

Summer  
2008



## THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Council runs the Pannier Market, the Town Hall, most of the open spaces, the Guildhall Square car park, the allotments and cemeteries. The Council is 'Lord of the Manor' for part of Whitchurch Down. It has in its care a large proportion of the old listed buildings in Tavistock. It provides "street furniture" and play parks. It also makes a major contribution to the cost of community organisations ranging from the Citizens Advice Bureau to the local Stannary Brass Band. One of its most important functions though, is to provide a democratic representational voice for the Tavistock community. This commonly involves making representations to the County and Borough Councils concerning matters relating to Tavistock such as highways, transport, planning and development control.

The Town Council sends representatives to speak for Tavistock at meetings of some 33 local organisations.

### WHAT ELSE ARE WE DOING?

- The Town Council will continue to work in partnership and share costs with West Devon Borough Council to deliver refurbished toilets in the Guildhall Square by Summer 2008.
- We will spend £40,000 in installing new lighting in St Johns Walk and Benson Meadow during 2008.
- Work will soon begin on resurfacing the roads at the Cemetery. The project will entail removing the existing road surfacing, (which has a high arsenic content) and this will require specialist removal and has added extra costs to the project.
- The Town Council will continue to allocate funds towards keeping play park equipment in good order and updating it. £40,000 is available to update and improve facilities, particularly in the Courtlands Road Play Park.
- We will erect a 'trim trail' in the Meadows to help with the fitness of its citizens.
- We have £10,000 to renew and upgrade some of the town signs.
- Recognising the issue of car parking in the Town, the Council will work to progress the plans to provide a formal car park in Pixon Lane and work with other authorities to improve and increase the car parking in the Town.
- In 2007 the Town Council made grants totalling £32,890 to deserving local organisations.
- In 2008/2009 we will spend over £162,000 on maintenance of our listed properties in Tavistock.
- We will support the 'Tavistock in Flower' concept and plan to erect more flower baskets in Bedford Square this year.
- This year we will spend £40,000 on advertising Tavistock to attract visitors to our town.
- Last year we surveyed the 1,200 trees that grow on Town Council property

TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

## **TAVISTOCK TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor for 2008/09 is Cllr Robin Pike, with Cllr Mrs Mandy Govier as his Deputy Mayor. They are members of all council committees. The Mayor chairs the full Council, which meets at 7.00 pm on the first Tuesday of every month. He and his Mayoress Mrs Diana Pike also represent the Council and the Town at civic events throughout the year. This keeps him very busy as, for example, the last Mayor attended some 200 events during her year of office. In the first month of office, the Mayor and Mayoress attended some twenty events with a very busy schedule for autumn already in place. In June the Mayor opened the long awaited Courtlands Play Park, the planning of which has formed part of this year's Play Park Best Value Review.

## **PROPERTIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman, Cllr Mrs Debo Sellis. The Properties Committee has seven members and is responsible for all matters pertaining to properties and lands owned by the Council. Currently this is some £9.6 million worth of assets. The Committee undertakes inspections of the lands and premises but has to refer any financial aspects to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It meets at 6.30 pm on the last Tuesday of the month. Tavistock Town Council is unique in that much land and property in Tavistock that was once owned by the Duke of Bedford, and was purchased from him in 1911 by the then Parish Council, has now ended up in its care. The income from rents offsets much of what would otherwise be paid by electors as part of council tax. The Committee plans to spend some £160,000 in this financial year in repairs and maintenance of these properties, and a planned maintenance schedule is being prepared to ensure that these listed buildings are looked after.

## **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman, Cllr Harry Smith. The Finance and General Purposes Committee has eight members and considers all matters that have a financial implication and makes recommendations to the full Council. It is also responsible for any other matters that may be the responsibility of the Council that are not dealt with by the Properties or Plans Committees. It meets at 7.15 pm on the last Tuesday of the month. The Committee controls a budget that normally exceeds £1 million, and is concerned with matters as diverse as employment conditions for the 17 full time staff, parking in Tavistock, and twinning with Pontivy and Celle.

