



Berkhamsted  
Town Council

Winter  
2009/10



Port of Berkhamsted 1975 – Harry Sheldon

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL** – from your Mayor David Collins

I hope that by the time you are reading this letter that the recent disruptions caused by the snowy weather are over.

As a result of the decision not to send a mayoral Christmas card, five local charities have received an additional £100 each. The charities are 1066 Club for the blind and partially sighted, Stroke Support Group, the Evergreen Club which organises social events for the elderly, the Gateway Club for adults with learning difficulties and the Happy Wanderers' Club.

We have an active voluntary sector and a council that will try and spend wisely and get value for money for your council tax.

I am happy to inform you that for the third consecutive year you will be paying lower council tax to Berkhamsted Town Council. For 2010/11 there will be a 2½% reduction amounting to 51 pence for a Band D property.



## **As a Quality Town Council**

Berkhamsted is required to produce a minimum of four newsletters per year. Currently the newsletter is circulated to every household, at a cost of £1,300 per edition including printing and distribution. This does not include artwork, layout and editorial, which is produced on a voluntary basis. This means a cost of a minimum of £5,000 per annum. An option now exists whereby we can arrange for the newsletter to be made available for collection at various locations within the town including the Civic Centre, Town Hall, Library, some High Street shops, medical centres etc. This would result in a saving of about £750 per edition, up to £3,000 per annum.

We would like to know your views on this matter. Please contact the council either

By visiting our website [www.berkhamsted.gov.uk](http://www.berkhamsted.gov.uk)

Or email [berkhamsted.towncouncil@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:berkhamsted.towncouncil@dacorum.gov.uk)

Or telephone 01442 228945

Or call in at the Civic Centre

### Option 1

I would prefer the newsletter to be distributed directly to each home at a cost of £5,000 per annum

### Option 2

I would prefer the newsletter to be made available for collection at a saving of £3,000 per annum.

We will, of course, continue to post the newsletter on our website. <http://www.berkhamsted.gov.uk/newsletter.htm> Previous editions produced by this council are also available on the website.

We need your input to come to a decision based on community wishes, do contact us with your views.

## Rectory Lane Cemetery

St Peter's Parochial Church Council and Berkhamsted Town Council recently commissioned a report detailing options for the future use of the detached Churchyard and Cemetery that lies between Rectory Lane and Three Close Lane.

This is an important area of green space in the heart of the Town and both Councils are agreed that it could be put to much better use as amenity space than at present.

The report has identified a number of options all of which need to be subjected to careful planning and local consultation. Sources of funding will also have to be identified.

The report contains a recommendation that a 'Friends of St Peter's Churchyard' voluntary group should be established to maintain the project's momentum and ensure Community representation in the management of the site. The group should consist of diverse people representing different interests, and should include people with ecological and historical expertise.

The group will be supported by the Town and Parochial Church Councils who will retain ownership of the Project and will identify any funding sources required.

If you are interested in participating in a Friends Group, please contact Colin Westwood at the Town Council on 01442 228945 or email at [berkhamsted.towncouncil@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:berkhamsted.towncouncil@dacorum.gov.uk) Thank you

**Please remember all Town Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome your input and ideas as there is always time for public participation.**

The Town Council still has some money available for local organisations that need financial assistance with Projects, or to help them maintain their day to day activities. Grants have recently been awarded to the newly formed Berkhamsted Football Club which is competing in the Spartan South Midlands Football League this season, to help with preparation and maintenance of the pitch at Broadwater. Also to Sunnyside Rural Trust, as a contribution towards the costs of improving their activities in giving horticultural training to people with learning difficulties, and the Happy Wanderers Club for the Disabled to enable them to hire a wheelchair accessible coach. The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home have also been awarded £1000 towards the costs of training for their nurses and the 1066 Club for the Blind and Partially Sighted has received £100 to assist with room hire costs and mini bus charges. The Town Council would be pleased to receive applications from local organisations that might require help for a project that would benefit the local population. Applications should be made to the Town Clerk. The application form can be downloaded from our web site at [www.berkhamsted.gov.uk](http://www.berkhamsted.gov.uk)

A new **Heritage Walk leaflet** called 'A Glimpse of our History' which complements the Blue plaques on over thirty historic town buildings has been published. It is available from the Town Clerk's Office, the Library and other public places.



