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NEWSLETTER

WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

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JANUARY
2010

The Town Hall
37 West Borough, Wimborne BH21 1LT
Office Hours: 9.30am - 1pm Monday - Friday

Anti-Christmas vandal caught on CCTV

The Town Council's CCTV camera in The Square captured a vandal damaging the lights on the Christmas tree in the early hours of Saturday 19 December 2009.

All the wires from the lights had been broken off from the transformer and the top of the tree broken.

The culprit is being dealt with by the Police, but it was feared that it would not be possible to get the lights working again so close to Christmas. However, **Tim Rainford** of Rainford Builders, West Moors, who happened to be at the Town Hall when the damage was reported, came to the rescue and arranged for the repairs to be carried out the next day. Although some of the wiring was beyond repair, he managed to get most of the lights working.

The Town Mayor commented that it was good that this sad incident had been caught on camera and he hoped that it would act as a deterrent against vandalism or anti-social behaviour in the town.

Message from the Town Mayor

I must start with the sad and sudden death of **Cllr Michael Hodkinson**. Since my election to the Town Council almost three years ago, Michael has not only been a good friend, but also a great help to me. He was always there to give me advice whenever I needed it. I will always be grateful to him for that. I send my sincere condolences to his widow, Anne, and the family.

I must now look at the brighter side of the town's life. The rebuild of Martins and The Albion are now well under way with the hope that it will be finished by July this year. There are still parking problems in the High Street, even with the Police 'no waiting' bollards in place.

The town seems to have been very busy during the build up to Christmas. Some shop owners have reported that trade was at its highest level since Christmas 2008. Let's hope this will continue in 2010. We have also seen some new businesses opening in the town centre over the last few months.

The Waitrose supermarket construction is underway. The site agent has told me that building work is well ahead of schedule. This should give the residents of Wimborne Minster some 150 plus new jobs.

On the matter of development, things are moving forward with the Sure Start Children's Centre and Community Centre for Leigh Park. The planning application has just been approved by the District Council's Planning Committee. I have personally been involved with this project for 12 years in one way or another and it will be great asset for all the residents of Leigh Park and the east end of the town.

Lastly, the Mayoress and I would like to wish you all the very, very best for 2010

CLLR MICHAEL HODKINSON

One of our most experienced Town Councillors, Cllr Michael Hodkinson, died suddenly on Monday 4 January 2010.

Cllr Hodkinson was first elected in 2003 and had been Chairman of Planning & Environment Committee since 2004. Michael successfully implemented several traffic initiatives following consultation and surveys with local residents.

Michael had a great intellect and understanding of governmental procedures and practices.

His abilities will be a loss to the Council and our condolences and thoughts go out to his family at this sad time.

Council Tax 2010/11

The Town Council has not increased its portion of the Council Tax for next year and it will remain at £86.47 for a Band D property. Cllr John Burden, the Town Mayor, said *'the Town Council were mindful of the difficult financial year ahead for people'*.

Piers Trehane has been elected to the Town Council.

He will serve until the main elections in May 2011.



For a profile of Cllr Trehane visit www.wimborne.gov.uk

Newspaper Recycling

Following the closure of the waste paper recycling facility at Brook Road, 2nd Wimborne Scouts have had their waste paper collection container moved to outside their headquarters which is off Station Road, next door to Dreamboats and near Wimborne Market. Not only do they collect newspapers, but also old telephone directories both ordinary and the yellow ones.

This facility is, of course, raising money for a local good cause.

New Sure Start Children's Centre & Community Centre at Leigh Park

Wimborne Minster Town Council is to build a new Sure Start Children's Centre and Community Centre on its land at Leigh Park Playing Fields. This is a joint project with Dorset County Council which will fund the Sure Start centre. Wimborne Minster Town Council will be taking out a loan for the construction of the long awaited Community Centre for which East Dorset District Council has agreed to meet the annual loan charges.

Councillor Les Harvey, Chairman of the Town Council's Recreation and Leisure Committee said, *"There are advantages to having one building in that you can have a shared reception, adult toilet facilities and running costs, although each side of the Centre will be otherwise completely separate."*

Nathalie Sherring, the Wimborne Sure Start Children's Centre Manager, said *"It's going to be a very good facility for the whole community."*

Sure Start already has a base within the Wimborne Community Learning Centre but when built, Leigh Park will become their main base with outreach services in the town centre.

Planning approval has been granted and the building will be completed late summer/early autumn.



