

# STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No2. 03/2011

## TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN MAY

**Are you thinking about whether you may be able to join us in May!**

Did you know that your local councillors are consulted on nearly everything that happens in your area? They take an active part in deciding what services are and are not provided and that affects your family!

Local councils are delivering more services for residents than ever before and with changes to legislation Parish Councils may be in a position to do even more in the future. They raise money primarily through your council tax to administer their decisions and you need to be sure that you have the right people to look after your community. If this is something that you think that you might be interested in please contact the Clerk for further information. The deadline for delivery of nominations to North Dorset District Council is noon Mon 4<sup>th</sup> April.

## SHAPING STALBRIDGE SHAPING OUR FUTURE



**Shaping Stalbridge: drop-in day  
Saturday 26th March  
10am-5pm in Dike's Cafe**

**It's all about US helping ourselves to care for our community  
Come along and see what it's all about, have a cup of coffee, get  
involved, tell us what you think.**



## HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAFE CROSSING ON IN STATION ROAD

In response to a request from local parents who walk their children to school from the Westacres estate. The Town Council requested the allocation of some section 106 monies (specific to highways works) to put up signs, create drop kerbs and a path adjacent to the lower part of Station Road. The Town Council are delighted to hear the project is a success and facilitates more convenient and safer crossing.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the last quarter the Town Council's accounts for 2009-10 were closed and audited. In December the Town Council met to set its budget for 2011-12 and agree the precept demand issued to the District Council. The precept is added to the Council Tax bill and collected by the District Council. The Town Council's careful accounting has meant that there is a small increase of 2.9% to £71,000.00.

## STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

8 Ring Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LZ.  
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## NEWS FROM NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Car parking review for North Dorset

Car parking across North Dorset is being looked at to ensure it generates the right level of income to support the local economy. Councillors and business owners in Stalbridge are helping with the process

The income generated from car parks directly supports council services and we must balance the need for income and the possible effects of attracting trade to towns like Stalbridge and the impact on local residents.

The free car park in Stalbridge is clearly a bonus to the town but it costs the District Council thousands of pounds in Business Rates every year which go to central government

The District Council is looking at ways to raise income from 'free' car parks but has no plans to raise charges elsewhere. It is also investigating new ways to pay such as mobile phone pay and park.

Another improvement could be to introduce a linear scale of charges, whereby a user only pays for the time they require rather than a set 30 minute or hourly rate.

### Good news for Council Tax payers

There is some good news hidden among the doom and gloom about public sector funding: the District Council element of your Council Tax will not go up this year.

The average Council Tax bill from North Dorset District Council, for a Band D property, in 2010/11 was £104.78. It will be exactly the same this year.

Council Tax in North Dorset is one of the lowest in the country. Let's keep it that way!

### The Census is coming in March

On 27 March each household in England and Wales will receive a census questionnaire. We all have a legal obligation to respond to the census which can be returned by post or completed online.

The census not only provides an estimate of the country's population but statistics gathered by it will help to allocate funding for national and local services like education, transport and health.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Members of the public are very welcome at Town Council meetings, please feel free to attend. If there is something which you feel the Town Council should consider, please put this to the Clerk. The Town Council web site <http://www.stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk> has a feedback page or you can e-mail, write or leave a note at the community office with your contact details.

### STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES SUMMER 2011

All meetings will be in the Town Council Office unless otherwise shown and are open to public & press. Meetings start at 7pm, when the Town Council meeting and planning meeting are on the same night the Planning meeting starts at 7pm followed by the Full Council meeting.

#### Planning Meetings

Wednesday  
April 27<sup>th</sup>

May 25<sup>th</sup>  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>

July 20<sup>th</sup>  
August 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Town Council Meetings & Planning meetings Wednesday

April 13<sup>th</sup>  
May 11<sup>th</sup>

Annual Town Council Mtg  
June 8<sup>th</sup>

July 6<sup>th</sup>  
August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

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