

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 4. 09/2011



FEEDBACK FROM UNITED STALBRIDGE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION DAY

Stalbridge Town Council would like to say a huge Thank you to everyone who took part in our Shaping Stalbridge Day, all of your feedback has been collated and categorized into an action plan of items that can be addressed in the short, medium and long term. A working party made up of local volunteers and Town Council members is now working on the short term items and as soon as these are complete we will move on to the other items. Many items have of course already been addressed, for example: adult seating in the new Jarvis Field Play area.

The most popular suggestions that were made by you are: The Library, huge support for this to be kept open with the possibility of making into a community hub, a project board has been set up to investigate the viability of this. The extension of the Trailway, more activities/facilities for young people, a Stalbridge website, public transport, more grit bins, more affordable housing, more allotments, better access to job vacancies, better energy efficiency with our street lights, better recycling facilities, renewable energy plus many, many more.

There was an enormous amount of great feedback about our town, especially for our shops, doctors, pre and primary schools and general services. In particular the fantastic support that our traders have given to our car park.

We also received many comments from you about improving our Broadband, this is something that is part of a national initiative, may we ask if you have any particular issues, could you let our clerk have details of where you live and any times of day that are particularly bad so that we may feed this information to the team working on this project.

Again, our thanks to you for Shaping a better Stalbridge

THE POWER OF WELL BEING

The statutory powers of Parish & Town Councils are laid down in various Acts of Parliament and specify things that they may do. In addition the "Free Resource" is a financially capped power of local authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised. The power of well being is an uncapped statutory power that enables an eligible Council to use the power to promote or improve the economic, social, or environmental well being of their area. This gives flexibility to act on local priorities i.e. Health, education & commerce.

Stalbridge Town Council became eligible and resolved to adopt the Power of Well-Being in September 2011.

This power will enable the Council to have greater flexibility and be able to do more for Stalbridge with fewer restrictions.

A NEW DOG BIN FOR WOOD LANE

The Town Council are most grateful to North Dorset District Council who have agreed to provide an additional dog bin. This will be located at the lay bye in Wood Lane. The dual bin will be serviced by the Town Council.



Clerk: T Watson

8 Ring Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LZ.
Tel 01963 364276. Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 4. 09/2011

GRIT BINS WHERE TO PUT THEM?

Winter is not that far away and the Town Council working party are considering locations for 2 additional grit bins. Please let us have your ideas and comments.



NEWS FROM NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Stalbridge praised by the District Council

Stalbridge Town Council and Stalbridge Traders were praised by the Cabinet of North Dorset District Council at their meeting on 5 September for their positive and innovative approach to the management of the town's car park.

Traders have agreed to contribute to the cost of the car park so that it can remain free to use.

Cllr Peter Webb, Leader of NDDC, described the Stalbridge action as "an exemplary local initiative" and Cllr Graham Carr-Jones passed on his "personal thanks to the local businesses who had contributed."

All car parks have costs associated with them, the largest being the Business Rates that have to be paid to central government. In some cases this can be thousands of pounds each year.

Are small businesses getting enough relief?

Small business operators in Stalbridge could be getting 100% Small Business Rate Relief if they operate from a single location and claim the relief from the Stour Valley Revenues & Benefits Partnership.

Currently, businesses with a rateable value of less than £6,000 are eligible for 100% relief and other reductions are applicable for business premises whose rateable value is between £6,000 and £12,000. This will continue until September 2012 when the rules will return to previous criteria which only offer 50% relief.

You can find the rateable value of your business on the Valuation Office Agency website at: www.voa.gov.uk. To find out more contact: businessrates@stourvalleypartnership.gcsx.gov.uk for clarification and an application claim form or look on www.dorsetforyou.com

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. **MEETING DATES AUTUMN /WINTER 2011**

All meetings are 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

12th & 26th October

9th & 23rd November

7th & 21st December

Town Council Meetings & Planning meetings

Wednesday

12th October

9th November

7th December

Clerk: T Watson

8 Ring Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LZ.

Tel 01963 364276. Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk