Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. As you will see inside, councillors have been busy working on ways to improve our town for its residents and visitors.

This year we have two important events to look forward to. On 25 May the Olympic Torch will be coming through the town and we anticipate many crowds coming to cheer it on.

The following weekend is Jubilee Weekend when we will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. The committee has worked hard to arrange events for everyone and preliminary details can be found on the back page, together with events we have been told about from other organisations. We will be producing a souvenir programme with local jubilee events so if you have something arranged, please tell us about it.

I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Lucy Davies, a year 3 pupil of Walford School who won our competition to design a logo for the jubilee.

I have continued to raise money for my nominated charity, SSAFA, and am very grateful to all of you who have helped me. The final event is my Jubilee concert on 21 April 2012 at 7.30pm at Christchurch, Edde Cross Street - full details can be found on the back page.

Calling all youth!

Plans for the Ross-on-Wye Youth Council are well under way with an election scheduled to take place on 10 May of this year. Three of our councillors have been working hard on this and are excited about the youth having a stronger voice in the town to champion youth issues. 12 youth councillors will be elected aged between 11 and 18 years old, voted for by their 11 to 18 year old peers. Anyone in that age group living within 3 miles of the town or educated or working in Ross who wish to stand should call the town clerk or visit our website for details.
MEETINGS & COMMITTEES

Full Council meetings take place monthly, excluding August, starting at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber on the first floor of the Corn Exchange (a lift is available).

The Annual Town Council Meeting takes place on 14 May and will be followed by the Mayor Making on 21 May at the Lamperz Centre.

The Public are welcome to attend. Agendas are available five days in advance, posted on the Notice Board outside the Corn Exchange and published on our website.

If you have a question for the council, bring it to the office before a meeting or bring it up during “Public Participation”, an agenda item which is always one of the first on the agenda. If you wish a specific item to be discussed in the meeting you must notify the Town Clerk ten clear days prior to that meeting so that it can be included on the agenda.

Council committees meet regularly. These include the Planning & Sustainable Development Committee, the Amenities Committee, the Finance Committee, the Jubilee Committee and the Policy & Management Committee. Working parties currently include Police Liaison, Christmas Lights, Allotments, Picnic Site & leisure facilities and Signage.

The Jubilee Committee was formed to arrange and co-ordinate events to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. It is chaired by Councillor Ian Henderson and consists of Councillors Mrs Caroline Utting and Mrs Joyce Davies. Members of other organisations are also members. It has been meeting on the last Wednesday of each month though dates may vary as the jubilee gets nearer.

The Amenities Committee monitors and maintains footpaths, looks after areas of the Town which the council owns and provides Christmas lights. Its members are Councillors Caroline Utting (Chairman), Andrew Atkinson, Colin Gray, Ian Henderson and Jo Lane.

The Policy & Management Committee is responsible for the administration of the Council and will keep agreed policies under review, meeting five times during the year. The membership of the committee is the Mayor, who is Chairman, the Deputy Mayor and chairmen of each of the other three committees.

The Planning & Sustainable Development Committee is made up of Councillors Jane Roberts (Chairman), Joyce Davis, Colin Gray, Jo Lane and Caroline Utting and meets every three or four weeks on a Tuesday. It deals with all planning issues and acts as a statutory consultee on all planning applications in the town. However, its comments must be restricted to material planning considerations which includes the Ross Town Plan.

The Finance Committee considers the budget and monitors spending. It makes recommendations to Full Council on all grant applications. The Chairman is Councillor Chris Bartrum and other members are Councillors Andrew Atkinson, Phil Cutter, John Edwards and Ian Henderson. It normally meets five times during the year.

Forthcoming Meetings

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The Town Council's Responsibilities

- Deanhill Park
- St Mary's Churchyard
- The Weather Station
- The Bandstand
- Footpaths
- Ross-on-Wye Town Cemetery
- Allotments
- The Com Exchange
- The Larruperz Centre
- Christmas Lights
- The Skate Park

is responsible for:

Parking and Pavements
Refuse & Recycling
Shops and Street lighting.

For help, contact Streetscene on 01432 261800 to report potholes • street cleansing • drainage queries • public convenience cleansing • issue of sandbags •

Street Lights Out
08007 835 675 (24 hours)

Visit CUSTOMER SERVICES at the LIBRARY or phone 01432 260051 for

Refuse • Recycling • Wheelee Bins • Waste Management •
or 01432 260500 for Council tax • Bus passes Blue Badges • Parking • Trading standards • Planning Applications • The Riverside • The Prospect •

Dog Warden Scheme
Community Dog Wardens is well under way, twelve residents have decided to become Wardens with more interested as well! The CDW's will take as active a role as they wish in working with Herefordshire Council’s Community Protection Team to tackle this issue which is caused by an irresponsible minority. We are always looking for more CDW’s, if you are community minded and would like to help combat this problem, and maybe you’re a dog walker too, please get in touch, the Town Clerk would love to hear from you.