Leigh Park Children's Centre & Community Centre concept - rlm Architects

Pride of Wimborne Awards - rewarding good service and improving trade

As part of a collection of ideas to boost Wimborne's economy, Councillor Richard Booth is proposing the creation of the **Pride of Wimborne Awards** - an annual showcase of our town's best talent, in fields ranging from best quality of product to best value for money, and from best customer service to overall Shop/Restaurant/Pub of the Year.

This initiative will cost nothing, yet create a sense of community competition that should drive up quality and service whilst ensuring that consumers are the overall winners. Winning traders will be bestowed the prestigious award emblem for their correspondence and fascias, whilst the generated publicity should bring them significant amounts of new customers from near and far.

We also hope that news about the Award would spread to hitherto unknown places, so a steady stream of new consumers might enter the town from outside of the regular East Dorset trade/tourism corridor. Indeed, those traders who did not win an award should also be galvanised to improve their services so as to have a chance of winning the following year - again ensuring that the consumer is the biggest beneficiary.

We are therefore calling on residents to have their say on who they want on the judging panel. All judges should be established figures, with a record of respectability and impartiality. No judge shall accept free services or be influenced in any way in their judging of the competition. Once residents have recommended the judges, a panel will be formed and the awards' criteria and rules established.

If you wish to become a judge, or wish to nominate someone (with their permission) please send details to the Town Council.

Wimborne in Bloom

The result of the town's entry into the Regional 'In Bloom' Competition has already been well documented.... for the third year in succession a Silver Gilt Award was achieved.

This was in no small part due to the large band of volunteers who spent many hours litter picking and weeding pavements in the main areas of town so as to ensure everywhere looked its very best on judging day.

The completely voluntary, independent organisation, Wimborne in Bloom, which registered as a charity last year, organises a number of events throughout the year in order to provide the funds to purchase plants to fill over 80 planters and 50 window boxes around town and provide some 160 hanging baskets, all of which then have to be watered and maintained. A winter planting programme as well as summer is undertaken. We are grateful to those traders,



organisations, including the District Council, and many individuals who support the 'In Bloom' campaign and thus make all this possible. Over the years there have been many favourable comments as to how the town looks and hopefully this is good for residents and visitors alike.

The small working committee and a large number of supporters have managed to ensure the town has looked good for the past 17 years. Please help to ensure it continues that way for the year ahead. If you feel you can help, please go along to the Annual Meeting of Wimborne in Bloom which will be held on Monday 25 January 2010 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, 37 West Borough or contact Chairman Anthony Oliver, MBE (888703) or Secretary Terry Wheeler (849838) to obtain more details.



Members 2009/2010

Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council

Cllr J Burden, 35 Hardy Crescent, BH21 2AR 01202 889324

Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman of the Council

Cllr T F Wheeler, Mayfield, 4 Walford Close, BH21 1PH 01202 849838

Members of the Council

Cllr R W Booth, 8 Greenclose Lane, BH21 2AL 07515 664149

Cllr R D Cook, The Gatehouse, 1 Coppercourt Leaze,
Poole Road, BH21 1QX 01202 889199

Cllr Mrs B S J Feltham, 3 St John's Hill, BH21 1BX 01202 885659

Cllr A J Hampton, 3 East Street, BH21 1DS 01202 886680

Cllr L G Harvey, 55 West Borough, BH21 1LX 01202 882348

Cllr Mrs D J March, 26 West Street, BH21 1JS 01202 888504

Cllr A K Oliver, MBE, Wit's End Corner, 34 Park Lane, BH21 1LD 01202 888703

Cllr D G L Packer, Southwood, Giddylake, Colehill, BH21 2QT 01202 887137

Cllr P Trehane, 2 Pye Corner, BH21 1UL 01202 856233

Town Clerk

Laurence Hewitt, Town Hall, 37 West Borough, Wimborne Minster
Dorset, BH21 1LT 01202 881655

Email: townclerk@wimborne.gov.uk

Web: www.wimborne.gov.uk

Reminder:

The following can be obtained from the Town Hall:

Black Plastic Sacks (£2 for a roll of 30)

Orange Garden Refuse Sacks (£1 each)

Replacement Green Newspaper Recycling Sacks
(free of charge)

as well as, East Dorset Housing Association's weekly publication 'Homefinder Dorset';
also available online at www.edha.co.uk

A larger print version is available on request from the Town Hall