

Street Fair Fun!

We are keeping everything crossed that Saturday 11 September will see the return of Corsham's Street Fair to the town centre.

From 12-4pm, there'll be live music, entertainment, arts and crafts, stalls from our community groups and more. Contact corshamstreetfair@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

Obviously, everything will be run following the most up-to-date Covid-19 guidance, but we hope that our first event since Christmas 2019 will be a great opportunity for everyone to get together, and the chance for our local groups and organisations to

do some much-needed fundraising.

And that's not all – the Peacock Arts Trail launches on the same day as the Fair (more details overleaf) in celebration of local artists. StoryTown is back from 15-17 October (again, more details inside). There's Magic and Mayhem at The Pound in November (poundarts.org.uk) and the town's Christmas Lights Switch On on 3 December.

Plus, every weekend from now until 25 September, you'll find great local musicians playing on the corner of Martingate and the High Street as part of Summer Busking Saturdays, supported by

Martingate and the Town Council. Come and listen from 11.30am-1pm and enjoy a summer Saturday in Corsham.



Meriton Rec Play Area

Thank you to everyone who took part in our consultation survey to choose new play equipment for younger children at Meriton Rec.

We had a great response which really helped us make a

decision on the design. This was the chosen one, although it is an artist's impression so things may change slightly – it was 'B' in the survey. We hope it will be installed during the summer holidays.



FREE TWO HOURS PARKING



IN CORSHAM'S PUBLIC CAR PARKS

SUPPORT YOUR
TOWN CENTRE

SUPPORTED BY
Corsham
TOWN COUNCIL

This edition of the newsletter was finalised on 8 July 2021. While we hope the route out of the pandemic is going to plan, things can change very quickly. Please visit www.corsham.gov.uk or look at our Facebook page, [@corshamtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/corshamtowncouncil), for the latest local information.



From the Chairman

Looking to the future – and some reflection

The elections for the Town Council have been and gone with no voting taking place because we only had 13 candidates for 20 positions.

We have been active since then in looking for people to join the Council by co-option and hope to have all 20 spaces filled soon.

Nevertheless, the process of renewing the membership of the Council for the next four years provides a moment to reflect on what we want to achieve. We will be working up a new Strategic Plan, to 2026, to follow the one that we have been working to where our achievements include:

- Getting our Neighbourhood Plan up and running
- Growing our budget and capacity for improving the health and wellbeing of people in our community
- Prioritising the urgent issue of tackling climate change

On the last point, I believe we need to look far ahead and

imagine how life might be in 2040 – only 10 years short of the target date set by the Government for achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. I suspect that the most obvious and significant changes for all of us will be to our transport systems and how we get around, and secondly to how we heat our homes. On the first point, we are due a transport plan from Wiltshire Council to guide our thinking in improving the ways in which people move around the town as safely and sustainably as possible, noting that petrol and diesel cars will be phased out in 2030. The heating of homes without fossil fuels is an area on which the government is still working as it looks at developing realistic and affordable solutions. Separately, the Town Council is working closely with Wiltshire Council on deciding what level

of housing and commercial development should be planned for in our community for the period to 2036. Any new developments will also need to imagine 2040 and beyond.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to all the staff of the Town Council for keeping our services on track as much as circumstances allowed, whilst also going the extra mile to contribute to the work of supporting people in our community during the pandemic. I am a stubborn optimist and believe that, with the help of the staff team and the new team of Councillors, we will be able to take gradual steps over the next four years towards the long-term goal of a sustainable and thriving community.

**Steve Abbott, Chairman,
Corsham Town Council**

Peacock Arts Trail 2021

Corsham's Peacock Arts Trail flies again, from 11-19 September, showcasing artists and craftspeople from north-west Wiltshire.

Due to Covid uncertainty during early planning, an extravaganza of inspiring virtual events and demos, featuring some of the 69 participants, will be shared on www.peacockartstrail.co.uk and the Trail's social media. If artists choose to open their studios or host exhibitions, you'll be able to find out more via the website.

An exciting 'Covid-defying' new development is Peacock Arts' Street Exhibition in Corsham town centre. An array of works will be exhibited in the windows of houses and businesses, and a map will guide visitors on an 'arty amble' around town.

"The pandemic has brought mixed fortunes to creative people," says Victoria Jarman, a Corsham-based jeweller and Peacock Arts Trail co-ordinator. "By following the Trail, you will be supporting all our brilliant creative people and discovering some wonderful art at the same time!"



