



Dursley Matters

Dursley Town Council Newsletter

April 2014

What's on.....

Annual Town Meeting

29th April 2014 at 7pm
Dursley Community Centre, Rednock Drive
(See article overleaf for info)

Dursley Farmers' Market

Held from 8:30am to 1pm in the Market Place on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Your chance to purchase local produce including – local meats, bread, homemade cakes and much more.

Dursley Craft Market

Saturday 26th April 2014, 9:30am-1:30pm in the Market Place.

Dursley in Bloom

Judging day is Wednesday 23rd July 2014.

Dursley Festival

Preparations are underway for this year's Festival on Saturday 12th July 2014.

Dursley Walking Festival

From Friday 10th October to Sunday 12th October 2014
For further information visit -
www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk

For a guide to what's on at Dursley Town Hall & Market Place, please visit
www.dursleytowntrust.org.uk

Work Starts on Dursley's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

This is an important opportunity for Dursley residents to have their say. Don't Miss Out!

A Steering Group of Dursley Town Councillors and other local residents is drafting a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Dursley under powers provided by the Localism Act 2011. £7,000 in Government grant funding has been secured to help with the project.

NDPs give local communities the power to put in place planning policies for the future development and growth of their neighbourhoods. Several are being developed and a few have now been agreed around the country.

The Dursley NDP will give the people of Dursley a level of control over the future development of their town which has never been offered before.

If you are a Dursley resident, please get involved. What is your vision for the future of Dursley?

The Dursley NDP will be a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of our area. It will contain our vision and aims for the town of Dursley; it will involve local planning policies and proposals for improving the area and providing new facilities, as well as the allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

NDPs relate to the use and development of land and associated social, economic and environmental matters. They may deal with a wide range of topics (like housing, employment, heritage and transport) or may focus on one or two issues that are of particular importance in a local area.

The Dursley NDP will be subject to examination and referendum by the people of Dursley and will form part of the Local Development Plan. This statutory status gives NDPs far more weight and power than many other local planning documents, such as parish plans, community plans and village design statements.

This power means it is worth getting involved.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to speak out, contribute to the plan and comment as it develops.

The Steering Group has been set up to oversee the development of the Dursley NDP. The group will initially be focusing on a range of themed topics including:

Environment & Local Green Spaces

Design

Housing

Traffic & Transport

Economy

Infrastructure

Sustainability

If you would like to give your views, share information, help out or join a topic group please get in touch with the Steering Group, email

ndp@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

or call 01453 547758.

Apprenticeship

We would like to welcome our new Apprentice Administration Assistant, Ben Edwards. The Business Administration Apprenticeship is delivered through the Gloucestershire College scheme.

Don't Miss The Annual Town Meeting 29th April 2014

Dursley's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 7pm in the Community Centre, Rednock Drive.

Come along and raise any issues you have about Dursley.

It's your chance to find out about recent exciting changes and achievements at Dursley's schools. The guest speakers this year are David Alexander, Headteacher at Rednock School and Paul Daniels, Headteacher at Dursley Primary Academy School.

Everyone is welcome!

Vacancies for Councillors

We have three **vacancies** one in the Central ward and two in Highfields ward which can be filled by co-option.

If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor please contact the Town Clerk for more information. A copy of Council's Co-option Policy is available on our website www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Help your neighbourhood and town by becoming a Councillor.

Our Place Funding for Dursley

We are delighted to announce that funding has been secured through the government's Our Place programme to support the delivery of services for young people in Dursley.

Our Place is a £4.3m programme of support and grants to help areas working to transform local public services. The Council will initially receive a grant of £3,000 to kick off the project, with the opportunity to secure additional funding as work progresses, up to a total of £33,000. The programme also provides direct support through a Relationship Manager and consultancy/coaching support.

The Dursley Our Place project aims to place more power and control in the hands of local people leading to the delivery of better quality and cost effective services. Working with a range of local partners, including youth work providers, local authorities and other agencies the plan is to provide joined up services for young people tackling a range of issues, with an initial focus on employment, health and social wellbeing.

More information on the Our Place programme can be found at: <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/our-place/>

For more information please contact the Town Clerk, Helen Bojaniwska on 01453 547758 or email clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Pancake Race 2014

The Pancake Race raised a total of £63.72 for Dursley in Bloom. We would like to say a big thank you to Classy Glass and Awards for donating the race medals and to all of those people who supported the event on the day.

