



FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2015

Mayor's Introduction



Cllr Caroline
Mumford

Fairford Town
Mayor

Tel 01285
712702

The period over Christmas and New Year, since the Festive Market, is relatively quiet for the Town Council. The main project at the moment is the provision of a section of new permissive path to the north of Mill Lane through Gasson's Field, with the agreement of the Ernest Cook Trust. A quotation for the work has been accepted, and we hope that this can be carried out in the Spring. This will mean that, although it will be necessary to cross Mill Lane at a number of points, people will no longer need to walk in the road.

The Town Council has received a number of applications from local clubs and societies for funding for capital projects, and hopes to announce the recipients shortly. Gloucestershire County Council still has funds available for local groups under its 'Active Together' grant scheme. Please contact the Town Council office for more information.

Nominations are now being sought for the 2015 Citizen of the Year Award and the Geoff Chick Young Citizen of the Year Award – more details inside the newsletter. Last year's winners were Wendy Graham and Mikal Hughes.

Elections for the whole Town Council will take place at the time of the General Election in May. More information about the role of a town councillor is given in this newsletter. Please consider standing, and do not be put off by the long list of requirements: everyone has something to offer, even if it is only a wish to see Fairford remain as an attractive place to live and work.

Best wishes for 2015
Caroline Mumford

CONTENTS

Pg 4
**Can I be a
Councillor?**

Pg 9
**Message from
the Fire Ser-
vice**

Pg 12
**Dial-a-ride
timetable**

LARGE PRINT VERSIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE REQUESTED

COUNCIL NEWS

CONTACT DETAILS: Fairford Town Council, Community Centre, High Street, Fairford, GL7 4AF

Tel: 01285 713326/712344 Email: clerks@fairford-tc.co.uk

Website: www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Meetings

The next two Full Town Council Meetings will be on **Tuesday 10th February** and **Tuesday 10th March** at 7pm in the Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre.

News from the Committees

Festive market

Once again the Festive Market was a great success, and a good time was had by all. We are always looking for ways to make our events the very best they can be, and would be grateful for any suggestions as to how the Festive Market could be improved. The Town Council would like to thank the Co-op and Londis for their generous sponsorship, The Ernest Cook Trust for the magnificent tree in the Market Place and all the volunteers who helped to set up the stalls. Thanks must also go to Gareth Hopkins, and the Fire Service for installing the lights and Alan Gardner and his team at Gardner Roofing for taking the Christmas lights down.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to join a working party to help with this years Festive Market. Please get in touch with the Clerks.

Defibrillator

A new defibrillator has been installed at the Youth Football Club in Horcott. The equipment is available for use by members of the public 24/7. You will find further information on life support training in the newsletter.

New Footpath

Work will shortly commence on the creation of a footpath along Mill Lane.

Burial Ground

Although there are still a couple of plots, the Burial Ground will shortly be full and we will no longer be able to accept new burials. There is still space for ashes interments. Once the Burial Ground is full, burials will take place in the Churchyard, and all queries should be directed through Rev Caroline Symcox, 712467. The Town Council is still searching for land suitable for a burial ground, but currently, there is none available. If anyone knows of a parcel of land in Fairford that the Council could consider, please do get in touch.

Burglary

Please be aware that a property on St Mary's Drive was recently broken into in the early evening. The thieves targeted gold and cash.

Road Closure

Park Street will be closed to traffic and parking for essential resurfacing work from **Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th March 2015.**

Can I be a Councillor?

At the forthcoming elections in May, all the Town Councillor seats are up for election. There will be several vacancies. In this Newsletter and the next, we are giving you information about the role of a Councillor and the Town Council.

Councillors are elected to the Town Council to represent their local community, so they must either live or work in the area. Becoming a councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service. You will be in a position to make a difference to the quality of other people's daily lives.

Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents and the Council. These will all make legitimate demands on a councillor's time, on top of the demands and needs of their personal and professional lives. Before you consider becoming a councillor you may want to discuss it with your family and friends to make sure they understand what you are taking on. You will need their support as you'll have to spend some of your spare time on council business.

If you care about the area that you live or work in and the issues facing local people, you could be a councillor.

Perhaps you enjoy reading the local newspaper and often have a strong opinion on the issues you read about. You may enjoy talking to friends and colleagues about what's going on in the area. You may feel that certain sections of the community or people who live in a particular neighbourhood are getting a raw deal and need stronger representation.

Research suggests that people are most concerned about issues such as crime, schools, transport and the environment. The Town Council can make a difference on all these issues and many more, and so can you as a town councillor.

