

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

'THEY DON'T CARE... THEY JUST WANT TO GET THEIR MONEY'

At the beginning of this year's Town meeting, held on Saturday 12 March, the Chairman for the day, Martin Collier announced that no District councillors were attending. This didn't go down too well with many of the audience.

The Riverporter was on hand to record the annual meeting of St Ives Town Council where residents should be able to discuss matters of concern. It's a statutory obligation for the council and an opportunity to gauge the public's response to its policies.

County Councillor, Kevin Reynolds, who did attend, defended his colleagues saying it was a Town Council and not a District Council meeting so they needn't be there. It seemed an odd statement because although strictly true, it is also true that four of the five St Ives District Councillors are also Town Councillors. County Councillor Reynolds' remark also applied to him, so why was he there?

Well the reason would appear to be that Councillor Reynolds has been involved in flood issues over the past 15 months and that is a subject on the minds of many residents.

Also on the head table were Town Mayor, Pasco Hussain, Councillor Nick Dibben, Locum Town Clerk, Nicci Sewell and three representatives from local groups. Helen Dye of Eco Action, Councillor Phil Pope of Calmtown and Mathew Setchell of St Ives Flood Action Group (FLAG).

After a hesitant start the meeting followed its usual format as a verbal report was given about the work of the council, firstly by the Mayor and then by the chairmen of the council's committees - Cllr Dibben (Planning), Cllr Pallant (Property and Personnel) and Cllr Pope (Amenities).

Attendees were then able to ask questions about the work of the Council, which included whether planning rules might be relaxed for an 'environmental' gain and about the neighbourhood plan, and the situation with the refugees living in the Dolphin.

On the last point the Mayor stated that he meets them every day to be sure that they now have all they need to live here, such as warm

clothing, access to a phone and suitable food. Regarding the current Ukraine crisis the Town Council have been accepting donations and taking them to Peterborough, from where they are shipped to Poland.

Community Group reports

The second part of the meeting heard reports from Helen Dye, Phil Pope and Matthew Setchell about each of their group's work, which was applauded by those there.

There then followed the Question Time section and during this part of the meeting it became clear that there was quite a lot of anger, especially towards the non-existent District councillors and also the Police, whose representative did not attend despite having agreed to be there.

One resident was applauded when he asked the Council to ensure that the Police and at least one District Councillor attend in future. He continued, 'There is one individual who is a County Councillor, a Town Councillor and a District Councillor and he really ought to be here.'

Another resident explained that three years ago they had highlighted the traffic problems, particularly over the Bridge and still nothing has happened. She also demanded to know what was happening with HDC's proposals to take over parking enforcement. Sadly it seems that the Town Council have been left in the dark about when this might happen.

After two hours the Chairman, Martin Collier, drew the meeting to a close saying that it was unfortunate that no Police or District councillor was in attendance. He went on to say 'Your councillors are accessible, they have email accounts, you can write to them. Please please do so, for that's the way to get your point across.'

That should have been the end, however the Chairman allowed one more question. The gentleman concerned stated that he had a

Erik supports one day music event

As The Riverporter goes to press we are ahead of what promises to be the largest one day music event in St Ives, as more than fifteen bands and performers come together at the Corn Exchange this Sunday to help raise money for the Ukraine refugee crisis.



All the musicians, staff and suppliers, are working for free and all the profits will go to DEC, The Ukraine Humanitarian appeal. Gilly Lee from Black Cat Radio will be helping us promote the day and we're hoping she will be able to look in and say hi, so please come and support the Corn Exchange Team and support the musicians on this amazing day. **This is the order of play...**

CHARTER HALL STAGE

- 2PM The Sidekicks • 3PM The MJ's
- 4PM The Gathering • 5PM The Silverbacks Blues Band
- 6PM DarkHorse • 7PM So 80's
- 8PM Stella Hensley & Chris Newman • 9PM Graham Buxton

RIVERPORT CAFE STAGE

- 1:30PM Charlie & Rehanna • 2:30PM Alice O'Brien
- 3:30PM Jake Wadd • 4:30PM The Soul Sisters
- 5:30PM Jay-D • 6:30PM Jacen Bruce
- 7:30PM Ffon Rebecca • 8:30PM Paul Dodson 'The Piano Man'
- 9:30PM Reggae Ray

ALSO FEATURING - FACE PAINTING, AUCTION & CHARITY STALL

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH

FREE ADMISSION. DONATIONS ON DOOR. DOORS OPEN 1PM. ALL PROFITS GO TO THE DEC UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

WWW.THECORNEXCHANGE.ORG.UK

EVENTS@GTHECORNEXCHANGE.ORG.UK

question about HDC planning and went on to say: 'It is all very well saying write to your District Councillor... I have written to my District Councillor twice about this issue and I've not even had a response!