Employment Taskforce

Stroud District Council is co-ordinating agencies and local bodies to address the issue of job losses in Cam, Dursley and Berkeley. In just a few months the area has seen unexpected announcements of around 150 job losses.

Councillor Geoff Wheeler, leader of Stroud District Council, said:

"The council has real concerns about the decline in employment in the area and the possibility of future losses. Whilst we have long term aspirations for the local economy, there have been a number of recent announcements about job losses, including skilled manufacturing and engineering jobs, in this part of our district.

"We contacted Unite, JobCentre Plus, GFirst LEP, the Federation of Small Businesses and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College and they were all keen to get involved."

Dursley Town Council was saddened to hear the recent news that Lister Petter has entered into administration and faces liquidation if a new buyer is not found soon. Our thoughts are with all the employees and their families who will be affected.

The employment taskforce will take a three-pronged approach by working to protect jobs, help retrain those affected by redundancy and create firm foundations for future jobs in the area. Accounting for structural change in the employment market and retraining local people to enhance their future potential will be a key priority.

Councillor Wheeler added:

"In employment terms our district has fared better than some during the economic downturn but there have been pockets of concentrated job losses. Whilst we have some concerns about recent job losses there is also much scope for optimism. The potential for the Gloucestershire Renewable Energy, Engineering and Nuclear Skills Centre to make the most of the decommissioning of the nuclear facilities at Berkeley by building skills in nuclear and green and low carbon sectors is a great example of what lies ahead. With the appropriate agencies working together we will build a comprehensive, dynamic and hands-on plan to ensure that the area prospers for many more years into the future."

20 IS PLENTY!

20 IS PLENTY signs have been put up on the Highfields estate to encourage motorists to slow down. Dursley's Community Speed Watch volunteers and the Neighbourhood Policing team have been working together to tackle speeding traffic in the town.



Fond Farewell

The Town Clerk's Assistant Sue Ginn will be retiring at the end of April 2014. For 20 years Sue has handled the various administrative duties of Dursley Town Council, dealing with everything from weeds, potholes, play equipment, interments and allotments.



During her time in the role Sue has used her local knowledge and experience to support 3 Town Clerks in the job and has seen Dursley change significantly over the years. Sue has supported Council activities relating to many important large projects such as the Sainsbury's development, the market place refurbishment, the Rednock School rebuild, the

introduction of the mini roundabout, new library and fire station buildings and more recently the new Youth Centre.

As the Acting Clerk of the Twinberrow Foundation, Sue also played a vital role in managing Twinberrow Woods.

In sharing her thoughts Sue said:

"I really enjoy day to day Council life and being in contact with so many different people from the groups and agencies we work with and of course Dursley residents and traders. I have learned so much about Dursley and the great things that are going on in the community; I am going to miss it greatly".

Sue is a valued member of the Council team and we will miss her vast local knowledge and experience. We wish her all the very best in her retirement.

It's FOUL!

Over recent weeks we have seen a rise in dog fouling incidents, particularly in the town centre.

You can help to stamp out dog fouling in Dursley and the Stroud District by reporting offences to Stroud District Council's Dog Warden Team.

Tel: (01453) 754478 www.stroud.gov.uk
Email: environmentalhealth@stroud.gov.uk

Information provided to the team by members of the local community can assist in the way in which the Dog Wardens carry out their patrols.

When reporting an offence of dog fouling, think about the following:

- Do you know the dog owner?
- Do they usually walk the dog at a certain time?
- Where are they allowing the dog to foul?
- What do the dog and its owner look like?
- If the dog owner is using a vehicle, what is the registration number?

Some dog owners think that they can get away with not picking up after their pet if a Dog Warden is not around, but as more and more people come forward to report dog fouling offences, irresponsible dog owners may start to think twice about their actions.

Council Budget & Tax Precept Set for 2014/15

We have set the budget for the 2014/15 financial year, investing in a range of projects to benefit Dursley. The total budget is £557,669 of which £232,040 will be met from Council Tax.

The Town Council's share of the overall Council Tax bill is very small and this year's increase is the equivalent of £3.94 per household or 8p a week.

A number of exciting projects are planned for this year including: new play equipment at the War Memorial Recreation Ground and environmental improvements at the Broadwell area.

We intend to purchase new land for allotments and plan to take over responsibility for both Highfields Play Area and Union Street green.

Negotiations for the construction of the new youth centre are at an advanced stage and work should start in the next few weeks.

We have also started work on a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Dursley, which will focus on shaping new development in the town, where it should go and what it should look like.

