

LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

This edition of the newsletter incorporates the Town Council's Annual Report and will hopefully inform you of everything the Council does to represent you and the decisions it takes, on your behalf, for Leiston and Sizewell.



Chairman's Report for 2009 / 2010.

Councillor Tony Cooper

It has been an honour and a privilege for me to have served as Chairman of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council for the past 12 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and special thanks go to our Town Clerk John Rayner and his very capable assistant as without them our duties as councillors would be that much harder as they both ensure that at all times we are all fully aware of our duties, keeping us up to date with current and new legislation, keeping us fully aware of our financial responsibilities.

I would also like to thank the police, press and members of the public, who regularly attend our Council meetings.

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During my period as Chairman I have received many invitations and I have thoroughly enjoyed representing our town both locally and further afield.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone concerned with all the organisations who work so hard to make this such a lovely and friendly community in which we live.

To mark the end of my term of office, I have followed in the steps of our previous chairman, Cllr Ann Nunn, who introduced the Chairman's Cup. This year at the Chairman's Reception, I had great pleasure in awarding this to whom I consider has strived to make a difference in our community.



This year the Chairman's cup was awarded to Paul and Allison King. Representing our Leiston Community First Responder group Paul & Allison have worked quietly and tirelessly throughout the year alongside, and as part of, a small team of 8 Leiston residents who help to make the Leiston area, including Aldeburgh, a very safe and healthy place to live indeed It is very comforting to know that the Leiston Community First Responders, all unpaid volunteers, will turn out any time, 24hrs a day, every day of the year, to help you in your time of medical need.

We in Leiston do not realise how lucky we are by having on our door step, swimming pool, leisure centre, library, community centre, film theatre, Long Shop museum, football clubs, sports & social clubs, public houses, restaurants, plus many other organisations which I have had enjoyable times during my year making contact with and supporting..

Tony Cooper

Please note that Cllr Nigel Parker and Cllr Andrew Nunn are not in the photograph on the front cover. Councillors contact details are on the back cover.

By now giving an overview of my year I hope you will get a feel for the wide variety of activities, groups and occasions that the Town plays host to and you can see how you can be proud of so many of our young people.

My Activities during my year as Chairman are listed briefly below;

May 2009

I had pleasure to meet and welcome a group of visitors from France who were being hosted by the Leiston WI. Prior to their visit to the WI they had been shown around the Long Shop Museum. I attended the Mayor making at Aldeburgh and also attended the Annual Memorial Service for the airmen who had lost their lives whilst serving at Leiston Airfield. This was held beside the Cakes and Ale club house this year while the memorial in Harrow Lane was being re-landscaped.

June 2009

I attended the Consecration by the Archbishop of Canterbury of the Chapel of Transfiguration, Cloisters and Crypt of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. I helped the Middle School Year 7 pupils unveil and open the new seat in Old Post Office Square which they had helped design. I attend the raising of the Commemorative Flag to mark Armed Forces Day at Sizewell and witness the unveiling of a memorial statue beside it in recognition of the Englelandvaarders. Comrades who escaped from occupied Holland and fought with the Allies in the 2nd World War. The statue was presented by the widow of one such gentleman who had paddled for 56 hours in a two man kayak across the North Sea to land at Sizewell. There were many visitors from Holland at the ceremony and we were graced by another very impressive performance from the Royal British Legion Band.

July 2009

I attended the Middle School Awards Evening. Presented prizes at Leiston Primary School to the best geranium growers and also attended the Primary School Fete. I visited the Go With The Flow Youth Bus and attended the re-launch of the East Suffolk Business Centre.

I joined the Leiston Royal British Legion together with their Band at Newmarket Races for the Poppy Appeal.

August 2009.

Attended SCDC Chairman's reception, Cllr Burroughes, at Glenham Hall. Opened the new NHS Dentist in Leiston along with Mr Alistair McWhirter, Chairman of the NHS Suffolk.

