

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 35 06/2020

FROM STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



Looking back to a statement I made on the 17th of March when we were all watching the national news and listening to messages and advice from Central Government with bated breath I was sure we could bring our thoughts back to our local community. Well the smallest town in Dorset has surely not disappointed in showing its true community spirit. Local business have rallied to serve the community, friends & neighbours are looking out for each other and volunteers have come forward to help during this challenging time. Members join me in saying a big thank you to all those in this town who are going that extra mile and our thoughts are with those enduring isolation. We look forward to when we can get back to a normal even if it's a new normal. Stay safe stay well. With my very best wishes

Stay safe, Keep well. K Garland

STALBRIDGE HELPERS



If due to self-isolation you are having difficulty in getting your shopping or medication or you would just like a chat on the phone. We have a local group called 'Stalbridge Helpers' The group are operating within a 2 mile radius of Stalbridge. If you need to contact them please call 07746 100299 or 07512 489531. Members of Stalbridge Voluntary Community Car Scheme are monitoring these numbers & will put you in contact with a volunteer to help. The phone numbers above are not emergency numbers or in relation to health conditions. Please contact 111 or your GP Surgery.

COVID-19: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT STALBRIDGE TOWN



COUNCIL The Town Council is now operating in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020. The Office is manned and can be contacted by phone, e-mail or on the web site contact page. An internal continuity plan and scheme of delegation has been adopted to

maintain core services and currently video conference meetings are being held via Microsoft teams as required. We have recently trailed public phone access to the video conference meetings and will endeavour to continue this subject to technical constraints. At this time all of our business is under constant review subject to government guidance with the big focus of keeping the residents of Stalbridge safe and well.

Clerk: T Watson

TheHub@Stalbridge, StationRd, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 RG.

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

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TOWN NEWS In this edition we would normally be bringing you news of the Annual Town Meeting. However in the current circumstance whilst public meetings are not possible, we have asked those groups and organisations who would normally let us know about their good work at the Annual Town Meeting to share with us their update for last year and plans for the future in our new normal world. We look forward to receiving these and will share the information in future blogs on the Town Council web site and newsletters.



RIGHTS OF WAY We all want to get out and enjoy our wonderful countryside, especially now. However, we all need to recognise our responsibilities as well as our rights, when using the network. Nearly all of the Public Rights of Way in Dorset cross private land, therefore users do have to be mindful of this when exercising their lawful right to use a footpath or bridleway. Landowners also have rights and responsibilities, and if we all follow

the well-publicised Countryside Code, there should be no problems. In this part of North Dorset in particular, many paths cross working farmland, producing food we all eat, and this should be respected at all times, by all users. Whilst there is no statutory right to take a dog on a public right of way, it is generally accepted that a dog is a usual accompaniment to a person. However, there is no right to allow a dog to stray off the path, and they should by law be kept under close control - the owner is responsible for the actions of the dog, whether this results in the worrying of livestock or fouling.

It should also be remembered that pedal cyclists have no right to use footpaths, but they can use bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. By law, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse-riders on bridleways.

Please remember to keep to the marked paths. The OS Map for this area, including Stalbridge is Explorer 129, Yeovil & Sherborne, and Dorset Explorer (Dorset Council's online mapping system) also has all of the rights of way clearly marked. (J Wardell Rights of Way Liaison Officer, Stalbridge)

MEETING DATES The Coronavirus Act 2020 permits authorities to make changes to their meeting arrangements and have flexibility to hold meetings at a time, day and frequency to suit their own needs. We aim to continue meeting on a Wednesday evening at 7pm on an as required basis rather than to the normal schedule. Notice of meetings will be published on the Town Council web site on the Thursday of the week preceding the meeting date.

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