**Street Flowers** Having been informed by Dacorum Borough Council that they would no longer maintain the flower beds at Gossoms End, and would reduce the number of hanging baskets in the High Street to save costs, the Town Council has assumed responsibility. It has engaged Sunnyside Rural Trust to plant and maintain the flower beds, and Frank Cooper & Son Ltd to provide the hanging baskets between the traffic lights and the Post Office Sorting Office. If you have any comments on these facilities please let us know.



## Car Parking Surveys

We have received a good number of replies to our [survey](#) on your views in principle to restrictions being placed on residential roads in the town. We have now analysed these and categorised roads according to strength of support shown. Please complete the survey if you have not already done so.

The Town Council is not the parking authority, we are gathering this information to put a good case forward to the other authorities for the need for parking restrictions and the types we feel would work to meet our residents needs.

A mixture of Residents Parking Zones and Commuter Zones could meet our needs. However Commuter Zones require driveways as they limit parking for say one to two hours a day. Without a driveway residents would be required to move their cars during the restricted time. Legislation at present for Commuter Zones does not allow permits to be offered. Can any residents help us if they know of towns similar to ours, that have been able to overcome this problem? If you can help, please contact the Town Clerk at the Civic Centre.

## Limiting the Growth of Berkhamsted

Berkhamsted Town Council is working to ensure that planning authorities are fully aware of the limits to growth in the town. The Town Council has supported an Early Day Motion in Parliament objecting to “[garden grabbing](#)” because of the impact this has on local character and the pressure it puts on infrastructure.

We have objected to proposals for excessive building in gardens, for example, in [The Pines](#) - North Road, in [Ellesmere Road](#) and in [George Street](#). The Town Council has persuaded the Borough to refuse the proposed development for 54 houses and flats at [New Lodge](#) because of the impact it would have on neighbours. This has now gone to appeal.

Together with a group of residents, ‘Save Your Berkhamsted’, we have recently objected to proposals from the [East of England Regional Assembly](#) which could have resulted in substantial numbers of new houses in the town, requiring the release of Green Belt land on the edge of town. At the beginning of last year we set out our [Vision](#) for Berkhamsted which you can visit on the website.



# Berkhamsted Town Council – 2007-2011

WARD	COUNCILLOR	TELEPHONE	AFFILIATION
Castle	Allen, Malcolm, J	01442 865862	Conservative
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East	Stevens, Garrick	01442 870066	Liberal Democrat
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West	Reay*+, Ian M.	01442 871798	Conservative

\*Also serve On Dacorum Borough Council as representatives For Berkhamsted

+Also serves as Berkhamsted's representative on Hertfordshire County Council

## TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS

NAME	POSITION	TELEPHONE
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The Civic Centre, 161 High Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3HD  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, disabled ramp at front door and lift to office.

Hours: Monday to Thursday 9 am-5 pm Friday 9 am-4 pm.

Subject to staff availability we try to keep the office open at lunchtime.

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*If you have any ideas, or subjects you would like to see explained or developed in these pages, then please contact Berkhamsted Town Council, who would like to thank Councillor Lindy Foster Weinreb for presenting and editing the newsletter.*

Visit our web site – it encourages you to contact us about all your concerns.

We hope to hear from you! [www.berkhamsted.gov.uk](http://www.berkhamsted.gov.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE THE NON EMERGENCY POLICE NUMBER IS 0845 3300222**

Published by Berkhamsted Town Council, The Civic Centre, 161 High Street,  
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3HD

Printed by Bishops Printers Limited, Fitzherbert Road, Farlington, Portsmouth, PO6 1RU