan Gregory 0118 971 3156
Cllr Anne Johnson 01635 847267
0118 971 2588

West Ward

Cllr Steve Ardagh-Walter 07790 932545
Cllr Jeff Brooks 01635 47391
Cllr John Chelliah 01635 871430
Cllr Nick Gooles 01635 865855

North Ward

Cllr Mike Cole 01635 869893
Cllr Jason Collis 07824 991352
Cllr Lee Dillon 07393 288712
Cllr Sheila Ellison 07584 373417

Central Ward

Cllr Jan Cover 07880 753904
Cllr Ellen Crumly 07833 667472
Cllr Richard Crumly 01635 867283
Cllr Monika Tabat

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillors marked plus
Central Ward

Cllr Marigold Jaques marigold.jaques@westberks.gov.uk

South & Crookham Ward

Cllr Jason Collis 07824 991352

MP

Mr Richard Benyon MP T: 01635 551070

COUNCIL OFFICES

Brownsfield Road, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 3HF
T: 01635 863592

E: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Town Clerk: Ms Mel Alexander

USEFUL NUMBERS

Play areas/open spaces T: 01635 863592
Police (non-emergency) T: 101
West Berkshire Council T: 01635 551111