Had an enjoyable afternoon at "Leiston Skate Jam" at our Skate Park on Victory road recreation ground.

September 2009. Very quiet month

October 2009

Attended a number of events including the Girl Guide Centenary celebrations.

Was present during culmination of the Big Draw, a large community arts project, at the Leisure Centre and attended Suffolk's Harvest Festival at Bury St Edmunds and the Mayor's reception at Beccles.

November 2009

Attended Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Film Theatre

Participated in the selection of the finalists in the Norfolk and Suffolk Young People of the Year awards at Norwich Airport.

Visited the "go with the flow youth bus" on its visit to Leiston.

Had a great afternoon attending the Rose and Sweet William Christmas Party (below)



December 2009.

Attended High School Presentation Evening.

The Suffolk and Royal Anglian Regiment (Leiston Branch) Christmas get together and the County Council civic carol service.

Attended the civic carol service in Bury St Edmund's cathedral.

Another highly acclaimed event was the excellent show put on by Bright

Sparks at the Film Theatre before Christmas

A sad note for our community was the loss of Mr Fred Carter a builder of distinction and friend to many.

January 2010.

Another sad loss was the announcement of the death of Mr Roderick Tye, President of the Leiston Royal British Legion.

I visited the Leiston Swimming Club during their winter league match.

Attended the inaugural open day of the Leiston Lynx Basketball Club.

Stayed on to watch an evening basketball match between the Lynx club members and also the Swimming Club training session.

February 2010.

Attended the 1379 (Leiston) Squadron ATC's Presentation Evening where 3 new cadets were enrolled.

Visited Suffolk's Got Talent show held in the Film Theatre

Attended The High Sheriff of Suffolk Choral evensong.

There was a working breakfast at the Leiston Enterprise Centre – held to showcase another asset in the town whereby new and start-up businesses can rent very well appointed and serviced rooms for their venture.

There had been an increase in complaints regarding dog fouling.

March 2010.

Attended CYD's Open Day.

Attended a Public Meeting held by the Safer Neighbourhood Team where the public were able to inform the Team of their current concerns and worries. I encourage members to consider attending the next meeting to be held on Thursday 15th July.

A highlight was to be invited to open the Long Shop Museum for the coming season on the 27th March. Both Pat and I had a very enjoyable time and particularly enjoyed the RBL Bands new piece, commissioned in memory of Daphne Oliver, called Sirapite. This was made even more poignant for me as I watched Sirapite herself in full steam for her first public appearance for 40 years. Many will remember her as "Puffin' Billy" (or was that the train to Aldeburgh??).

April 2010.

Attended Deben District Scout groups St George's Day Service at St Margaret's Church, Leiston.

CYD's AGM.

Attended the Affiliation of Leiston Detachment B Company Suffolk ACF and 1379 (Leiston) Squadron ATC with Leiston Branch, the Royal British Legion, at the Cadet centre, Victory Road, Leiston.

And now a brief résumé on what we as a council have undertaken over the past 12 months;

June 09

The main item was the delay in completing the current Traffic Order Review for Leiston. Suffolk County Council (SCC) had had their funding cut and the project was put on hold.

The Waterloo Avenue Zebra Crossing had not yet been constructed but SCC did commission an independent safety audit on the crossing and hoped to paint emergency white “keep clear” lines back to Waterloo Mews within two weeks.

Members discussed the possibility of various one-way systems that could be introduced to alleviate the problems that occurred in roads like Central and Grimsey. It was decided to hold a meeting of the Highways Working Party to put some recommendations together.

Fairtrade. Cllr Ann Nunn updated everyone on the progress toward Leiston becoming a “Fairtrade Town”. All the boxes had now been ticked and with a little more publicity in the East Anglian Daily Times (who duly obliged), everything was in place to apply for Fairtrade Status. The Steering group then consisted of four Councillors and four members of the public. It was agreed that the steering group would officially apply for Fairtrade Town status for Leiston.