Do I need any special skills or experience?

Groups made up of diverse individuals tend to make better informed decisions. It is important that councils have councillors who not only reflect and represent the communities they serve, but also have a broad range of skills and life experience. You don't have to be highly educated or have a profession. Skills gained through raising a family, caring for a sick or disabled relative, volunteering or being active in faith or community groups can be just as valuable.

While you don't need any special qualifications to be a councillor, having or being able to develop the following skills, knowledge and attributes will help you in the role.

- Communication skills - These include listening and interpersonal skills, public speaking skills, the ability to consider alternative points of view and to negotiate, mediate and resolve conflict.
- Problem solving and analytical skills - This includes being able to get to the bottom of an issue and to think of different ways to resolve it, including considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option.
- Team working - Being able to work with others in meetings and on committees and being able to complete any tasks that you agree to do on time.
- Organisational skills - Being able to plan and manage your time, keep appointments and meet deadlines.

Ability to engage with your local community

You may have to make yourself available through meetings, the media, the internet, public forums, debates and on the telephone.

You may have gained skills and knowledge through your professional,

personal or community experience. These could include:

- knowledge of the needs of specific groups such as children and young people, older people or people with health problems
- an understanding of financial management and reporting processes
- legal and regulatory systems or procedures
- housing, regeneration or environmental issues
- any other skills that relate to the work or facilities provided by the council.

Don't worry if you don't yet feel that you have the skills or confidence to be a town councillor. All councils provide support, information and training for new councillors

If you are interested in finding out more, please call the Clerks on 01285 172344

Why I became a Councillor

I was originally asked to stand for the Town Council in a by election, and although I initially thought 'I can't do that', I went on to think 'Why not?' Everyone who lives or works in Fairford has something to offer, from their experience of being here and using the facilities in the town, to their personal and work background (in my case as a transport planner). My aim whilst on the Council has been for no-one to really notice the Town Council in action - so that flower tubs get planted, the Walnut Tree Field playground improved and maintained, comments made on planning applications, and so on, without fuss. (That's not to say that the Town Council doesn't welcome extra volunteer help on occasion - we do, very much). I would also say that it has been good for me to go outside my comfort zone - I have been surprised to find what I can do.

Caroline Mumford, Mayor 2013 - 2015

I moved to Fairford in 1976. As the children grew older, I wanted to put something back into the community. There were certain changes and improvements that I wanted to see in Fairford. I felt that I could have the biggest impact by becoming a Town Councillor. I firmly believe that you can hardly complain about matters if you remain part of the silent majority and are not prepared to stand up and do something about it.

Fairford Town Council is not run on party political lines. Freedom of expression is encouraged as your views matter irrespective of your political persuasion. Whilst there are a number of procedural rules and principles covering the conduct of Council Meetings, these are not over bearing and should not put residents off. There will be plenty of support from fellow and more experienced Councillors.

Trevor Hing, Councillor

I joined Fairford Town Council in November 2011, and chose to serve on the Facilities Committee. I have taken a particular interest in the Walnut Tree Field and play ground, and was thrilled to be part of the Council when it was awarded 'Highly Commended for the recent improvements made the playing field'.

Another particular area of interest for me has been to improve the Christmas lights in Fairford, and after a lot of hard work by volunteers and Councillors, I think we have Fairford looking very festive over the Christmas period.

In May 2013 I was elected Deputy Mayor since then I have tried to serve the community to the best of my ability. I get a huge amount of satisfaction from working as part of a team and being part of the community.

Jennie Sanford, Deputy Mayor

The Dudley Family ran The Bull Hotel in Fairford for over 21 wonderful and successful years, during this time the residents of Fairford always supported us as did a lot of the local societies. I decided to become a Councillor because as a Fairford resident I care about the Town and the people who live in it. As the newest Councillor I have been made to feel very welcome by the other Councillors and found the general running of Council business very interesting. It was enjoyable helping out on the Christmas Market and I even had an interesting trip to the top of Fairford Church to remove the Christmas Star.

I would recommend all residents with views on town matters to attend a council meeting and see if they have any interest in becoming a Councillor.

Mark Dudley, Councillor

I firmly believe that when you live in a small community and enjoy the facilities, environment and opportunities that that community has to offer, you should do your bit to maintain and improve – if you can – that quality of life.

When a vacancy became available on Fairford Town Council in 2000, I decided to put my name forward. Young people wanted more to do in the town and I wanted to help provide this. I therefore got involved with many youth projects.