The overall budget at a glance:

EXPENDITURE	£
Green spaces maintenance	77,450
Other green spaces projects	215,354
Town improvements & amenities	48,200
Youth services	70,000
Community grants	22,000
Council administration	107,740
Other services	16,925
TOTAL	557,669

INCOME	£
Use of reserves	241,337
Grants & developer contributions	42,324
Other income	18,750
LCTS grant*	23,218
Council tax	232,040
TOTAL	557,669

(*LCTS – Localisation of Council Tax Support – grant paid by the government to offset changes to the way Council Tax benefit is paid.)

If you have any questions please contact the Town Clerk, Helen Bojaniwska on 01453 547758 or email clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk.

The ideal website to promote local businesses & facilities!

The new Dursley Welcomes Walkers website - www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk is set up to encourage visitors to the Dursley area. It is linked to the National website of Walkers are Welcome towns and is the ideal place to promote local businesses and facilities.

If you are interested in using the website to promote your business/facility, contact the group via the website or email dursleywaw@gmail.com.

Town Hall Lift Appeal Launched

An appeal has been launched to raise funds to install a modern lift, glass foyer and disabled toilet at Dursley Town Hall.

The renovations will boost rental income for the space by making it more accessible for the wider community. More groups will be encouraged to use the Town Hall for meetings, classes and social gatherings. Rental income is essential to maintaining the Grade II listed building.

Residents are being asked to show their support for the scheme and help raise funds to contribute to the project.



For more information, visit

www.dursleytowntrust.org.uk or call Mr Mike Doughty on 07808 923142.

Contacting Dursley Town Council

Your Town Councillors

If you live in Highfields Ward, you are represented by:

Mrs V Harding 11 Shakespeare Road, GL11 4QE
Mr B. A. Marsh * 22 Somerset Avenue, GL11 4PY
Mr M Nicholson 11 Third Avenue, GL11 4NT
Mr N Grecian 9 Ferney, GL11 5AB

If you live in Central Ward, you are represented by:

Dr. F Firth 2 Hunger Hill, GL11 5GE
Dr. T. G. Frankau 21 Burnt Oak, GL11 4HD
Mrs S Creswick 3 The Slade, GL11 4JX
Dr. R Blackwell-Whitehead 14 Harrold's Close, GL11 4FD
Dr. Jonathan Bird 63 Long Street, GL11 4HR

If you live in Kingshill Ward, you are represented by:

Mrs J. A. Ball 109 Woodview Road, Cam, GL11 5SD
Dr. A Stennett 28 Oak Drive, GL11 4DX
Mrs C Nelmes 2 Jubilee Road, GL11 4ES
Ms M Laybourne 28 Oak Drive, GL11 4DX
Mrs L. V. Patrick 30 Oak Drive, GL11 4DX

Your District Councillors.....

Mr B. A. Marsh * contact details as above
Mr G Wheeler 4 Five Acres, GL11 4JP
Mrs D Cornell 74 Everlands, Cam, GL11 5NL

Your County Councillor.....

Mr S Lydon Marsh Court, Marsh Road, Leonard Stanley, Stonehouse, GL10 3NG

Your MP.....

Mr Neil Carmichael 7 Bridge Street, Nailsworth, GL6 0AA

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751572 neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk

Latest News on Dursley's Youth Centre

Negotiations for the construction of the new youth centre are at an advanced stage and work should start in the next few weeks.

Misuse of Tennis Courts

We check the tennis courts on the War Memorial Recreation Ground daily and have noticed an increase in litter, broken glass and empty alcohol bottles/cans.

We recently resurfaced the courts and they are open and free to use without the need to book. Many residents have been making the most of the courts and enjoying a game of tennis. We are keen for this to continue.

If you witness anti-social behaviour or misuse of the courts please contact us. The Alcohol Free Zone in Dursley covers all highways and open public space within the parish. It is illegal to drink alcohol within the zone. Suspected underage drinking should be reported to the Police.

Contact Your Town Council Office for: Planning Application Viewing, Internet Access for Homeseekers Website, Advice & Information on Local Services, Kingshill Cemetery & St Mark's Burial Ground, Kingshill Allotments, Kingshill Play Park & the War Memorial Recreation Ground

Dursley Town Council Office is open Monday to Friday 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Address: Jacob's House, Castle Street, Dursley, GL11 4BS

Tel/Fax: 01453 547758 Email: clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk