

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Eddie Sewell

The Thrapston Centre, 77 High Street,
Thrapston, Northamptonshire NN14 4JJ

Tel: (01832) 734 673
Fax: (01832) 731 928
Email: thrapstoncouncil@btconnect.com



308-011/012

Annual Town Meeting Thrapston Plaza Tuesday 17 April 2012

Present: 10 Councillors and 45 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. V Carter and Cllr. H McCormack

1 Mayor's Welcome:

Cllr. E Sewell welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2 Chairman's Report:

See appendix one.

3 Town Community Plan:

See appendix two.

4 Civic Awards:

Two people were nominated for awards this year:

- Margaret Jernigan – for services to first aid and health in the town
- Tony Sanders - for service to the youth of the town in particular the BMX track installation.

Tony collected his award but Margaret was unable to attend and her award was given to Joyce White to be passed to Margaret on her return from Ireland.

Cllr. P Goss presented a bouquet to Pauline Sewell for her support and help during the past year.

5 Diamond Jubilee:

June Davy, Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Committee, gave a whistle stop run through plans for the year. June explained that the Committee had been formed through a group of people coming together from various organisations in the town who wanted to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

This had grown from one month of celebrations to almost a whole year. So far there had been a Songs of Praise in January, an Opera in February, a Commonwealth day event in March and an Historical Society event in April.

Future events planned are:

Party in the Park 4th June – this is the highlight of the year with several bands, dancers, roundabouts, bouncy castles, bungee run, sideshows, face painting, crown making, burger van, paella, Indian and a licensed bar, hopefully also an ice cream van.

Funding has been secured from Spire Homes and the Town Council will also be contributing.

The park will be decorated with bunting donated by Zephyr and the day will end with the lighting of the beacon between 10pm and 10.30pm.

Charter Fair 30th June – The Theme is 'Best of British'.

Summer Ball 7th July - at the Plaza with a hog roast and a jazz band

August – the month of the Olympics and there may be children's events organised.

November – TADS are hoping to put on a classic British play.

December - 'Carols and Chocolate' event in St. James Churchyard and the switching on of the Christmas lights.

6 **Finance Overview:**

See appendix three.

7 **New Council Website:**

Cllr. A Winter explained the reason for the new website now that the District Council website has been withdrawn. He also explained that the site was in some ways still 'work in progress' but that minutes, Agenda, events, councillors details etc. could all be found on the site as well as plenty of information about the town. The domain name is thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk but can be googled by putting Thrapston Council into the search engine. Alan encouraged as many as possible to visit the site and use it regularly.

He also asked for feedback and ideas on improvements.

8 **Vision for 2012/21013:**

Due to a family bereavement the Chairman Elect, Cllr. Val Carter, was unable to attend so Cllr. A Winter read the Vision on her behalf. See appendix four.

9 **Question and Answer Session:**

Rachel Thompson: Proposed a vote of thanks to Howard Bosworth for the way he keeps the town in good order often going over and above the call of duty. A round of applause followed.

Donna James: Asked about the prohibitive cost of the toilets and the clarity of the CCTV cameras.

Cllr. Sewell explained that the toilet costs had been considered and explored for a long time and it was found impossible at this stage to reduce the cost but was considered a necessary commodity for the town. The CCTV cameras have now been in position for 10 years and are the subject of a review by the Town Councils and the District Council at the present time.

Vincent Davy: Agreed that the cost of the toilets was large but felt they were worth 'every penny'.

He also asked if the money given as a grant for the preparation of the Community plan was given to every council and if so would there be any money in the pot for the actual plan.

Cllr. Read explained that not all the towns were getting a grant and Thrapston were not in a position to prepare a plan without this help.

Shirley Haynes: Reminded everyone that the money actually was given by central Government to the Districts to use for the preparation of these plans and so was being passed on to the towns as necessary.

Joy Holmes: Reported damage from the service vehicles on the corner of Chancery Lane at the time of the building of the new surgery. This is a County Council responsibility and Cllr. Bob Seery promised to investigate.

Bryan Elliott: Felt the Localism Bill and the new planning act contradicted each other so the town would not have much of a say with the community plan, he also said he felt the RNOT Plan was being manipulated. Cllr. Read responded that although there will have to be a general conformity to the Plan there will be other things involved as well that benefit the town.

Wendy Brackenbury: Asked Bryan what he meant by the RNOT Plan being manipulated and the question of single use v multiple units on the Cattle Market site reared its head again. Wendy assured Bryan that the Plan would be taken into account when the plans were heard in June.

Donna James: Suggested that the Town Council has a stand at the Charter Fair to encourage people to get involved in the preparation of the Plan. Cllr. Read felt this to be a good idea and promised to consider it further.

Bob Seery: Felt that a Local Plan was the way forward and Thrapston should be proud of the sporting facilities in the town.

The Chairman thanked Alan Winter for standing in for Val Carter and closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.