Installation of new seat in Old Post Office Square. The new granite seat was placed in Old Post office Square early on the morning of 5th June. There was then an official unveiling and celebration on Tuesday 16th June. Members were invited to attend and to meet the 40 Middle School pupils who had contributed to the design and graphics incorporated into the seat.

Meeting of Local Parishes at Middleton. This was a group who came together to look at the wider ramifications of a new nuclear power station announced for Sizewell. The name of the group was formalised into the more appropriate “Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group”. Cllr Hodgson volunteered to become a member of the steering group of the organisation and got involved with looking at how to finance the groups work, drafting their constitution and working on lanes of communications with the government and the nuclear industry (chiefly EDF).

July 09

Police Community Support Officer, Jackie Abbot, introduced PCSO Philip Marshall who had completed his four week familiarity tour and was about to go “solo”. It was with regret that Jackie explained that she would be leaving in September but that her replacement, Jeanette Pither, would complete her training in time to join around the end of August. The Council congratulated Jackie on being accepted into the Police Force and wished her well in her training to become a regular constable.

Film Theatre. It was agreed to replace the wooden name board and fascia on the front of the cinema with a powder coated anodised aluminium one. The foyer had been completed and members felt that a new fresh look to the fascia would compliment it. It was agreed to go ahead and to incorporate bespoke gold lettering.

Town Appraisal. It was agreed to try and set up an independent body to do the appraisal which would be in accord with the Council’s wish to consult with the community as much as possible. The last appraisal was done in 2001 and an action plan had been produced to address the issues raised. It was hoped that a public meeting would look at those and see if the issues were still relevant.

Fairtrade. Cllr Ann Nunn reported that the Steering Group had made their submission and had received acknowledgement from the Fairtrade Foundation. It would take up to six weeks to hear whether the bid was successful.

Sizewell “C”? Possible new build to go ahead. Members were keen to ensure that things were in place in good time should a new nuclear power station get the go ahead to be built at Sizewell. For our own part a list was made of what needed to be addressed before the construction force hit the ground. The main items fell under four headings - **highways safety, recreation, health and education**. There has to be a footway to Highbury cottages in place by start of play – that would be essential. HGV’s must be contracted to take the Yoxford route (or lose their contract). The Cycle path from Knodishall needed to be extended from its terminus at the south end of Haylings Road through to King Edward Road/ St Margaret’s Church along Footpath 8 to allow cyclists to avoid the narrows from Kings Road to the White Horse Corner. Other works would need to be done to increase the off street parking capacity in

the town close to the main through routes to allow these to be free flowing. Recreation brought forward the need for a new library and community centre better able to cope with the increased demand, possible upgrading of the swimming pool if it is required and an annual subsidy to the Film Theatre throughout the construction phase to allow it to continue providing the timely product it does at present and for it to be able to extend its programme. Education presented a problem as the current plans to go to a two tier system are happening around the scenario of a possible increase of numbers in the Leiston pyramid. A new surgery is required in the Town Centre and a CCTV system is required around the town centre too. It was hoped that the police were pursuing their own requirements to ensure the town was properly policed. It was hoped that the public conveniences in Dinsdale Road, so close to the transport hub of the town, be rebuilt to allow for 24 hour opening. Finally, the question of Minsmere Sluice was also raised as this was in need of some attention already—would the new build affect it? The items were taken forward for analysis and to be worked up in due course.

August 2009

Town Appraisal. Members noted that the questionnaire software they had appraised in August would not only be useful for that project but would also be appropriate to do other, more localised, consultations. The software cost £150 for the base package and then £25 for every questionnaire that was produced agreed that the software be purchased from Suffolk ACRE.

Community Centre. Quotes for double glazing for the main hall of the Community Centre were obtained and it was agreed to accept the quote from Coastal Glazing and to add the windows in the small kitchen to the project for a cost of £3,000.

October 2009.

Public Comment. Leiston and District Community Partnership would soon be starting a careful review of the 2002 Town Action Plan and would report back when it was complete.