'They don't care... this town is going to be ruined by traffic with their planning policies. They're not going to bother. They don't want to come and face up to the public, they just want to sit in HDC's offices and get their money.'

Eds comment:

In 2018 the Town Council, determined to engage the public and make the meeting more relevant, devised the community displays that precede the 'Question Time' style event. It proved successful as the numbers attending rose and in 2019 (see picture left), Town, District and County Councillors and the Police all attended and a lively meeting ensued.

Since then the District councillors have avoided the meeting, (a deliberate policy?) and possibly

one that will backfire as all District Council seats are up for election in six weeks time. It seems a shame that our town, which has residents, who wish to be involved, now have councillors who aren't prepared to engage with them, except when they want their vote.

For information:

All HDC councillors receive £4,729 p.a. - plus special responsibility allowances ranging from £14,813 for the Leader, £8,820 for cabinet members and up to £6,632 for committee chairmen.

County Councillors receive at least £10,568 p.a. Town Councillors are unpaid.

All the seats on Huntingdonshire District Council will be elected on Thursday 5th May. There are currently five St Ives District Councillors who are:

Ryan Fuller, Angela Dickinson, Rianna D'Souza, Craig Smith and Adam Roberts all Conservative Party members.



Alarming knife robbery on Ramsey Road

On Tuesday 22nd March local police issued the following report of an armed robbery at a store in Ramsey Road. Detectives have released CCTV footage following the knife point robbery.



The robbery took place at about 8.50pm on 13th March when the robber entered the store and browsed the milk cabinet before approaching a member of staff with a knife. He left with approximately £100 from the till. Detective Constable Neil Gibbs, who is investigating, said: 'This was a terrifying ordeal for the member of staff in the shop. I would like

to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident to get in touch. I would also like to hear from anyone who recognises the man in the video to get in touch.'

This picture was taken from the CCTV footage and shows the robber, behind the staff member, clearly holding a knife in one hand with his other hand in the cash draw.

Community Warden scheme - Can you help?

The Riverporter has received a letter from Marie Brookes asking if any of our readers can support her efforts to get our local authorities to provide better help and support services to those over sixty to live independently in their own homes?

The project is known as **The Community Warden Scheme** is operated by **AgeUK** and Marie would like to see the scheme operating in St Ives and the surrounding villages.

The Scheme which helps by providing a daily phone call Monday to Friday and support such as . . .

- Making drinks and a light meal
- A listening ear
- A home visit
- Help with paperwork and making appointments
- Collecting prescriptions
- Signposting to other services where appropriate
- Small items of shopping

Marie says, 'The scheme which charges a small fee should be a no brainer for the council to support and that at some time in our lives we will all need assistance in some way'.

Marie brought the question of support to the town meeting where we understand she received some support, but she went on to say that she needs more help in pressing home her campaign.

If you would like to help, contact Marie on
fbrookes1410@hotmail.co.uk

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*Offer valid for openings up to 2.6m wide & including 2 remote controls, 55mm white slats, internal manual override.

BANDSTAND UPDATE

Pledges have continued to come in and the total funds raised has now reached £20,000, which is an amazing amount so quickly. We are expecting to hear from Grantscape in approximately six weeks if we have been successful with a grant from the Mick George fund. This could dramatically reduce the time we need to get sufficient funds if successful.

Having searched for manufacturers of bandstands we have been extremely fortunate to locate a bandstand that is exactly the specification we require. It was originally built for an exhibition at Earls Court and will simply need refurbishing, which means that it can be available at short notice. If we can secure the funding then it will be possible to have the bandstand installed during this jubilee year.

You can see a 3D animation on Youtube of the bandstand, showing the style of the structure, simply search for St Ives Platinum Jubilee Bandstand Project.

You can make a pledge, either by visiting the Town Hall, (between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday) stating the amount and giving contact details or you can email:
 townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

Alternatively you can help by donating any amount, no matter how small at:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stivescambsbandstand.