As a result of being a Councillor I have been rewarded by meeting and becoming friends with many enthusiastic and dedicated local people. As a Councillor, you can gain great pleasure and satisfaction from being part of a team that wants to do what it can to make Fairford a great place to live.

If you don't like something in the town, don't moan about it, join the Council and try to put it right.

Chris Roberts MBE, Councillor

If you think you might be interested in becoming a Councillor, or want to find out more, please call 01285 712344 or come and see the Clerks in the Town Council office.

Palmer Hall

If you are looking for somewhere to hold a fairly large event, such as a wedding reception, anniversary 'do', birthday bash or staging a play then consider the Palmer Hall, London Street, Fairford. (See pictures on our web site). It has a fully fitted kitchen with optional use of crockery and cutlery at no extra cost. There is a stage with new fully functional stage lighting and curtains; also a projector and a large screen for film/PowerPoint presentations. Palmer Hall has a full drinks licence. It now has new and improved lighting.

To book telephone Steve on 712189 or Pam on 713087 or visit our web site www.thepalmerhall.org

Forthcoming films for the Palmer Hall Cinema:

**Wednesday 18th February –
Greenfingers (set /filmed in Fairford)**

Wednesday 18th March – Mr Turner

Fairford Library

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries> 01285 712599

Opening Hours:

Monday & Wednesday 9.30am to 5.00pm, Thursday 9.30am-7.00pm,
Saturday 9.30-1.00pm

Regular events: **Toddler Time** – every Monday 10.00 – 10.30; have fun with songs, rhymes and stories. For pre-school children aged approx 2 years to school age and their grown ups

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time: every Wednesday 10.30 – 11.00; sing along, wiggle and jiggle. For babies up to 2 years and their grown ups

Library Club: every third Thursday of the month 11.00 – 12 noon, next on 19th March and 16th April. Are you unable to get to the library, but would like to come to borrow books and have a cuppa? Come and join our happy & friendly group. Or do you know someone who is unable to get out and about and would like this service? Transport with disabled facilities is provided

Apply for your concessionary bus pass for free: no need to buy a passport photo

DVD latest releases to loan for only £1.50 until our next opening time, older titles just £1

Want to learn how to use a computer? Free computer help to get you started from our 'Computer Buddy' volunteer

Free family history research help to help get you started with our 'Ancestry Buddy' volunteer

Virtual Reference Library – we pay so you don't have to! We subscribe to on-line encyclopaedias, dictionaries, historic newspapers family history resources and other information. Try out Oxford Reference to help with homework, practice for your Driving Theory Test and even take a Citizen test! We also have help for setting up businesses.

We are here to help so please ask the friendly Library team if you need assistance.

Message from the Fire Service

Over the past two years we have seen significant number of fire related incidents in households where hoarding or poor housekeeping has been a contributory factor. Sadly, over the Christmas period we experienced the latest incident that resulted in a fatality in the home. We are working with several partner agencies to try and identify those people at risk in our communities but one area that has been highlighted as a problem is not having a significant number of "eyes and ears" on the ground in the community. This is where we are seeking your help.

If you are aware of households where housekeeping may be a problem we are asking you to engage with them and where possible to discuss a visit from one of our safety advisors to discuss fire safety and to fit free smoke alarms if appropriate. Where you feel someone is vulnerable and would benefit from our help there are several ways you can let us know;

- The favoured option is to ask them to self-refer using our website - http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/your_safety.html
- They can also make contact on 0800 180 41 40 if they do not have internet access
- If this is not possible, you can refer them using the same methods. To do this you must ensure that you have their explicit permission to do so and that they understand they will be contacted by us. When referring, please be sure to explain your role and that you are referring on behalf of someone else.

It is important that we respect everyone's right to privacy, so we must deal with people sensitively and emphasise that this is not a judgemental approach. Our aspiration is to make everyone safer and to reduce risk and harm, whilst respecting people's right to live how they wish.

John Beard
Head of Community Safety (Prevention and Protection)
Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service

Fairford Community Centre

We would like to offer a big thank you to all of those who were involved in helping with the Christmas lunch here at the centre on Christmas day, hosting a total of 40 people this year's event was even bigger and better than last year. We would like to give special thanks to everyone in the community who donated food/ items.

We know that a lot of hard work and time went into the organisation of this event and that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone who took part. The event will be run again next Christmas and you will see details posted about the town from mid-summer onwards, if you are interested in coming along or being involved then please put your name(s) down fast as places tend to go very quickly!