Fairtrade Town. Cllr Ann Nunn was very pleased to announce that Leiston had now been officially accredited as a Fairtrade

Town.

Town Appraisal. Residents who had attended the public meeting in September had all thought that there was no need for another appraisal and that the results from the previous appraisal should be analysed further to see what had been achieved in the 7 years since that was completed before doing another.

Film Theatre Fascia. Members noted that planning permission had been granted and the new sign ordered. (Before and after shots on the right.)



Suffolk Coastal District Council Efficiency Review. Members thoroughly reviewed all the services that SCDC provided and ended up concluding that, if anything, they should increase the services they offered rather than cutting, reducing or farming any out – particularly public toilet provision.



November 2009.

Public Comment. Mr Ron Geater petitioned the Council to lend support to the current efforts to save the red oak trees at Westleton which the forestry commission had earmarked for felling.

Future Response Policing Plans for Suffolk. Members welcomed Inspector Neil Reid, Suffolk Constabulary, who briefed everyone on

the proposed changes to policing in the County due in April 2010. He explained that the increasing demands and expectations put on the force combined with a potential fall in funding meant that a radical review had had to be undertaken. The idea was to look at everything the force did to ensure that it worked smarter and more efficiently to deliver its core business more effectively. He outlined the concept of hubs which meant that Suffolk response officers would soon be operating out of 9 stations instead of the current 23. Councillors were worried by the proposals and made representations to ensure Leiston Police Station did not close.

December 2009.

Police Report. Members were very pleased to hear that Sergeant Richard Gubbins had been awarded his promotion to Inspector and wished him well in his new post as the Inspector in Beccles. He explained that Lee Simons would be taking over as the acting Sergeant of the SNT and PC Carl Lawrence would be taking over Lee's role as the Leiston Officer.

The Power of Well Being. After a short briefing on the nature and advantages of attaining the Power of Well Being it was agreed that Councillors should undergo the training necessary to achieve Well Being status.

Sizewell Power Station. Members were very sad to hear of the unexpected death of Mr Brian Dowds, Station Director of Sizewell B Power Station.

January 2010.

Long Shop Museum. The Trustees of the museum had discussed the offer that the Museum had received for them to purchase the railway line behind Station Road and Dinsdale Road. It was agreed that the Trustees would consider the offer on the basis that, although there may not be much use that could be made of the land in the immediate future, the long term aim would be to run Sirapite along her old route sometime in the years to come. It was felt that if the land were not secured now then the chance of achieving this may well be gone forever. The Council agreed with those sentiments and offered their support..

Precept.

Setting the budget for 2010/2011 –The core costs established to

efficiently run the Cinema, the Community Centre and all the items associated with the general administration of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Council for a further year came to £124,225. Councillors then looked at individual capital projects that were needed or were considered desirable for the coming year.

It was noted that the Council had committed to part fund a PCSO for Leiston for two years in the last budget round and that this included £14,000 for 2010/2011.

Community Centre – £1500 was included to renew the timber where necessary around the fire doors.

Cinema – After the success of introducing a Dolby Digital sound system two years ago, adapted toilets last year and the new foyer and fascia this year members agreed to set aside £10,000 next year to go toward a new digital projector.

Allotments. Members agreed to include £2,000 in the estimates to carry on tidying up both allotment sites and to progress the fencing and tap provision.

Highbury Cottage Footway –a safe footway from Waterloo Avenue to Highbury Cottages, to save residents and their children walking along a dangerous road, was still a top priority and a further £10,000 was put into an earmarked reserve to eventually achieve this.

Christmas Lights. Agreed to put £2,000 in the budget to ensure the continuation of the lights next Christmas

Play Equipment. The reserve currently stood at £20,000. A further £5,000 was included as any new project would likely cost upwards of £45,000. It was felt that there should be a healthy reserve for this item as Leiston did have a lot of children and young people and careful saving now would enable the funds to be available for new projects or repairs which arose in the future.

