

Mayor's column

By Cllr Alvin Horsfall

This will be my last column as Town Mayor as we usually only stand as Mayor for a year and my 12 months are up. But I will remain a town councillor and I have to say what a great year it has been.

The highlight has to be meeting more local people than ever before, trying to solve their problems and thereby making Frome a better place. In particular, the monthly "Meet the Mayor" surgeries on Saturday mornings enabled the Town Council to have a better understanding of what your issues are.

So a big thank you for letting me know what you think and keep it coming. The Town Council is your local council and we are there for you.

There have been two main themes running through this past year -

'buy local' and 'protect the environment'. To me, these are two sides of the same coin. For example, if we buy local, be it food, a Nintendo Wii, or a plumber's time, we keep more of our money in the local community. In addition, if we don't have to travel so far, our carbon emissions will be lower and we can help protect the environment.

Green business seminar

Obviously, therefore, I was delighted to host last week a green business seminar at the Cheese and Grain. The Town Council alongside Frome Chamber of Commerce and Wessex Environment Business Network welcomed 30 local businesses who heard how it was possible to



protect the environment without it costing the earth.

We received excellent presentations from other local businesses and people on carbon offsetting, ethical alternatives and how to reduce business waste and water consumption.

I got the message loud and clear that people want to protect the environment and the advice and support they received at the seminar went a long way to helping them do it.

Growing your own

The Town Council provides 115 allotments for the community on seven sites around the town. These are administered by the Allotments Association.

Demand for allotments is increasing and, while all potential sites are investigated, suitable land remains a scarce resource. Providing allotments is not the only option though. Cordelia Rowlett of the Frome Veg Box scheme has been talking with the Town Council about a complementary idea - the community garden scheme.

Frome Town Council's Grounds and Prop-

erties Manager, Simon Woollen said: "If you own a piece of spare land or a have large garden, you could come to an arrangement with somebody who would like to grow there own."

"The Town Council is willing to act as a kind of 'dating agency' by putting people in touch with each other. Obviously, any arrangement will be between these two parties but we are happy to help bring people together."

This scheme is still in the planning stage and if you would like to be involved please contact Simon Woollen at the Town Council offices.

HOW CAN WE CRACK FROME'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS?

Councillor Elizabeth John, chair of the Town Council's Transport Working Party would like to hear from you if you have a view on how to improve transport in the town.

Councillor John said: "Living in Frome as I do, it seems clear that one of the main problem areas is how we move

around the Market Square, but I'm sure it's not the only one.

"My working party recently met with senior County Council officers to discuss how to solve problems in Frome and I'd really like to hear from anyone who has a view on what the big problems are and how to crack them."

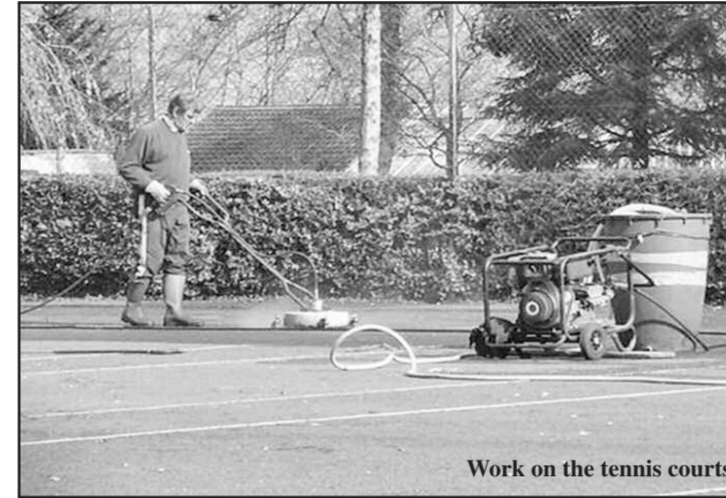
FACELIFT OF VICTORIA PARK

For those of you who use Victoria Park and the Mary Baily Playing Field, you will be delighted to know that the Town Council has now received planning permission to install the new concrete skate ramps.

Users and neighbours have been consulted on the design and location the new ramps it will be installed at the end of May. Because they are so heavy the contractor will have to use a large crane to lift the ramps into position. The existing and highly popular metal ramps will be kept and the zip wire will be installed after the crane has left.

Anyone for tennis?

The court resurfacing work is scheduled to be finished by the



Work on the tennis courts

end of April. A new fence will be installed and signage explaining how to book the courts. This refurbishment goes hand in hand with the new tea room, planned

to be opened in the summer. The Town Council hopes that these new facilities will encourage more people to spend more time in the park this summer.

Nominations open for new town councillor

Following Blanche Farley's resignation as town councillor for the Berkley Down ward, nominations are now open to elect her successor.

