



Welcome to the Town Council's Spring Newsletter! I'm sad to advise that this will be my last newsletter as Mayor of Ivybridge since, as is customary, I will be standing down from this position after May. I have had a marvellous two years and have been truly privileged to meet so many wonderful people who work tirelessly and often without public recognition for the betterment of our community; quite naturally I am proud of the work of our Town Council but am aware that much of what we have achieved has been done in partnership with local volunteers and groups. My personal and sincere thanks to all who make a difference here in Ivybridge and to all who have shown me tremendous warmth and hospitality during my period of office.

It may be an opportune moment to remind everyone of the forthcoming elections of both Town and District Councillors on Thursday 5 May. Please do find 5 minutes to pop along to your local polling station to cast your vote - make your voice heard!

I do hope that this year we will finally be rewarded with a long and balmy summer, and do please remember to make time for family, friends, leisure and just to breathe in that sparkling Devon air! There's really nothing better.

With Warm Regards, Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve, Town Mayor

Ivybridge Town Council, Town Hall, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge,
PL21 0SZ Tel 01752 893815 e-mail townclerk@ivybridge.gov.uk

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2011/12

The Town Council is legally required to consider its budget for the coming financial year at the beginning of January, before any of the other authorities had been able to say where or how any cuts in services would be made. So, with the press indicating that Police numbers would be significantly reduced, libraries or youth centres could be affected and voluntary sector grants reduced, this Council believed that it was prudent to set aside a sum of money that could be used to support an important service or facility – perhaps keeping it from closure. In the budget there is therefore £20,000 for "Localism" and we want you to help decide where and how it should be spent. Our first opportunity for discussion with members of the public will be at the Annual Town Meeting on 9 May (see article later in this newsletter for details) when representatives of organisations will be there to try and persuade you to award money for them and vote for their service. We will have some electronic voting equipment available (kindly donated for the evening by the District Council) and we hope that it will provide an interesting way of involving people in deciding what services are important to Ivybridge.

Town Council services will be continuing as in previous years and we are trying to work in partnership with other agencies as new initiatives emerge which we believe could be beneficial. The Work Club (held every Wednesday morning in The Watermark) provides support for people who are not in work, or have only temporary or part time work and want (or need) to do more. We have speakers most weeks and access to the excellent computer facilities in the IT Suite. If you want to come along on a Wednesday at 10am, please do.

Our website and newsletters provide information on activities that we are organising or other developments in the town and we do aim to respond quickly to queries but we are only few in number so sometimes pressures of work prevent us replying as soon as we would hope. Councillors are also available (contact details on website and notice

boards) to answer questions on services and facilities in the town and they will be pleased to help you where they can.

	2010/11 BUDGET	2011/12 BUDGET	
Admin	£72915	£70945	
Community Development	£47447	£68947	
Civic and Democratic	£25705	£26205	
Parks (inc Cemetery)	£68278	£62333	
Planning	£15588	£14088	
Town Hall	£57123	£56123	
Watermark - Central Costs	£86751	£86751	
TOTAL	£373807	£385392	
PRECEPT INFORMATION		COUNCIL TAX BASE	BAND D
2011/12	£385392	£4003	£96.28

EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR IVYBRIDGE

The Town Council's Emergency Planning Group has now finalised an emergency plan for Ivybridge entitled "Community Emergency Strategy and Procedures & The Role of the Community Emergency Management Team" and a copy of this is available to view on the Town Council's website www.ivybridge.gov.uk under the sub-section "Policies" of the "Council Business" tab. The scope of the document has naturally been influenced by Ivybridge's location on the A38 which means that the town should remain easily accessible to the Emergency Services in all but the most extreme circumstances. Consequently the document focuses primarily on the availability of emergency respite accommodation and on the community's response to conditions of snow and ice.

It would appear that as a result of a succession of mild winters communities and local authorities have largely become complacent concerning winter weather and that generally we have not been well prepared to deal with these conditions. The Town Council is therefore already preparing for Winter 2011 by nominating myself (Cllr Dave Gray-Taylor) and Groundsman Andy Harman-Taylor as "Snow Wardens"; Andy and myself have received training and are now registered with Devon County Council; we will be directed by the Town Council to provide input as and when required, will also be responsible for maintaining a register of local volunteers, for formulating a plan of action, co-ordinating the local response and for cascading training and advice provided by DCC. One of our first jobs will be to recruit local volunteers who would wish to assist the community by monitoring their nearest grit bin and to request replenishing when required, report any damage to bins etc. If you wish to volunteer for this role then in the first instance contact the Town Council staff on 01752 893815 who will put you in touch with either myself or Andy.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU !

Volunteers wanted to keep an eye their local grit bin and to advise the Town Council when refilling is required; also to report any damage and other abuse of this facility.

HELP YOURSELF AND HELP YOUR COMMUNITY.

For more details telephone the Town Hall on 01752 893815 and ask for Sue or Dawn.

The County Council has recognised that there has been a shortage of grit bins generally throughout the county and we are pleased to report that through the good offices of County Cllr Roger Croad funding is available for new grit bins for Ivybridge at the following locations - Plover Rise, Langham Way, Crescent Road, Bridge Road, lower end of Cole Lane near to Carter Road (2 bins), Wood Park (replacement of missing bin), Rue St Pierre (replacement of missing bin); if additional funding becomes available then bins will also be installed at the bottom of Trehill Road and nearby to Manor Primary School; the bin at Summerfield Court at its junction with Cornwood Road will be relocated to the junction of Ford Close with Abbot Road to serve the area around Woodlands Park Primary School. Lastly Cole Lane and Harford Road will in future be on the precautionary salting network which means these roads will be salted prior to predicted snow and ice conditions.

Cllr Dave Gray-Taylor, Chair of Emergency Planning Group

IVYBRIDGE CELEBRATES THE ROYAL WEDDING !

If your street isn't having a party on 29 April, then you don't need to miss out - why not bring your children along to the Ivybridge Royal Wedding Celebration at Erme Court?

From 10.30am until 3pm we will have entertainment, children's activities, bouncy castle and fairground rides plus tables and chairs, so bring along your picnic and enjoy being part of the occasion. The big screen in The Watermark will be showing the Royal Wedding so you don't need to miss the main event. Wear your most creative hat designed for the occasion and you may win a prize!



If you want to get involved or your group has some entertainment or activity that would be suitable for children then please contact either Tom Holland or Helen Cooper at The Watermark, telephone 01752 892220.

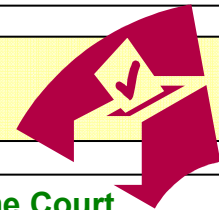
And if you can't wait until the 29th to celebrate then you may be interested to know that The Watermark Information Centre has on offer a limited supply of bone china commemorative mugs featuring both the happy couple and the town crest – just £4.99 and selling fast! Commemorative coasters and fridge magnets are also available alongside the mugs.

AND YET MORE IDEAS FOR YOUR DIARY!

Neighbourhood Watch Forum - Tuesday 12 April 2011, 7pm, in The Watermark

The main purpose of the meeting will be for Co-ordinators to discuss the "Way Forward" for Neighbourhood Watch; more details from Peter Dale tel 01803 861278

Town and District Council Elections Thursday 5 May 2011



"Marché de France" - Saturday 14 May 2011, 9am – 4pm, in Erme Court

Enjoy the return of this food and craft market from Normandy; delights on offer include cheese, fresh bread, croissants and patisserie, saucissons, paté normand, hot pancakes, smoked ham, olives, cashews and almonds, soups, jewellery and much more! For more information contact Dawn at the Town Hall tel 01752 893815



**“Spring in the Park” at Filham Park
Bank Holiday Monday 30 May 2011, 10.30am – 4pm**

Attractions include Children’s Treasure Hunt around the lake (11am-2pm), investigating mini-beasts with pond dipping & the services of Dr Osmond with his mobile ecology lab, try your hand at angling – all ages – equipment & tuition provided, circus skills workshops, bouncy castle, stalls, refreshments and much more. Free entry and parking. For more information contact Dawn at the Town Hall tel 01752 893815.

KEEPING TRANSPORT ON THE AGENDA

Bus Services

We have been very sad to learn that Stagecoach has decided to cut the X38 service down to one every two hours from Monday 11 April. I know that you will all be sorry about this as so many of you say that you prefer that service as it is direct into Plymouth. However we do still have it, albeit every two hours, so please use it when you can to ensure that it continues to be retained in some form for the longer term.