Extra cleaning required a few mornings a week.

If you are interested then please call into the office, call Sadie / Eric on 01285 711571 or email manager@fccentre.co.uk for more details.

Office Space

Do you run a business from home or have offices in or around the Fairford area but lack the space for meetings? Perhaps you need a venue for conferences or training event? If so, then we can help. We have a number of meeting / conference rooms of various sizes available to hire, all with WiFi available. We can also offer modern audio and visual equipment for use in the centre (PA system, projectors, TV / DVD player, hearing loop system etc).

If you would like further details regarding any of the above then please call the FCC office on 01285 711571, email bookings@fccentre.co.uk, visit www.fairfordcommunitycentre.org or call in and see us.

Citizen & Young Citizen of the year

Fairford Town Council is asking for nominations for the 2015 Citizen of the Year Award and the Geoff Chick Young Citizen of the Year Award. If you know of anyone who has carried out good work for the local community and deserves recognition, please write to the Town Clerk with further details. Please write in with your nominations by Friday 27th March. The winners receive a money prize and all nominees receive a Fairford Town Badge or Medal. The results will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting.

Basic Life Support Training

The initial Basic Life Support Training Course was very successful and well received by those attending. The course covered the correct recovery position, chest compressions (CPR) and the use of a defibrillator. We are planning to hold another course at a date yet to be agreed and would particularly like to target Horcott residents to come along. Residents from other areas of Fairford are, of course welcome to attend too. If you are interested please let the Council Clerks know on 01285 712344/ 01285 713326 or feel free to call into the Council Office for further details.

Fairford Festival 5- 7 June 2015

Many people in the town are mistaken in their belief that The Fairford Festival organising Committee comes under the control and direction of the Town Council. It is in fact organised, by a group of "volunteers" from the town who get together to organise community events for the general enjoyment of Fairford residents, young and old. Profit in itself is not the prime objective of the organising Committee. Any surplus funds made over and above our needs to retain reserves for subsequent years events are passed on to the Town Charity (established by the Festival Committee itself) to distribute through grants to local applicants. Many organisations and facilities within the town have benefitted from such grants over the years (e.g. the Sea Cadets, the bench by the Park Gates, etc) even though they may not realise the true source of the funding.

The Festival does depend on the continued generosity of our commercial sponsors and anything we can do to encourage both residents and visitors alike to the town will hopefully be to their advantage too. The Festival not the Council is responsible for any losses.

Finally, the Committee is open to anyone to join (the more helpers the merrier) and all residents are invited to the AGM to give their feedback on each year's events and are also encouraged to put forward their ideas for improvement and new events for the following year.

Dial a Ride timetable – February/March

Cirencester: Thursdays departing Fairford 08.30am(1) & 09.30(2) returning 11.15am & 12.15 cost £3.60

All Departure Times are from Fairford Fire Station . To book seats please ring 01285 713852 (Jill or Clive) or pop into the office in the Community Centre Mon-Fri 0800-1200

<u>February 2015</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Depart Fairford AM</u>	<u>Return PM</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tuesday 3 rd	Swindon Orbital	10.00	2.00	5.30
Wednesday 4 th	Blunsdon Market	10.00	12.15	4.80
Thursday 12 th	Carterton Market (replaces Cirencester 1)	09.00	12.00	4.80
Friday 13 ^h	Witney	09.00	1.00	6.50
Tuesday 17 th	Witney (Limited Seats)	09.00	12.30	6.50
Wednesday 18 th	Fairford Market - Villages	09.00	11.15	Variable
Monday 23 rd	Central Swindon	09.00	12.30	5.30
Friday 27 th	Cheltenham	09.00	1.00	7.80
Friday 27 th	Dobbies Garden Centre	10.00	12.30	3.60
<u>March 2015</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Depart Fairford AM</u>	<u>Return PM</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tuesday 3 rd	Swindon Orbital	10.00	2.00	5.30
Wednesday 4 th	Blunsdon Market	10.00	12.15	4.80
Thursday 12 th	Carterton Market (replaces Cirencester 1)	09.00	12.00	4.80
Friday 13 th	Witney	09.00	1.00	6.50
Tuesday 17 th	Oxford (Limited Seats)	09.00	2.00	8.60
Wednesday 18 th	Fairford Market - Villages	09.00	11.15	Variable
Monday 23 rd	Central Swindon	09.00	12.30	5.30
Friday 27 th	Cheltenham	09.00	1.00	7.80
Friday 27 th	Lechlade Garden Centre	10.00	12.30	3.30