Dinsdale Road WC's. Agreed to put £11,800 into the estimates to continue running the Toilets in Dinsdale Road for a further year. Although costly due to the age and design of the toilets members felt that many residents and visitors appreciated the convenience.

Precept. After other sundry items had been taken into account the Precept was set at £192,175.

February 2010.

Power of Well Being. It was agreed that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council adopt the Power of Well-Being, including the Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement forthwith. The Power of Well Being is an informal name given to the statutory power enabling a local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic social or environmental well being of their area.

March 2010.

Three town Councillors and two District Councillors attended a briefing where senior members of the EDF New Build Team had given them an update on where the Sizewell C project now stood. The report gave a broad outline of what can be expected should new build go ahead with the main changes to the last brief being an increased period of work, starting in 2013, from 5 to 8 years and an increase in cost from 5 to 8 billion. The disruption caused by installing a jetty was mentioned and National Grid expanded on the new substation and pylon re-alignment that would be required. There would be in excess of 5000 workers on the site at the height of the construction. Exploratory bore holes would soon be made (and filled in once complete) and a guarantee was given that the station would be safe from sea level rise for over 100 years.

April 2010.

County Report. The meeting heard that, sadly, County Councillor Ron Ward had stepped down from his role due to failing health. Members sent thanks to Ron for all the hard work he had put in whilst representing Leiston over the last five years and wished him well in his retirement

Film Theatre Committee. The committee heard a compelling and detailed presentation on how a 3D capability was now an essential upgrade for all cinemas. The phenomenon had now gained such momentum that cinema goers, especially the younger ones, would soon expect to see 3D as of right and would travel to do so. The cost of the installation at Leiston would be £55,000 for the Digital Projector and £20,000 to add 3D capability to it (this would include

the glasses and a new screen). Councillors examined the options, especially the consequences of not keeping pace with the new technology and decided to try and go 3D. A decision was made to apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

Anglia in Bloom The District Council informed us that they had decided not to offer a free watering service this year to entrants of Anglia in Bloom. This, coupled with Mrs Gregory's ill health, has meant that the Leiston in Bloom team has decided to have a break from entering the competition this year. In particular, the withdrawal of the watering service at such short notice (the hanging baskets had already been ordered) was a blow as funding now had to be found to cover the cost of the watering for this summer.

Town Plan update. A new copy of the Town Plan was distributed which included, after each project, the detailed recommendations that had come from the Leiston and District Community Partnership's review of the Plan. This will be discussed in June.

Proposal for a public sculpture. Mr Thomas Merrett put forward a proposal for a sculpture representing the Garrett works (and the people who worked there) possibly being placed in a public space somewhere in the town. One suggestion was the green space on the corner of Station Road and Waterloo Avenue. Members and the public were invited to attend the "**Free Leiston Day**" at the Long Shop Museum on **16th May** where the Marquette's for the proposed pieces would be on display. The sculptor would be on hand and pleased to talk through his ideas. It was agreed to look at this again in June after the exhibition.

Financial Report from 2009/2010

The overall headline figures for the Town Council for the last year (2009/2010) were;

- a total income of £339,700 and
- a total expenditure of £330,000.

The Film Theatre contributed receipts of £133,000 to this with admissions of over 21,000 people attending both the cinema and the live performances throughout the year. The running costs of the Theatre again exceeded the income by just over £33,000, the same

as the previous year.

The rest of the income came from the Precept (i.e. the portion of the Council Tax that Leiston residents pay to the Town Council), from allotment rents, Community Centre hire and from grants and donations. The Precept was £182,300.

The outgoings were broadly in line with the estimates. There were three calls on the reserves for emergency repairs - for heating at the Community Centre and heating at the cinema plus new windows in the Community Centre – so, at the end of the year, the reserves were down from £68,000 to £58,000. At the same time, earmarked reserves increased by almost £20,000 as the Council saves up for future large capital projects.

