

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 22 03/2016

UPDATE ON THE TRAILWAY LINK TO STALBRIDGE

The North Dorset Trailway is an all-weather, off-road, traffic free facility along the disused Somerset & Dorset Railway line that is open to the public for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and mobility scooters. It currently runs continuously for 12 kms between Sturminster Newton and Blandford, and then intermittently from Blandford to Spetisbury. The latest movement figures show 90,000 visits from Sturminster and 110,000 visits from the Blandford end. (info from :



<http://dt11forum.org.uk/north-dorset-trailway/>). This demonstrates just how important the Trailway is for the local population. The Trailway is much more than a nice place to walk or ride. It is attracting an increasing number of visitors from outside the area, which has had a positive effect on the local tourism spend. Representative members of the Town Council have been working extensively with the Dorset County Council Rangers and local land owners with the objective of linking Stalbridge to the current Trailway network 'the section marked in black on the map is the missing link' (map not to scale, for indication purposes only). Despite all efforts it appears that there is not a clear-cut way forward at present. Whilst members are disappointed they are committed to the project, do not intend to give up on this aspiration and will continue to look to alternative options and ideas to achieve this positive and beneficial goal for Stalbridge. The current Trailway leaflet is available from the Hub Community Office, or you can download it from <http://www.northdorsettrailway.org/>

THE FUTURE OF LIGHTING UP STALBRIDGE FOR CHRISTMAS



The Lights Group have recently disbanded. Members would like to express sincere thanks, particularly to the longstanding members for all their efforts that have made Stalbridge a special place to be at Christmas time over the years.

The question that now arises is what happens to the future of Lighting up Stalbridge and Christmas celebrations in Stalbridge?

If you feel these things are important and would like to get involved please get in touch with the Clerk on the contact details below or via the Town Council web site contact page

<http://www.stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk>

Clerk: T Watson

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

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

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PLAYINGFIELDS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Town Council has some funds set aside to commence a project to enhance the sports and recreational facilities at the Playing Fields site. The various options under consideration include refurbishment of the sports pavillion, provision of an all-weather play surface, new play equipment, BMX bike track, multi-use games area and a skate park. Whilst all of the listed may not be achievable in the 1st phase of the project, members would be glad to have an idea of the local priorities. Please complete the online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JTNBMJM> or pick a copy up from the Hub.



THE ANNUAL STALBRIDGE TOWN MEETING



Will be held at The Hub on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm.

Every English Parish must have a meeting annually. **This is not a Town Council meeting**, although it is the duty of the Town Council to organise and fund the meeting. This is a meeting for the Town, in order to allow people to come together and celebrate activities and discuss matters which effect the town. Proposals can be put forward for inclusion on the agenda and voted on at the meeting. The Town Council endeavour to ensure that all groups that we are aware of are invited to the Annual Town meeting. However, if you, or a group you represent would like to be involved or you wish to have an item listed on the agenda please contact the Clerk by 4th May.

USE OF TOWN BINS FOR DOMESTIC REFUSE

Advice has been taken for the Dorset Waste Partnership on the issue of public waste bins being used for domestic refuse in Stalbridge. It is against the Law to use public litter bins for domestic waste. If you are in doubt about the collection dates for your area they are available on The 'Dorset For You' web site.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/recycling-and-rubbish-collections> and at the Hub.

MEETING DATES SPRING/SUMMER 2016/17

All meetings are at the Hub@Stalbridge unless otherwise shown and are open to public & press. Planning meetings start at 7pm followed by the Full Council meeting.

Planning Meetings
Wednesday
April 8th & 20th
May 4th & 18th
June 8th & 22nd

Town Council Meetings & Planning meetings
Wednesday
April 8th
May 4th
June 8th

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