On a more positive note, and despite the many proposed cutbacks to subsidised bus services, I am delighted to report that the 180 will still be serving us around the town and into Plympton in its current format for the foreseeable future. Once again we must continue to use this bus especially since it is the only service we have that is subsidised by Devon County Council. May I take this opportunity to thank County Cllr Roger Croad for his good work behind the scenes to ensure that we retained this service.

I was informed recently that the National Express coach company are having to charge the disabled and the elderly full fare now on their services as the subsidy that they had been receiving has now been stopped; this is very sad as this has proved a lifeline to those of us who still like to get about to see family up country

All in all the cuts could have been a lot worse. Let us hope that this is all we have to contend with. Lastly as I always say, please use the bus because if we do not use it we will lose it.

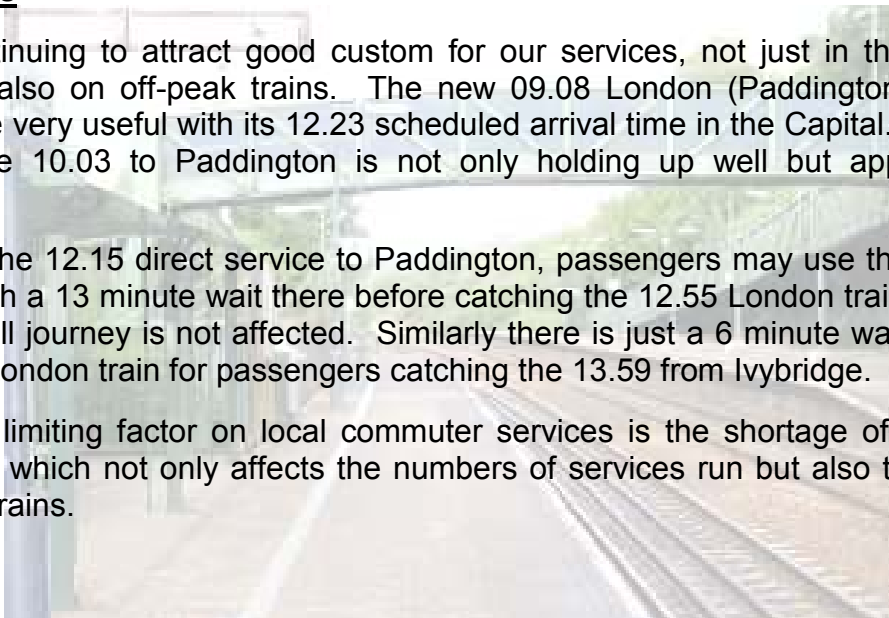
Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve, Town Mayor

Rail Services

We are continuing to attract good custom for our services, not just in the commuter periods but also on off-peak trains. The new 09.08 London (Paddington) service is proving to be very useful with its 12.23 scheduled arrival time in the Capital. Passenger usage of the 10.03 to Paddington is not only holding up well but appears to be increasing.

Having lost the 12.15 direct service to Paddington, passengers may use the 12.26 into Plymouth with a 13 minute wait there before catching the 12.55 London train. The fare for the overall journey is not affected. Similarly there is just a 6 minute wait at Newton Abbot for a London train for passengers catching the 13.59 from Ivybridge.

As ever the limiting factor on local commuter services is the shortage of appropriate rolling stock, which not only affects the numbers of services run but also the length of the existing trains.



The progress of individual train services can be monitored through First Great Western's internet site.

There have been a number of announcements regarding the electrification of First's routes including London to Bristol and Cardiff, Oxford and Newbury. A large number of the new trains will have dual electric and diesel propulsion so that, for example, an Exeter-bound train will change to diesel power once it has reached Newbury but timings to Exeter will benefit from that part of the journey 'under the wires'. There is no plan in the medium term to extend the use of the new trains west of Exeter. This means that a number of the existing High Speed Trains will be retained for London/Plymouth and Penzance services.

Ivybridge station is in now maintained to a high standard with its additional shelter on the Exeter-bound platform and new information points. Prominently displayed notices have been introduced showing bus services which may be caught on the main road near the station entrance.

Cllr Phillip Dredge, Chairman, Ivybridge Rail Users' Group

CATCH UP WITH YOUNG DEVON Y.E.S.

The Young Devon Youth Enquiry Service in Ivybridge has recently relocated to new offices at 10 Erme Road, Ivybridge.