### **Budgeted Income 2007/2008**

Precept	£ 410,000.00
Pannier Market	£ 385,000.00
Town Hall	£ 51,000.00
Goose Fair	£ 38,000.00
Cemetery Fees	£ 14,000.00
Car Parks	£ 35,000.00
Rents	£ 460,000.00
Loans	£1,250,000.00
Miscellaneous	£ 33,000.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£ 2,676,000.00</u>

### **Budgeted Expenditure 2008/2009**

Pixon Lane Project	£ 1,250,000.00
Pannier Market	£ 242,000.00
Open Spaces & Play Park	£ 258,000.00
Property Maintenance	£ 211,000.00
Admin & Corporate Mgmt	£ 195,500.00
Cemetery	£ 35,000.00
Democratic Costs	£ 34,500.00
Goose Fair	£ 29,000.00
Loan Repayments	£ 113,500.00
Grants	£ 106,500.00
Car Parks, Lights & WC's	£ 23,000.00
Training & Travel	£ 7,000.00

# PLANS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Town Council's Plans Committee comprises 8 councillors, including the Mayor as ex-officio. This year the Committee has been chaired by Cllr. David Best, with Cllr. David Whitcomb as vice chairman. The Committee meets in the Council Chamber fortnightly on Tuesdays at 6.00 p.m. Along with other planning issues, such as development policies, decisions made by the Borough Council on applications are viewed and new planning applications discussed and comments agreed for forwarding. It is to be noted that the Borough Council is the planning authority for Tavistock, the Town Council being merely consultees. For the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 the Plans Committee considered some 320 applications from the Borough Council and 4 applications for the small part of the Parish of Tavistock that lies within the Dartmoor National Park.

The Committee also reviewed the following policy documents for comment:

- a) Devon County Council Minerals & Waste Development Framework – Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement.
- b) Devon County Council Minerals & Waste Development Framework Consultation on Issues & Options.
- c) W. D. Borough Council Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Further Consultation Report.
- d) West Devon Borough Council Local Development Framework – Site Allocations, Issues and Options.
- e) Dartmoor National Park Authority – Strategic Land Availability Assessment.
- f) Dartmoor National Park Authority – Site Inspection Procedures.
- g) Dartmoor National Park Authority Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Development Plan.

## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2008/2009

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
1	1 Sun	1 Council	1	1	1	1 Sat	1	1 PH	1 Sun	1 Sun	1	1
2	2	2	2 Sat	2 Plans/Prop/F&GP	2	2 Sun	2 Council	2	2	2 Council	2	2 Sat
3	3 Council	3	3 Sun	3	3	3	3	3 Sat	3 Plans/Council	3 Plans	3	3 Sun
4	4 Sun	4	4	4	4 Sat	4 Council	4	4 Sun	4	4	4 Sat	4 BH
5	5 BH	5	5 Sat	5 Plans	5	5 Sun	5	5	5	5	5 Sun	5 Council
6	6 Council	6	6 Sun	6	6 Sat	6 Council	6	6 Sat	6 Plans/Council	6	6	6
7	7	7 Sat	7	7	7 Sun	7	7	7 Sun	7	7 Sat	7 Sat	7 Council
8	8 Sun	8 Plans	8	8	8	8 Goose Fair	8 Sat	8	8 Sun	8 Sun	8	8
9	9	9	9	9 Sat	9 Council	9	9 Sun	9 Plans	9	9	9	9 Sat
10	10 Sat	10 Plans	10	10 Sun	10	10	10	10	10 Sat	10	10 BH	10 Sun
11	11 Sun	11	11	11	11 Sat	11 Plans/FPP&P	11	11 Sun	11	11	11 Sat	11
12	12	12	12 Sat	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12 Sun	12 Pre-AGM Meeting
13	13 Pre-AGM Meeting	13	13 Sun	13	13 Sat	13	13	13 Sat	13	13	13 BH	13 Plans
14	14 Plans	14 Sat	14	14	14 Sun	14 Plans/FPP&P	14	14 Sun	14	14 Sat	14 Sat	14 Plans
15	15	15 Sun	15	15	15	15	15 Sat	15	15 Sun	15 Sun	15	15
16	16	16	16	16 Sat	16 Plans/FPP&P	16	16 Sun	16 Plans/Prop/F&GP	16	16	16	16 Sat
17	17 Sat	17	17	17 Sun	17	17	17	17 Sat	17 Plans	17 Plans	17	17 Sun
18	18 Sun	18	18	18	18 Sat	18	18	18 Sun	18	18	18 Sat	18
19	19	19	19 Sat	19 Plans	19	19 Sun	19	19	19	19	19 Sun	19 Council AGM
20	20 Council AGM	20	20 Sun	20	20 Sat	20	20	20 Sat	20 Plans	20	20	20
21	21	21 Sat	21	21	21 Sun	21	21	21 Sun	21	21 Sat	21 Sat	21
22	22	22 Sun	22 Plans/Prop/F&GP	22	22	22	22 Sat	22	22	22 Sun	22 Sun	22
23	23	23	23	23 Sat	23	23	23 Sun	23	23	23	23	23 Sat
24	24 Sat	24 Plans/Prop/F&GP	24	24 Sun	24	24	24	24 LA Holiday	24 Sat	24 Properties/F&GP	24	24 Sun
25	25 Sun	25	25	25 BH	25	25 Sat	25 Plans/Prop/F&GP	25 BH	25 Sun	25	25 Sat	25 BH
26	26 BH	26	26 Sat	26	26	26 Sun	26	26 BH	26	26	26 Sun	26 Plans/Prop/F&GP
27	27 Plans/Prop/F&GP	27	27 Sun	27	27	27	27	27 Sat	27 Properties/F&GP	27	27	27
28	28	28 Sat	28	28	28	28 Plans/Prop/F&GP	28	28 Sun	28	28 Sat	28 Sat	28 Plans/Prop/F&GP
29	29	29 Sun	29 Council	29	29	29	29 Sat	29 LA Holiday	29	29	29 Sun	29
30	30	30	30 Sat	30 Plans/Prop/F&GP	30	30 Sun	30	30	30	30	30	30 Sat
31	31 Sat	31	31 Sun	31	31	31	31	31 Sat	31	31 Plans/Prop/F&GP	31	31 Sun

