

PTC NEWS

The Quarterly Newsletter from Petersfield Town Council
February 2021 Edition Number 62

Speed Signs

Vehicle Activated Signs such as Speed Limit Reminders (SLR) and Speed Indicator Devices (SID), are the first tool in encouraging motorists to comply with the posted speed limits. They activate on the approach of vehicles.

They are not a method of enforcement but are an effective way of displaying a reminder to motorists of the speed limit. Together with local Speedwatch groups they contribute towards evidence where the Police can consider taking enforcement action.

The Council already owns two SLR signs which are both located on Bell Hill. These devices have been effective at contributing towards a significant reduction in the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. However, these fixed units are now outdated and have been superseded by newer technology.

The Council recently agreed to purchase three new SLRs and SIDs which can be deployed at various locations around the town and will be working with the Speedwatch group to identify these locations. The deployment of the units is expected to start during the early Spring.



Election Details

A reminder that the Calendar for 2021 includes that for Elections for a Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and also for Councillors at Hampshire County Council during May 2021. Details of how and exactly when elections will take place is awaited. It is hoped that all voters will ensure they continue to be registered to vote. Petersfield has two County Councillors: one for Butser Division and one for Hangers Division. Both current incumbents are Members of the Petersfield Town Council Development Committee.

Precept

The annual budget for the financial year 2021/2022 is currently being compiled. From this study a recommended precept (or Council Tax element for Petersfield Town Council) goes for scrutiny to and signing off by the Full Council Membership. Despite some harsh realities at this time every effort will be made to minimise the precept that needs to be raised and balanced against the need to deliver local services as required by Petersfield Town Council.

Festival Hall Update

The Town Council has re-engaged architects Foster Wilson to carry out RIBA 3 studies on the Festival and Town Hall complex. This work will include reviewing the designs in relation to COVID-19 considerations, as well as explorations to reduce the carbon footprint even further. In addition to this, the Festival Hall Suites are to be included in the design to consider a further expanse of the current Festival Hall offerings. Full public consultation will take place during 2021, once initial concepts and drawings have been produced.

A Message from the Town Mayor

The lead up to Christmas was certainly different during the fading months of 2020. I found myself on my own with Kathryn Ellis-Blandford and a video recorder in the Square at the end of November holding a small control panel with which to switch on the Christmas Lights. Kathryn produced it superbly and if you got the chance to watch it on the Town Council website you will find that this event did have its lighter side.

What definitely has not been fun has been the run-up to Christmas. I watched the High Street and our Open Spaces with a heavy heart as large numbers of people were gathering to shop. Many of the shops had strict measures in place in respect of limiting numbers, encouraging distancing and providing copious amounts of sanitizer. The problem came when these measures were in the main ignored and I wasn't surprised when large areas were placed in Tier 4 and many of us waved goodbye to a family Christmas with our loved ones.

I watched the figures going up and we were very worried by the large numbers of people walking on the Heath. We welcome visitors but this was much more and numbers were ignoring the Covid guidelines, walking in different directions with no respect for those who were trying to follow the rules. We went back into a total lockdown and numbers were now at a frightening level. Thanks to local Doctors and their medical support, the Pfizer vaccine has been given to the elderly and vulnerable in the lead up to and all over the Christmas and New Year period in the Festival Hall. They are also rolling out the Oxford vaccine as well and we can start to breathe a sigh of relief.

Council work goes on and this time, unlike the Lockdown in March, we will be carrying on with our programme of meetings as usual. I had no idea this time last year what "Zoom" was - I certainly do now and it has enabled us to carry on with the normal functions of the Council.

As the Mayor's year gets near to its end in May this is a time when we normally have a series of fundraising events for the Mayor's Charities. Before Christmas we were able, with help, to raise over £5000 for over 300 Christmas hampers for the lonely and vulnerable. Through the generous help of the Petersfield District Councillors, The Lions Clubs in Petersfield and surrounding areas we, The Mayors Appeal and the Salvation Army, were able to ensure that over 200 more hampers than were needed last year were distributed.