Community Governance Review
Community Governance is local government-speak for the nuts and bolts of Parish Council organisation. As an active Parish Council, Ross Town Council is short of Councillors. At the moment we have 12 Councillors, 5 Committees and 10 Working Parties. We are working on projects such as the Jubilee celebrations, signage and new allotments. With 5 Councillors either working fulltime or self employed, we don’t have enough time to do the work! As a comparison, Walford has 13, Ledbury 16 and Leominster 18 Councillors. A “Community Governance Review” could change things so that we have enough bodies to do the work and deliver on the issues in the Ross Town Plan. The County Council has now agreed in principle to a review, but this will not take place until the Autumn of 2013. Don’t worry, Town Councillors are not paid so more Councillors does not mean more salaries or allowances. For more information, telephone the Town Council on 01989 562373 or Chris Bartrum on 01989 563299.

West Mercia Police will be hosting a police open day on Saturday 2nd June 12 at Ross on Wye Police Station, Old Maids Walk, Ross on Wye, between 11.00am and 3.00pm.

Members of the public will get a chance to take a tour of police interview facilities, or take part in a crime scene investigation and there will be a number of other interesting things for family members to do and see.

Inspector Pete Gebbie, told us: “We are looking forward to opening up our doors to the public so they can get a behind the scenes look at the sort of work we all do every day to keep them safe in the South Herefordshire area. This is an opportunity to meet some of the local staff who work in this area and discuss with them local policing matters, or just gain a better understanding of what we do”.

The police are always keen to ensure that we can install confidence in young children and our some of our activities will be focused here.
Calendar of Events

Saturday 21 April, 7.30pm
Our first event, on the Queen's Birthday, is the Mayor's Charity Jubilee Concert at Christchurch, Edde Cross Street with the Ross Choristers and guest soloist, Emily Dodsworth. Tickets at £8 to include refreshments, can be obtained from the Town Clerk. Proceeds to SSAFA.

Wednesday 25 April - Saturday 28 April, 7.30pm
'Best of British' Phoenix Singers perform at the Phoenix Theatre. Details from www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk/

Saturday 26 May to Saturday 2 June
Ross-in-Bloom Judging of the Best Jubilee Window Competition. Windows will be in place by Thursday 24 May to ensure a good splash of colour throughout the town on Friday 25 May for the Olympic Torch Event.

Thursday 31 May - Sunday 3 June
Come to the circus! Several performances each day in the Big Top at the Sports Centre, Wilton with Circus Ginnet.

Saturday 2, Sunday 3 and Monday 4 June
Daytime, drop in children's craft activities at the Market House.

Saturday 2 June, 3.30pm for 7.00pm
'A Right Royal Sing' at St. Mary's Church. Help make up a choir to rehearse "royal" music at 3.30pm for a concert at 7.00pm. Details from Clare: 01989 763355, cthomas@beacon4blind.co.uk

Sunday 3 June, 11.15am
Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church.

Sunday 3 June, 12.00am
Big Lunch at Caroline Symonds Gardens. BYO picnic - some charities will be selling drinks and refreshments. Enjoy Drybrook and Ross Town Bands at the Bandstand; a vintage car display; the British Legion, Friends of St Mary's and the Hospital Friends' stands and sideshows: photos from the photographic club; Tudor Sweets' logo lollies; children's rides and giant inflatable from Danters and plenty more. Any other group who wishes to add to the event is asked to contact the Clerk.

Monday 4 June, 2.00pm
Children's Fun Days at Brampton Abbots School run by Churches Together and Tudorville Community Centre run by the Tudorville Community Association.

Monday 4 June, 2.00pm
50's Tea at the Larruperz Centre for the elderly. Contact Jill Talbot-Ponsonby on 01989 565003.

Monday 4 June, 9.00pm
Procession, lighting of the beacon and riverside fireworks display. Come and join a flag and banner procession along Gloucester Road to the Riverside where there will be a hog roast and "The Banned" will be playing at the Bandstand. At the Prospect, the beacon will be lit as part of the national chain and the Ross Lions will organise fireworks.

Tuesday 5 June
The John Kyrle Retirement Club in Pigs Alley welcomes you for morning coffee, ploughman's lunch or afternoon tea.

Sunday 17 June
Ross Town Band Jubilee Concert at Wilton Castle.

Wednesday 11 July
Diamond Day in Hereford when the Queen visits the county. More details to come.

Jubilee Art Competition - Nine Square Inches
Can you create a work of art no larger than “Nine Square Inches”?
It can be a square or 3D or long and thin - in fact any shape provided its surface area is no bigger than nine square inches. Knit it, photograph it, paint it or model it - the choice is yours and then mount or frame it (frame is not included in the nine inches). Make it out of anything (provided it is not perishable) and get your entry to us by Tuesday 1 May 2012 with an entry form available from the Town Clerk. All entries will be displayed during the jubilee weekend. Five entries will win prizes of £50, so start getting creative!