Please Note: Funds donated will be returned to the donors if the project does not go ahead.

WEST SIDE STORY

Screen St Ives

Tickets **£5**

Supported by

BOONGATE KIA
Home of the 7 year warranty
 Peterborough, PE1 5UA. Tel: 01733 344344

8pm Thursday 7 April 2022 12A

Tickets online @ screenstives.org.uk
 Or in the Corn Exchange

MOTHERING SUNDAY

FROM THE SCREENWRITER OF NORMAL PEOPLE

ODESSA YOUNG JOSH O'CONNOR SOPE DIRISU GLENDA JACKSON OLIVIA COLMAN COLIN FIRTH

8pm Thursday 21 April 2022 15

Doors and Riverport Cafe
 open from 7pm



Milly a bridge too far!



having your say ...

The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

**Get it off your chest,
email Erik at:
editor@theriverporter.uk**

COUNCIL NEWS

New Locum Town Clerk appointed

Following the resignation of the temporary Town Clerk, Nicci Sewell, the Town Council have appointed a replacement Clerk to cover for Alison Benfield who remains on sick leave. Mr Philip Trippin, who is an experienced officer, will take up the post on Monday 4th April. We wish him well and hope he is soon able to get to grips with what is a difficult time for the Council with the retirement of the Deputy Clerk also imminent.

Envar plans refused again

Wednesday's Planning meeting included a return of the Envar Composting's application for an anaerobic digestion facility on it's Somersham Road site. The updated information submitted was considered with around 30 people present, some of whom were able to put over their concerns about the development. The Council decided to continue with its recommendation for refusal, which will go forward to the County Council's planning committee.

Pigeon fanciers at the allotments

The Town Council have received a complaint from allotment keepers that pigeons are being kept on the site and causing damage to crops.



The Mayor and Councillor King are looking into the matter. Unfortunately the Council have no policy about pigeons, so it is likely that they will have to determine one and decide if pigeons can be kept on the allotments.

Cycle racks and outdoor gym on agenda

Also discussed on Wednesday was the potential locations of extra cycle racks proposed by HDC. County Cllr Reynolds raised concerns that the meeting was held at short notice and that consultation may not have included the Civic Society. Discussions about an outdoor gym continue to find a suitable location, most probably in one of the parks north of St Audrey Lane.

Hi Erik,

Several days ago I was standing near Ollies statue with all the various illegally parked vehicles, when a police patrol car turned up and slowly drove round, even letting an illegally parked car reverse out and drive off. No speaking to the driver or issuing any tickets etc. they carried on and drove away.

Yesterday a large delivery lorry couldn't find anywhere to park and unload without causing disruptions.

[The] Police [were] obviously too lazy to get out of their cars and walk round. What's the point of painting the roads with signs etc., might just as well have a free for all and let it all clog up, then something might just get done.

Same applies to Bridge Street.

Regards **Graham Hudson**



Dear Erik,

Please could you publish the next meetings

21 April **Power of Attorney Jackie Lucas**

16 June **David Parr House Tamsin Wimhurst**

21 July **Home Fire Safety Andrew Docherty**

18 August **Refurbishment of March Railway Station & items discovered.**

Free membership of COPE.

£2 entrance fee to meetings.

Also could you amend the telephone number on BRICK LANE MUSICAL the number should be 01480 300726.

Thank You **Angie**

Yes here is the correct advert.

Brick Lane Music Hall

70 Glorious Years - A very special show celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11. Tiaras optional.

Wednesday June 1st at 2pm.

Matinee performance

+ Afternoon Tea.

£39.50 + coach fare.

To buy tickets or for further information, please contact Angie Walter on 01480 300726 or 07925 516580.

Suspected drug dealing in East Street

A teenager was arrested in St Ives, on Wednesday March 16th following concerns that he had been dealing drugs in the area. Neighbourhood officers from Cambridgeshire Constabulary made the arrest on East Street.

However, the teenager has since been released while police continue their investigations.

Hunts Police have issued a notice to say: If you suspect drug dealing is taking place where you live, you can report it here:

<https://orlo.uk/reqPa>



April's Chapel Arts Concert, on 29th April, features blues and country musicians Fran McGillivray & Mike Burke.

They delighted the audience at last year's Jazz & Blues Festival with their harmonies and humour. Their concert is like enjoying an intimate conversation with an old friend.