You can access the service during opening times by dropping in or telephoning 01752 698402 for an appointment. You can also e/mail a support worker on yes.ivybridge@youngdevon.org



Opening hours are afternoons from 1pm, Monday (Bridge Clinic available from 3.30pm), Tuesday and Thursday. Friday afternoons are by appointment only.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING GOES INTERACTIVE !



On Monday 9 May at 7pm the Town Council hosts the Annual Town Meeting in The Watermark. Not normally an event to excite even the most hardened enthusiasts of local government – but this year we want to try something different!

Legally we have to deal with a few items including notes from the last meeting, what has happened over the last year and give an update on our accounts/budget but the main part of the meeting will be to invite speakers to give presentations on the services they offer in the town and to ask for your vote. At stake will be £20,000 earmarked in the Town Council budget for Localism/Big Society issues. This money has been ringfenced by the Council to respond to matters that our important to our town – for example, to help mitigate the cuts which are being made, whether in policing, grants to voluntary groups, or to improve community services considered important to the town. It could also be a completely new project – perhaps contributing towards hydro power on the River Erme?

We are borrowing some electronic voting equipment from the District Council so you will be able to vote for the project or service that you consider to be most worthy of receiving the money and this will form the basis of our further consultation with others in the town - for example school age youngsters.

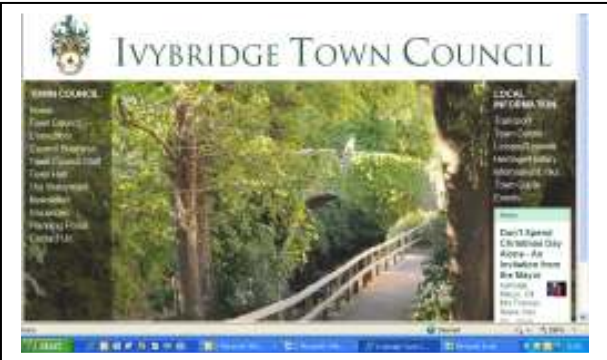
If you are part of an organisation which is facing cuts and believe that some (or all) of the money would make a difference to the service you can offer then please contact the Town Clerk, Lesley Hughes, and we will consider how best to include your ideas on the

evening. Alternatively if you just want to contact us beforehand with suggestions – perhaps you think we should contribute to a PCSO or find money towards reinstating the number of highways grass verge cuts - then do let us know.

This is a new development for us so it is an experiment in “participatory budgeting”. Our website will have more details in due course and perhaps we’ll even manage to interest more people in coming along to the Annual Town meeting!

TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

The new Town Council website appears to be proving a useful means whereby local residents can access local information and check out the activities of the Town Council. We have had a noticeable increase in the number of communications we receive via the website so all in all it looks like our site is proving a hit with both the local community and far beyond. We have recently completed entry of contact details for a number of local organisations under the “Information & Links” section of the site – if we don’t have your group listed then please contact us with your group name, contact telephone number, e/mail and website address (if you have one).



YOUR TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2007 - 2011

Town Mayor : **Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve**
Deputy Mayor : **Cllr Trevor Parsons**

Filham Ward

Cllr Christopher Childs	Ermechote, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, PL21 0BD
Cllr Phillip Dredge	34 Cole Lane, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0PN
Cllr Mrs Bridy Malin	28 Sumner Road, Bittaford Wood, Ivybridge, PL21 9AB
Cllr Trevor Parsons	7 Paper Makers Lane, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0JZ
Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve	37 Mill Meadow, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AW
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Silsbury	22 Brook Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AX

Central Ward

Cllr Thomas Bowden	19 Marshall Drive, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0UQ
Cllr Melvyn Vincent	27 Western Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9AN
Cllr Alan Wright	120 Blachford Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AE

Woodland Ward

Cllr Mrs Carol Beeson	10 The Spinney, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9TU
Cllr David Gray-Taylor	24 Julian Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9BU
Cllr Anthony Khong	71 Trematon Drive, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0HT
Cllr Jim Lloyd	57 Holtwood Drive, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9TH
Cllr Mrs Katie Reville	39 Boringdon Park, Ivybridge, PL21 9TY
Cllr Ray Wilson	Sky Cottage, 6 Church Lane, Moorhaven, Ivybridge, PL21 0XW

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Your comments are always welcomed by the Town Council ~

If you would like a response please give your name and a means of contact –