Now it is time to try and tap into your generosity once more. My chosen charity now is the Rosemary Foundation - that group of wonderful people who give palliative care to those amongst us nearing the end of life. Throughout this dreadful pandemic they have worked to ease the suffering and offer a Hospice at Home service to those in need. They also support the families and are on call 24 hours a day. Many of us have been touched by them and are thankful that they were there when times were bad. The Rosemary Foundation was also one of the chosen charities of my late colleague George Watkinson. George, many of you will remember, was my Deputy Mayor until his sudden death last year. For many years he served the Town, faithfully representing the Causeway ward and we greatly miss him. It is our intention to erect a bench and plant a tree in George's memory and appeal for funds for the Rosemary Foundation in his name. I know that this is a very difficult time to ask for funds but if you can spare something please send it to the Town Hall to the "Mayor's Charity Account" or give it to Paul and Georgie Stuart at Stables Wine Bar and Kitchen who have done a sterling job in collecting our donations.

We really don't know what the future has in store at the moment but we do have a future and we will get through it together.

My very best wishes to you all; keep safe and keep well.



Your Town Councillors

Peter Clist - St Peter's

8 Avon Close, Petersfield GU31 4LG
262312 peter.clist@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Staff Panel, Planning, Public Halls,

James Deane - Rother

2 Hoggarth Close, GU31 4YY
269072 James.deane@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes
Planning, Grounds, Town Development (reserve)

Lesley Farrow - Heath

42A Durford Road, GU31 4HA
261350 lesley.farrow@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Town Mayor

Steve Dewey - Heath

7 Bramble Road Petersfield GU31 4HL
266261 steven.dewey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Planning
Public Halls, Town Development

Peter Bisset - Bell Hill

15 Kennet Road Petersfield GU31 4LS
peter.bisset@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Grounds, Town Development

Jamie Matthews - Bell Hill

Hedgerows, Winchester Rd, GU32 3BN
233324 jamie.matthews@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Grounds, Planning, Finance and General
Purposes, Town Development (reserve)

John Lees - Causeway

8 Barentin Way Petersfield GU31 4QN
john.lees@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Grounds, Public Halls

Chris Paige - Causeway

07484 77777
chris.paige@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Public Halls

John Palmer - St Peters

2 Clarendon Close, GU32 3FR
750115 john.palmer@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Town Development
Planning, Finance and General Purposes

JC Crissey - Ramshill

jc.crissey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Finance and General Purposes, Public Halls,
Town Development

Zoe Parker - Ramshill

zoe.parker@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Grounds, Finance and General Purposes

Phil Shaw - Ramshill

22 Madeline Road GU31 4AL
phil.shaw@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Deputy Mayor, Chairman of Public Halls
Planning, Town Development, Grounds,

Visit our Web site at www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Neil Hitch clerk@petersfield-tc.gov.uk **Festival Hall enquiries** festival@petersfield-tc.gov.uk

The Town Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EA **Telephone: 01730 264182** Fax: 01730 231164

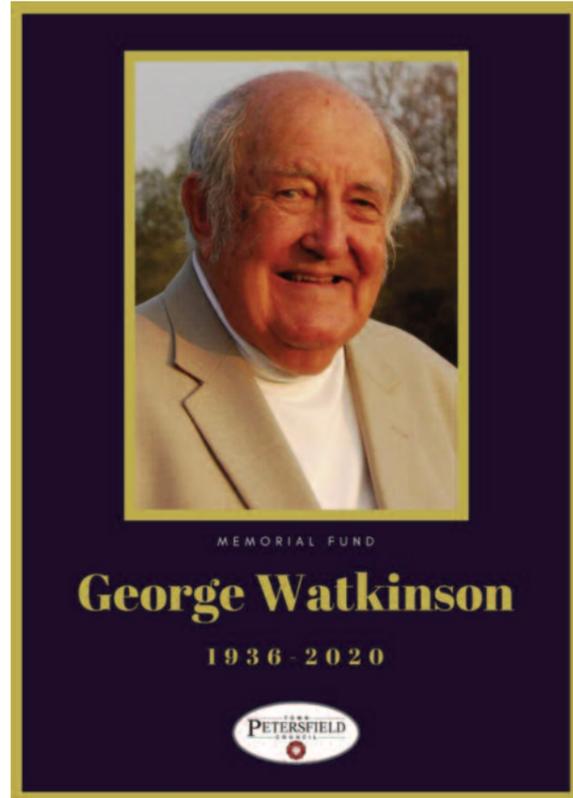
Reception and Telephone Enquiries 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday Bookings taken for Town/Festival Hall and Avenue Pavilion