If you would like to stand please contact the Returning Officer at Mendip District

Council who manages elections on behalf of the Town Council. All nominations must be received by noon on 7 May.

If there is an election, the date will be 4 June and the polling stations will be at Frome Town Football Club and the Community Rooms on St John's Road.

WHO IS YOUR TOWN COUNCILLOR?

BERKLEY DOWN WARD

Peter John tel: 01373 461025 Con
email: johnp@frome-tc.gov.uk
Brian Potter tel: 01373 469972 Lib Dem
email: potterb@frome-tc.gov.uk

COLLEGE WARD

Carole Bullen tel: 01373 465969 Con
email: bullenc@frome-tc.gov.uk
Christine Cockcroft tel: 01373 467274 Lib Dem
email: cockcrofct@frome-tc.gov.uk
Andrew Earle tel: 01373 472408 Lib Dem
email: earlea@frome-tc.gov.uk

KEYFORD WARD

Felix Fitzpatrick tel: 01373 467381 Con
email: fitzpartrickf@frome-tc.gov.uk
Alvin Horsfall tel: 01373 469502 Lib Dem
email: horsfalla@frome-tc.gov.uk
David Oakensen tel: 01373 473264 Lab
email: oakensend@frome-tc.gov.uk

MARKET WARD

Karen Harvey tel: 01373 466477 Lib Dem
email: harveyk@frome-tc.gov.uk
Elizabeth John tel: 01373 461025 Con
email: johne@frome-tc.gov.uk
Philip Whitmarsh tel: 01373 463902 Lib Dem
email: whitmarshp@frome-tc.gov.uk

OAKFIELD WARD

Maggy Daniell tel: 01373 463480 Lib Dem
email: daniellm@frome-tc.gov.uk
Helen Sprawson-White tel: 01373 454289 Lib Dem
email: whiteh@frome-tc.gov.uk

PARK WARD

Damon Hooton tel: 01373 455743 Lib Dem
email: hootond@frome-tc.gov.uk
Pam Lee tel: 01373 463584 Con
email: leep@frome-tc.gov.uk
Claire Hudson tel: 01373 455743 Lib Dem
email: hudsonc@frome-tc.gov.uk

5 Palmer Street, Frome BA11 1DS
www.frome-tc.gov.uk • admin@frome-tc.gov.uk
Tel. 01373 465757

GRANTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

This year, Frome Town Council is awarding a total of £65,330 in grant aid to 30 local organisations. Seventy two applications were received amounting to £175,000 in total.

Obviously, many applicants were disappointed. With this in mind Councillors are consulting at the moment on how to administer grants as they plan for the next round. Please contact Paul Wynne at the town office to share your views.

FROME TOWN COUNCIL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS MAY 2009 - JUNE 2009

May 09		Venue
13	Annual Town Meeting	Rook Lane Chapel
	<i>The Annual Town Meeting is a statutory meeting of the electorate and is an opportunity for anyone in the town to raise items for discussion. The Town Mayor, Cllr. Alvin Horsfall, requests that any questions for the Council are given to the Chief Executive at the Town Office in advance of the meeting.</i>	
	<i>The meeting starts at 7.00pm and Fairtrade refreshments will be available from 6.30pm.</i>	
20	Annual Town Council Meeting at 7.00pm	Assembly Rooms
June 09		
24	Full Council at 6.00pm	Frome Library
July 09		
05	Civic Service and Awards Ceremony at 2.00pm	Christ Church

The full calendar of meetings will be agreed at the Annual Town Council meeting on 20 May and will be placed on the website. Alternatively, please contact the Town Office for details. Please note that members of the press and public are welcome and encouraged to attend the Town Council meetings. They can ask questions under public forum section of the agenda which can be answered by the relevant committee but not debated.

Frome Town Council is always trying to improve its service. If you have any comment on this newsletter we'd love to hear it.

Please tear off this corner with your comment and return it to the Town Council at the address opposite or if you prefer, email: admin@frome-tc.gov.uk

Comment

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Name:

Postcode:

Contact details:

Profile: Gary Maule, Police Community Support Officer

Gary Maule and Mary Waugh are PCSOs in Frome. They cover the Town Centre, Badcox and the public parks. We asked Gary about his job.

"My main task is to diagnose problems, get to know challenging individuals and their families and look into their backgrounds," said Gary. "I work with partner agencies such as Social Services, Mental Health Teams, Housing and Schools and spend a lot of time building relationships within communities. Then I try and put things in place to help break the cycle of offending."

"But that's only one part of the job. PCSOs deal with low level crime and disorder, anti social behaviour and traffic offences and that's just the tip of the iceberg!"



PCSO: Gary Maule