Tell Us A Story...

StoryTown, our celebration of storytelling in all its formats, will be back from 15-17 October. We want to make this year's weekend something for all the community, so if you'd like to get involved, please let us know. Email storytowncorsham@gmail.com or contact the Town Hall.

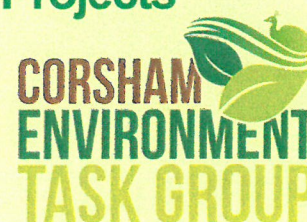
Alongside the events of the weekend (and beyond), local schoolchildren will be getting involved in all sorts of projects and we also want as many people as possible to take part

in our Big Read. The Corsham Bookshop will be choosing titles for us so Corsham can become one huge Book Club! Look out for more details coming soon – and you can keep up-to-date with all things StoryTown via our Corsham's StoryTown Facebook page.



Environmental Projects

The Town Council has a new Environmental Projects Officer, Beth Searle, who will be working on a number of plans in the coming months, along with the Environment Task Group, to make Corsham as sustainable and carbon-neutral as a town can be. Beth will be undertaking all sorts of initiatives, across all areas of the Town Council's Strategic Plan, as well as offering support to local



residents and businesses. If you would like to be involved in the Town Council's efforts to tackle climate change and make Corsham carbon-neutral, email Beth at bsearle@corsham.gov.uk.

Meet Your Councillors

Following May's elections, and co-options in June, there are five new members of the Town Council. Here they introduce themselves and explain why they decided to become Councillors.

1. What brought you to Corsham?
2. What do you like best about Corsham?
3. What made you decide to become a Town Councillor?
4. What do you hope to achieve during your time on the Council?



Jeremy Brook
Corsham
Neston Ward

1. I came to the area in September 1979, to teach at Box Primary. In January 1980 I moved into Neston and have been here for 41 happy years.
2. It is a lovely market town. Lockdown has shown us that we can get most things we need right here and, despite recent development, Corsham still retains that 'small town' feel.
3. When I discovered that Neston was unrepresented, I felt I should stand, particularly with all the house-building demands being made and as I have been quite active through *Neston News* for the last 28 years.
4. I believe that recent housing development in the Corsham area means we run the risk of being overwhelmed without the necessary infrastructure. I hope to prevent the Neighbourhood Plan from being disregarded by developers and the like.



Roy Preen
Corsham
Ladbroke Ward

1. My wife and I relocated from London and neither Bath nor Chippenham offered what we wanted. We were delighted to find Corsham and have lived here now for 27 years.
2. I could wax lyrical about the green spaces or the exquisite architecture but we simply love the friendly atmosphere.
3. I suppose the oft-used phrase "the want to give something back to the community" sums it up. The Town Council is not party political so it presents an opportunity to be part of Corsham's future without the baggage of political infighting.
4. I am passionate about the need to change our lifestyles to provide a more secure environment for future generations. I am especially interested in embedding sustainability in all aspects of our lives.



Stephanie Driver
Corsham
Pickwick Ward

1. My partner is from Bath and, after a decade in London, was yearning for his West Country roots. Corsham lets us live in a beautiful town whilst having access to Bath, Bristol and London for work.
2. It is a brilliant balance between peaceful and thriving. The sense of community is quickly apparent, not to mention it being a gorgeous little pocket of the world.
3. I have worked in politics for over a decade so know how local government operates. The positive and proactive work of the Town Council was apparent to me as a resident, and I seized on the chance to contribute.
4. I hope to be a strong voice for residents in Pickwick Ward but also a collaborative colleague to the existing councillors who have already achieved so much in making Corsham a brilliant place to live.



Jane Robertson
Corsham
Pickwick Ward

1. My husband, Tom and I moved to Corsham over four years ago having lived in London for many years. We were keen to move to the country and be closer to family.
2. It's a beautiful town surrounded by beautiful countryside. I love that residents say hello even if they don't know you and you often bump into friends when you're out.
3. I do quite a bit of voluntary work so becoming a Town Councillor seemed like a natural progression. I'm an active member of Transcoco, Corsham's environmental group. There's so much that can be achieved at a local and individual level to combat climate change and I'm hoping that as a Town Councillor I can help promote this.
4. I am particularly interested in policing within Corsham, as well as in environmental issues. Setting up a litter reduction strategy would be great. I'm also looking forward to resolving resident's issues.