Heath Pond Update

You will have noticed that many areas on the edge of the lake have been fenced off to protect the hydro-seeded areas. Many of these are now well established, and the Grounds team has been monitoring these areas over the winter and removing the fencing where possible.

During this month, Five Rivers, our contractors, will be back to review how things are progressing and work out the final phase of the plan to carry out lots of planting during March. This will see the reed beds along Sussex Road planted, as well as the reed beds near to the Sussex Road Car Park, and further planting on the two new islands, which are acting as wave breakers for the east side of the Heath.

It is also our intention to re-open Duck Island during the early months of the year, so this may now be open at the time of writing this update.



Coronavirus Update

Petersfield Town Council continues to provide the lockdown helpline service facilitating calls to local agencies. Please use these helplines if you are in a position of need during these challenging times.

Petersfield Lockdown Helpline

If you need help, information or someone to talk to during this period of lockdown, please contact us.

Call 01730 779296

Shopping & Prescriptions, Pvcg T. 01730 266046

Home Help, Age Concern T. 07852 172998

Petersfield Town Council Website

www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk/Covid-19-response

If you would like to volunteer go to
www.pfresourcehub.org.uk/volunteering



Petersfield Remembers Allies

2020 saw many challenges for the nation and for Petersfield but on a more positive note we were able to make a statement of commemoration and gratitude by marking a number of significant national anniversaries of key dates from World War 2.

Sadly, one of our many signature Anniversary Events, notably the laying of a Commemoration Stone to thank our Allies, could not go ahead on the date as planned due to circumstances way beyond our control. As a result, we have had to settle for a quiet but meaningful installation which took place on Friday 18th December 2020. The temporary cover will be removed once the installation has settled and we will be looking at an official dedication in the future.



Pictured with stonemason Spencer Jackson of Company Traditional Stone Restoration Ltd at the siting phase: Cllr Mrs Lesley Farrow (Town Mayor), Cllr Phil Shaw (Deputy Town Mayor) and Cllr James Deane.

Additional Signs

With the successful roll-out of the new heritage signs and map boards, further areas have been considered to ensure that visitors to the town are provided with good directions. Two new heritage signs will be introduced in vicinity of The Square, while additional map boards will be introduced at the hospital, Marks & Spencer, the train station, Castle Yard Car Park, Main Car Park (Chapel Street end), and two other locations to be confirmed. This work will be funded through Section 106 developer contributions.

Introduction from Cllr Chris Paige



It's an honour to be co-opted as a town councillor and represent those within the Causeway ward.

As a younger councillor, I hope to bring new views to the council without the town forgetting its heritage. I spend most of my time outdoors (when permitted) enjoying Petersfield and surrounding areas. I can be found most weekends enjoying the heath with my children or browsing our local businesses in the town for that bargain. I am a keen environmentalist and, having spent time in the Army, I understand the need to learn about and care for the great outdoors. As a gateway town to South Downs National Park, we have a duty to ensure the best possible care of the area around us, so it is enjoyable for all.

I am also an active member of the Petersfield Branch of the Royal British Legion; I was appointed as liaison between the RBL and PTC for the Anniversary Events throughout 2020, including the initial designing of the WW2 Commemorative Stone.

I can be contacted either by email, telephone or through my Facebook page.

Petersfield is already a great place to live, let's make it greater!

Town Visitor Centre

The future of the role and arrangements for a Town Visitor Centre is still under discussion. It is indicative at this time that these arrangements will change but PTC remains committed that an Information Service of sorts should be retained. Details will be published when known.