Tickets £10 can be purchased in advance from the Riverport Café Bar or online from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives

Details of all the concerts can be seen at www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Another amazing night at the Corn Exchange

It seems the rumours of the demise of Meatloaf are mistaken as he turned up on time last Saturday and along with his mate Rud Stewart went on to wow a large Corn Exchange audience with a whole list of their hit songs.

Our St Ives Corn Exchange is going from strength to strength as it battles its way forward, following the Covid lockdowns. The new upstairs Riverport Café Bar coffee shop and with an amazing list of upcoming events and fund raisers the Corn Exchange is set to be the premier town entertainment venue. Events Manager, Kate, says to look out for our events page on our website or sign up for the monthly newsletter.



Join us for our new regular litter picks!



10am on **6th April** and the **first Wednesday** of every month: Meet by the Scout Hut at the start of the Thicket Path to litter pick along The Thicket, in Berman Park or in the western part of town.

10am on **13th April** and the **second Wednesday** of every month: Meet by The Octagon (the big green wooden building opposite the bus bays by the Market Road car park) to litter pick around the Waitrose car park or in the eastern part of town.



10am on **20th April** and the **third Wednesday** of every month: Meet on The Quay by the water pump to litter pick on the meadows. With enough volunteers, we aim to clear The Chubb Stream meadow, Wilhorn Meadow and Hemingford Meadow.

10.30am (note later weekend start!) on **23rd April** and the **fourth SATURDAY** of every month: Meet by the Coop sign on the Marley Road (near the bus stop) to litter pick along Marley Road and the area around Old Ramsey Road and Hill Rise Park.

10am on **27th April** and **fourth Wednesday** of every month: Meet at the junction of Meadow Lane and the Park and Ride vehicle entrance to litter pick around the busway area.

Contact **St Ives in Bloom** on siibinfo@gmail.com or visit **STAR** on their Facebook page for more details

HYPERION

Entries Invited for Our Next Antiques & Later Sale on Saturday 2nd April



Sold In Our Last Antiques & Interiors Sale

John Sell Cotman (1782-1842) pencil and wash, South Gate Yarmouth
Sold £320



WW1 Artillery Shell (inert) with much original paint finish remaining **Sold £200**



Tudor Black Bay Pepsi wristwatch on leather strap boxed with paperwork
Sold £2200



Entries Invited for our next Timed Auction of Toys, Soldiers & Collectables

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk 01480 464140



STAR and Little STARS

Join our undercover

Easter Litter Agents

10am on 6th April

FAMILY LITTER PICK for Easter Agents!

Meet by the Scout Hut at the start of the Thicket Path to litter pick along The Thicket, in Berman Park.

Adult and child teams pick and Tally litter

Hand in your tally and get a *Chocolate reward!*

Pickers and High vis provided

ADVERTORIAL

BE A BETTER BUYER



When you're searching for your ideal home, remember, you're in competition with many other buyers who will be viewing the same houses as you! Having your finances in place puts you in a much stronger position and you will be taken far more seriously by the agent and the seller.

There is a requirement on the agent to confirm you can proceed at the price agreed and if you have an AIP (agreement in principle) from a bank or building society you are more likely to be chosen over another buyer.

Another crucial point is to instruct a solicitor, this should be done even before you've agreed a purchase. It will take a couple of weeks for their initial paperwork to come out and to verify your ID, this time spent at the beginning will reap rewards in the transaction time when you do find your ideal home.

If you are in a position to proceed immediately, tell the agent, they will keep you informed about new properties for sale before they even hit the internet sites like Rightmove, Zoopla and On The Market. First time buyers, tenants and people sold subject to contract, who have already sourced an AIP from their building society, are like gold dust. Agents will bend over backwards to help them find the right house.

If you have a house to sell and are looking to move, there are a few things you need to consider; what are you likely to achieve for your own property, what are the costs of moving and what can you afford to pay for your next home.

Get your house valued by an estate agent and seek advice from a financial advisor. Once you have the information you can make an informed decision on what to do next. Many sellers even decide to rent their house out instead of selling, this puts them in a much stronger position to negotiate when they find their ideal home and don't forget, having seen their financial advisor they are already likely to have an AIP in place. More gold dust!

For more advice about how to find your dream home and to get financially qualified, contact our team of property experts today on 01480 388 888

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