

HERE AND NOW in HUNGERFORD

No. 22 in a series of regular briefings from the Council

FEBRUARY 2015

A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

A small and simple flag-raising ceremony will take place on the 9th March at the Town Hall when, along with villages, towns and cities up and down the land as well as overseas, Hungerford flies a flag for the Commonwealth.

With terror stories filling the headlines and news programmes on a seemingly daily basis it is important to think about who we are and what it is that we hold dear – our true values not only on a personal level but also as citizens of the free and liberal society that is the United Kingdom.

The ceremony is open to all. Town & Manor Constable, Susan Hofgartner, will join Councillors, Freemen of the town and schoolchildren outside the Town Hall at around 9.45am to hear the affirmation and fly the flag at 10am.

FREEDOM NOMINATIONS

The Town Council is still accepting nominations for Freedom of the Town awards. Established in 2012 it has proved a popular way of recognising the members of our community that further enrich our lives.

Nominations will close on the 1st March.

TOWN MEETING

Finally, you are all cordially invited to the Town Meeting at the Town Hall on the 19th March. Come and hear what your Town Council has been up to over the past 12 months and how we have been spending your money.

We will start with refreshments from 6.30pm, followed by an action-packed meeting at 7pm prompt, with reports from each of the council's committees, presentations from Police Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, John O'Gaunt Head, Sarah Brinkley and our District Councillors, to name but a few.

We will also have a special piece dedicated to recruiting would-be Town Councillors at the forthcoming elections in May. See you there!

Now, enough of me. Over to the interesting bit. Some more Councillor profiles...

Cllr ROB BROOKMAN

About a year ago I was persuaded by a friend to put my name forward for co-option to the Town Council. I didn't really know what this would involve and so I went to a couple of Council meetings as an observer to get a flavour for the role. I was impressed that the discussions were lively and serious and involvement of all Councillors was welcomed.

I was concerned that there might be Political conflicts between Councillors but I quickly found that there are no Political divisions. All Councillors have equal rights so decisions are taken on a show of hands after free and open discussions.

Once I joined the Council I received shed loads of help and advice from other Councillors and, in particular, from the office



staff. From time to time training is available with outside organisations which I have found to be excellent.

When I joined the Council I was asked to nominate two Committees which I wanted to join. Because of my background I elected to become a member of the Environment and Planning committee and also the Highways and Transport committee. With the Full Council meeting this means that one evening a week is taken up with Council meetings. However, I don't find this a problem. These have broadened my horizons and I recommend that everyone should give it a try.



Cllr CAROLANN FARRELL

Could I please take a few moments to introduce myself? I am a busy mum of four with three grown up children and one still little. I also have 8 grandchildren, I have been a foster carer for 25 years and I am my husband's business partner. As you see like you I lead a very busy life.

I have been co-opted onto the Town Council for the last two years and thoroughly enjoy it. It is hectic at times both at home and on the Council. I love living locally and see great things for the future but in order for this to happen we need more people to join. We really are a friendly bunch with very varied views and after many lively debates - things get changed or done for the right reasons. I see the town moving forward to the future with the blessing of the past, keeping the good and embracing the new together. I am excited by the future and what lies ahead. Hungerford is a very special town with very special people I would like to keep it that way. Could you join me and my fellow Councillors?



Cllr SARAH LEACH

I moved to Hungerford only a few years ago, I'm still very new to the area by most standards. When my partner and I were looking to settle down somewhere, Hungerford seemed like the right choice for us.

As I got to know Hungerford for the first year I lived here, I fell in love with it. I realised that the beautiful open spaces, the busy high street, and the wonderful sense of community were things that I really valued. I didn't want to take for granted that the great things about Hungerford would continue, and I wanted to play my part in supporting the town.

I came along to a council meeting to see what it was like, and I saw how I could contribute, with a different perspective and an analytical mind. I've enjoyed getting to know the town and supporting its development ever since.