Health and Wellbeing

As we start to move out of the pandemic, the Town Council is looking at how it can best support the health and wellbeing of all its residents. A Health and Wellbeing Group has been formed, and Vickie Fauset (vfauset@corsham.gov.uk), the Town Council's new Health and Wellbeing Officer, is currently working with the Group to find out as much as possible about the services and support available and where any gaps might be. The initial focus, given the impact Covid has had across the community, will be on mental health issues, particularly among young people. The work will then move on to help families and older/vulnerable people. Early plans include funding projects in schools; continuing the Town Council's support for Corsham Youth Zone and Hub Club; working with The Pound and Wiltshire Council's Area Board Local Youth Network to survey 11-18 year olds to find out what activities would help them, and sharing information across the community.



Jonathan Corbett
Corsham
Pickwick Ward

1. My wife and I came to live here after our son's birth. We were drawn to the town as it is so picturesque and has a lovely Art and Crafts vibe. Exploring it further, we really enjoyed the walks, Corsham Estate and the peacocks.
2. Corsham has a strong sense of community and it's brilliant

that the High Street is supported so well. My passion is football and, as soon as he could, my son joined AFC Corsham U6s. I am still coaching them and my U6s are now U10s!

3. As Corsham grows, we need to ensure developments are sympathetic to the style, scale and character of the town.
4. I would like to attract more visitors to the town to help the local economy and make Corsham a destination for tourists.

Corsham Gastard Ward

Tina Ellis 07751 437825

Corsham Neston Ward

Jeremy Brook 01225 810059

Vacant

Vacant

Corsham Ladbrook Ward

Steve Abbott 07795 421933

Alan Brown 01249 715818

Neville Farmer 07966 150444

Ruth Hopkinson* 01249 713216

Dave Jarman 07787 532650

Lesley Jefferson 07989 857848

Roy Preen 07503 747483

Vacant

Corsham Pickwick Ward

Helen Belcher* 07967 466909

Jonathan Corbett 07972 881666

Alun Crockford 07939 014034

Stephanie Driver via Town Hall

Mervyn Jackson 01249 716121

Jane Robertson 07929 996729

Anthea White 01249 713827

Vacant

*Cllrs Helen Belcher and Ruth Hopkinson are also Wiltshire Councillors

Grants – How We Can Help

Did you know that the Town Council has its own grants scheme? Up to a maximum of £500 is available to local groups and organisations working to improve activities and services for the benefit of Corsham residents.

Two recipients of Town Council grants have been the Walking Festival and Corsham Bowls Club. The team behind the Walking Festival held yet another wonderful weekend in June – and a huge thank you to them for all their hard work – with 279 people taking part in guided walks, and 35 families enjoying the Saturday Treasure Hunt.

Work on Corsham Bowls Club's new green started in the summer of 2019 and, after over a year of work and a pandemic in

between, the 'New Green Official Opening Day' finally took place last month. The Club members have worked tirelessly to raise funds from various sources, including Sport England, Wiltshire Council and the Town Council, and did much of the work themselves. They have done a fantastic job and we are delighted to have been able to help.

The closing date for the next round of our grant applications is 11 August, but grants are considered by the Town Council's Finance and Administration Committee every two months so there are plenty of opportunities through the year. For more information, visit www.corsham.gov.uk/community/grants.php, or call the Town Hall.

Spring Flowers for Springfield

The Town Council's commitment to supporting local artists and public art is continuing with the new gateway for the Valley Road entrance at Springfield Rec, created by Anya Beaumont.

Taking inspiration from the Rec's wildflower area, the two floral pieces, which are almost three metres tall, have been created using second-hand fence panels and gates which have been welded together.

Eventually the gateway will be joined by a smaller barrier, of a similar design, to prevent children and dogs running straight out towards the road, along with fence panels which Anya is working on now.



© Julian Carosi

Comments – have your say

Are there any other local concerns on which you would like to comment?

Let us know your views in the space provided below and return to:

David Martin, Chief Executive, Corsham Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 0EZ, email: towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk or visit our website at: www.corsham.gov.uk, or you can call us on 01249 702130. You can also send us comments via our Facebook page. At the moment, our monthly Town Council Surgeries are cancelled but please do get in touch with us via any of the ways listed here, or contact your local Councillor.

Signed..... Print.....

Address.....

Telephone Email

Printed on recycled paper