## **OTHER COUNCILS OPERATE IN TAVISTOCK**

### **Devon County Council Responsibilities**

Education	Highways and Highway Lighting
Social Services	Heritage Services
Transportation	Waste Disposal (Crowndale Tip)
Strategic Planning	Libraries
Road Safety	Fire and Rescue (through Devon and Somerset Fire Authority)
Trading Standards	
Registration/Coroners' Services	Police (through Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)

### **West Devon Borough Council Responsibilities (Tel: 01822 813600)**

Social Housing	Housing Benefits (through Capita)
Environmental Health	Refuse Collection (through Focsa)
Council Tax collection	Local Planning and Development
Most Car Parks	Tourism and the Tourist Information Centre
Elections	Economic Development
Public Toilets	Leisure Services – (Meadowlands Pool)
Street Cleaning	Building Regulations

## **WHO ARE WE?**

The Town Council has 17 elected Members, representing the three wards of North and South Tavistock and Tavistock South West. The council members were either elected in May 2007 for four years, co-opted shortly after the election or elected at a by-election in September 2007.

Council members may receive a £200 payment for expenses (though some decline to accept this), and have to act within the ethical framework laid down by law.

In November 2003 the Council was awarded the status of a 'Quality Town Council' having passed a strict appraisal by external auditors.

## **TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr D Best	613902	Cllr Mrs M Govier	617864
Cllr M Harper	616367	Cllr C Jenkins	615106
Cllr I. Jennings	613330	Cllr Mrs A Johnson	613807
Cllr Mrs J Metcalf	615293	Cllr R Pike	612456
Cllr Mrs J Ramsey	07957711348	Cllr E Sanders	614308
Cllr P Sanders	612265	Cllr Mrs D Sellis	612153
Cllr J. Sellis	612153	Cllr H Smith	613118
Cllr E Sherrell	612939	Cllr B Trew	611320
Cllr D Whitcomb	617875		

### **OFFICE CONTACTS**

Col. R. Howard Town Clerk Council Offices Drake Road Tavistock PL19 0AU Tel: 01822 613529	Cemetery Office Tel: 01822 612799	Market Reeve Pannier Market Tel: 01822 611003	<b>SEE US ON THE WEB</b> <i>www.Tavistock. gov.uk</i>
	Works Superintendent Works Depot	Town Hall Manager Town Hall	<b>EMAIL US ON</b> <i>TavistockTC@aol. com</i>

CONTRIBUTIONS & COMMENTS ALWAYS WELCOME – CONTACT ROSIE ON 01822 613529  
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