Any resident who wishes to is quite entitled and most welcome to make an appointment with the Town Clerk to go through the Council's accounts at their convenience. The Council is committed to ensuring everything it does is transparent and open to scrutiny of the residents whom it serves. The accounts are very thoroughly audited by two separate independent auditors each year to ensure everything is legal (as required by statute) and all the Council's decisions on how the money is spent is available on line, as part of the official minutes, at www.leiston.com/council .

To inspect the accounts please call 01728 830388 to arrange an appointment or e-mail leistontownclerk@aol.com .

The next council meeting is on Tuesday 1st June .

The public session starts at 7.00 pm

Why not come along?

After all the excitement of the General Election the next really important election is next May when a poll will take place to elect 15 Councillors to Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council for the following four years.. If you have ever considered becoming a Town Councillor and serving your community then come along and see what it involves before making the commitment next May.

LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE: Local Police Community Support Officer
 PCSO Philip Marshall Tel: 01473 613500
 (ask for Leiston or PCSO Marshall)
 Email: leistonaldeburgh.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

DOCTORS: K Hopayian, G Jones, S Simmonds, K Blades

SURGERY: Main Street, Leiston Tel: 01728 830526

COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE: Colonial House, Leiston Tel: 831215

JOBCENTRE: 6 Sizewell Road, Leiston Tel: 01728 404000

LIBRARY: Main Street, Leiston Tel: 01728 831252

LONG SHOP MUSEUM:
 Main Street, Leiston Tel: 01728 832189

LEISURE CENTRE: Red House Lane Tel: 01728 830364

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:
 14 Colonial House, Station Road, Leiston
 Tel: 01728 832193

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Refuse Collection Tel: 01394 444000

Dog Bins Tel: 01394 444015

Recycling Bins Tel: 01394 444000

Bus Passes Tel: 01394 444647

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ----- Tel: 01473 583000

Highways Tel: 0800 591055

Social Care Tel: 0845 6066067

EDUCATION

Primary School Tel: 01728 830745

Middle School Tel: 01728 830886

High School Tel: 01728 830570

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Leiston Children's Centre, King George's Ave Tel: 833129

Leiston Scouts Steven Burch Tel: 832479

Leiston Guides, Brownies, Rainbows Alison Smith Tel: 833086

Leiston Youth Club Gary Butler Tel: 830438

Leiston Women's Institute Betsie Black Tel: 688354

CYDS Stuart Watson Tel: 830716

CATS Sadie Staff Tel: 830516

Leiston Royal British Legion Band Jacci Plant on
 jaccirocco@aol.com

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Bailey, 8 Garrett Crescent	831032
Cllr Brian Barnes, 51 Grimsey Road	831990
Cllr Bing Boast, 10 Buller Road	830391
Cllr Tony Cooper, 28 King George's Avenue	830181
Cllr John Geater, 28 Westward Ho	830761
Cllr Susan Geater, 19 Haylings Grove	
Cllr Colin Ginger, 20 Heath View	832400
Cllr Trevor Hawkins, 78 King George Avenue	830234
Cllr Terry Hodgson, 27 King George's Avenue	830917
Cllr Bill Howard, 52 Waterloo Avenue	831455
Cllr Frank Huxley, 56 Waterloo Avenue	830415
Cllr Jacqui Morrissey, 35 Ashfield Drive	635592
Cllr Andrew Nunn, 1 Andrew Close	830462
Cllr Ann Nunn, 1 Andrew Close	830462
Cllr Nigel Parker, 19 Haylings Grove	833501

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr John Geater, 28 Westward Ho	830761
Cllr Trevor Hawkins, 78 King George's Ave	830234
Cllr Andrew Nunn, 1 Andrew Close	830462

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, 8 Albion Road,
Saxmundham 602714

TOWN CLERK

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Thursday & Friday 09.00 – 12.30

See your Town and Council at www.leiston.com

LEISTON FILM THEATRE 01728 830549

SEE WHAT'S ON AT www.Leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

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