



BISHOP'S CaStl e NeWS

ISSUE 28 April 2011



Double success for the Town Hall Renovation Project

The Town Council has been celebrating a double success in securing grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Shropshire Council's Market Towns Revitalisation Project (MTRP) money to make up the total funding required to enter into the development phase of the Town Hall Renovation Project, which should help secure the project's future implementation, whether as one integrated large project or in smaller, staged phases. The development phase will include production of detailed plans and designs for the renovation of and improvements to the building; community involvement in plans for new heritage, art, music and social activities to be held there; and plans for an expansion of the role of the Town Hall in the local economy. Although the Heritage Lottery award allows the Town Council up to two years to complete the detailed planning, the aim of the Project Team is to complete it by March 2012. The final application will then be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the much greater grant to carry out all the work and activities identified in the development phase.

It will be necessary for the Project Team to try to identify other sources of grants for the main phase. This fact, makes it all the more important for the town and all well wishers to renew their fund raising efforts for Target 250.

The Town Council office at the Town Hall is open Monday—Friday from 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. for public enquiries or to view planning applications. Otherwise a message can be left by telephoning 01588 638141 or by sending an e-mail to townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk
Diane Malley, Town Clerk

Assistance Urgently Required

The Town Council requires the assistance of a person on the third Saturday in every month for the Farmer's Market, who has access to a vehicle with a tow bar . They will be required to collect the trailer containing the market tables and stalls from Village Outreach at Enterprise House and transport them to Market Square at 7.30 am where the stalls will be erected. At the end of the Farmer's Market, at approximately 2.00 pm, they will then need to return the trailer containing tables and stalls from Market Square back to Village Outreach.

Payment will be offered for this assistance. For further information please contact Diane Malley or Nikki Rodick at the Town Hall, High Street, Monday to Friday mornings on tel: 01588 638141 or at townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk

Some great results have been achieved through fund raising events recently, and others are coming up soon. The Project team have so many areas of work to which they must give attention, that they hope to build a small team of supporters who will take on the direction and promotion of Target 250 for them. If you can spare a few hours to help with this then contact the Town Clerk for further information.

The new funding picture for the delivery of the project :

The total project cost identified in the current HLF application is £787,064, of which we have asked the HLF for £579,800. The match funding to make up the difference is planned to come from several different sources, some already in place: the Town Council's Town

Hall reserve fund (approx £35,000); public fundraising through Target 250, see below, (aiming for £62,500); separate applications to other heritage funders (approx £50,000), one source identified, so far; and the value of volunteer time that will be given to the project over two years by the community, now re-estimated at HLF request at £50,050.

Fundraising Events Coming Up:

Wednesday 8th June (provisional—check nearer the time)

Music at the Town Hall, with David Thomas Broughton - blues and experimental guitar. Starts at 7.30pm. £4 on the door, plus real ale, wine, snacks and a raffle.

Funds raised through donations so far: £7,643.85

Funds raised including pledged: £15,400

We are well over one fifth of the way towards the target of £62,500 so a big thank you to everybody who has donated so far.

All donations are welcome, large and small, please make your cheque out to ‘Town Hall Renovation Fund’ and send to the Town Clerk, The Town Hall, High Street, Bishop’s Castle SY9 5BG

Alternatively there are collection boxes at:

Harvest Wholefoods, Lydham

Yarborough House, Bishop’s Castle

Decorative Antiques, Bishop’s Castle

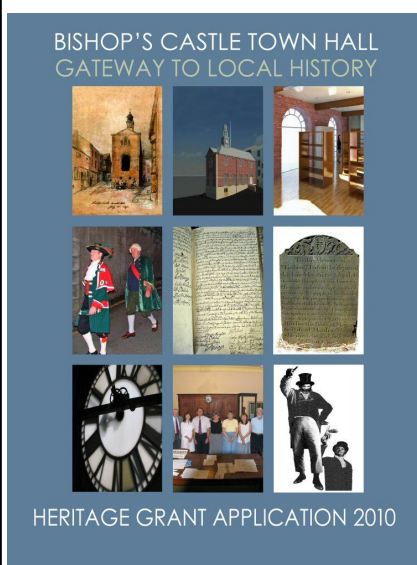
Art and Artisan Books, Bishop’s Castle

Bishop’s Castle Building Supplies, Bishop’s Castle

Textile Traders, Bishop’s Castle

The Three Tuns Public House, Bishop’s Castle

Please note, any donations will only be used on renovations or repairs to the Town Hall and will not be used for any other purpose.



A copy of the HLF application is lodged with the Town Clerk at the Town Hall and another at Bishop’s Castle Heritage Resource Centre (BCHRC), and either may be viewed on the premises by arrangement.

Contact the Town Clerk on 01588 638 141, or email

townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk Contact the volunteers at BCHRC on 01588 630 556 or email mail@bchrc

Town Councillor Vacancy

At the April council meeting the clerk read a letter out from Councillor Gaffney tendering his resignation as a town councillor but confirming his hope to stand for council again in the future.

Councillor Gaffney was thanked for all his hard work, with special acknowledgment for his time spent as Mayor to the town.

The resignation leaves a vacancy on the town council which is currently being advertised. Ten electors or more of the town have until 27th May in which to call for an election. To do this written request for an election, bearing signatures, names and addresses of at least 10 electors of the town must be sent to the Returning Officer, Electoral Services, Shropshire Council, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND

If this happens the Returning Officer at Shropshire Council will set the date for election and issue nomination papers to candidates. If an election is not called then the town council can fill the vacancy by co-option where the council will vote on who fills the vacancy.

For further information or guidance please contact either Electoral Services on telephone 0345 678 9015, or the Town Clerk.

Welcome to the new Assistant Clerk

During March the Town Council welcomed Nikki Rodick as their new Assistant Clerk. The role was created by reducing the number of hours the Town Clerk has been working over the past 12 months and sharing them out to Nikki. This gives an advantage of office coverage during annual leave and is ultimately more cost effective for the council.

Nikki moved to Bishop’s Castle in 2005 with her husband. After a break from work to have children Nikki wished to return to the working environment, with her honors in Business Administration, Public Policy and Management she felt a role in the town council would be perfect.

Markets held in the Town Hall

A Friday Market is held weekly selling fruit and vegetables, bread, cakes and pies, bric-a-brac, ethnic clothing, hand made cards, plants and sometimes second hand garden tools.

The Farmer’s Market is held every 3rd Saturday in the month and sells a variety of meats, produce, bread, cakes and other locally sourced goods.

The Flea Market is held on the first Saturday in every month.

All markets open early and close around 1.00pm

THE TOWN COUNCIL DIARY

It is a busy time for the Town Council over the next few months, as well as it being the end of year meaning the preparation and finalisation of accounts followed by audits, there is also plenty of activity on the Civic side. During May there will be the Annual Council Meeting where the Mayor for the following Municipal year will be elected

followed by the Civic Service on 5th June.

In April the Annual Town Meeting was held where the police attended and gave an update of policing in the area over the last 12 months.

Matters raised from residents included concerns regarding the Biomass Plant especially in relation to Shropshire Council's monitoring of emissions from the plant, also Freedom of Information requests following the lease to Bishop's Castle Biomass Ltd. The Biomass Group has raised several issues with Shropshire Council regarding failings to comply with conditions at the sister plant in Eccleshall and has sought to seek assurances that the Bishop's Castle plant will be better monitored.

If you missed the Annual Town Meeting and would have liked to raise a matter then it is possible to address the Town Council during the public forum section of every Town Council meeting. All Town Council meetings are open to members of the public to attend, members of the public who wish to speak must give the Town Clerk notice of their wish in advance of the meeting. Please note members of the public are only permitted to speak during the public forum section under legislation governing Town and Parish Council.

Dates for future Town Council Meetings are:

- 24th May 2011
- 21st June 2011
- 16th August 2011
- 13th September 2011
- 11th October 2011
- 8th November 2011
- 6th December 2011

All meetings are on Tuesday evenings, starting at 8.00 pm and are held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. Any plans for discussion during the meeting are available for inspection from 7.40 pm.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the website at www.bishopscastle.co.uk/council/
This is the 10th full year the town council has

Notice of appointment of date for the exercise of elector's rights

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011

Each year the Council's Annual return is audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission. Any person interested has the opportunity to inspect and make copies of the Annual Return and documents relating to them. For the year ending 31st March 2011 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to the Town Clerk between 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Monday to Friday commencing on 27th June 2011 and ending on 22nd July 2011.

Electors and their representatives have the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts who can be contacted on 25th July at Mazars LLP, Regency House, 3 Grosvenor Square, Southampton SO15 2BE

Bishop's Castle Midsummer Rejoicing Weekend

Saturday 25th June

Church Fete—in the Church and Churchyard

Stalls, tours of the Church Tower, games and activities for children. Competitions (free entry), flower arranging, cookery, children's music from the Bishop's Castle Orchestra and teas in the Church Barn.

Sunday 26th June

10 am Morris Dancing at Coverage Care, Stone House
10.30 am Rushcart Procession through town (starts at Stone House)

11 am Rushbearing Service in Church

12 noon Morris Dancing in churchyard and around town

For information contact 01588 639271 or 01588 638363

Furniture Scheme Reuse Centre open Saturdays!

The Furniture Scheme's reuse centre in Weeping Cross Lane, Ludlow (next to Countrywide) will open its doors on Saturdays from the 14th May, 9am - 1pm. This is in addition to the existing opening times of Tuesday – Friday 10am – 4pm.

There is a large range of household items from washing machines and cookers (limited supply), refrigerators, tables, chairs, sofas, lamps, beds, mattresses, crockery etc at reasonable prices.

They accept donations of furniture (soft furnishings must comply with current fire safety regulations with the label still attached). If you would like to make a donation please telephone 01584 877751 to arrange free collection, or items can be dropped off at the reuse centre during opening hours.

For more information visit the website: www.furnitureScheme.co.uk

From 1st February the Town Clerk's Office is open in the Town Hall, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm where plans can be viewed. Pop in if you have any queries connected with the Town.



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PETER PHILLIPS Shropshire Councillor

Tel: 01588 650625
Fax: 01588 650512

email: peter.phillips@shropshire.gov.uk

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