



## CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

# *Carterton Town Crier*

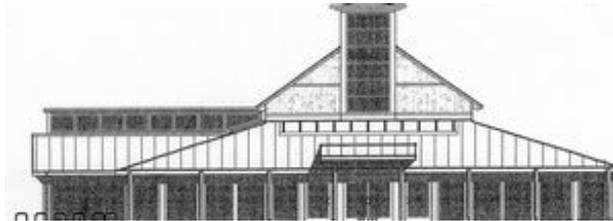
*A series of newsletters which aim to keep residents in touch. Please let us have your views and comments. Contact details are given below.*

**Issue 17**  
**New Year 2008**

*The Town Council is producing this special newsletter to let you know about two exciting developments in the town. You will see below details of the new Community Hall which will open in September, and overleaf plans for the refurbishment of Tower Square. Thank you again to everyone who voted and helped us gain the lottery money we needed. We are very grateful for your support.*

*To the road runners among you, I have been asked to let you know that the Carterton 10K road run will take place this year on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**. Please continue to support this annual event.*

*Cllr P Scott, Town Mayor*



### **A NEW HALL FOR CARTERTON**

The Town Council is delighted to announce that work has started on the construction of the new Community Hall. The hall is close to St John's School on the local centre within the new NE Carterton estate.

The hall is being built by Stepnell Ltd, a building contractor based in Warwickshire. They started on site at the end of last year and are due to complete the building in Autumn 2008. The building of the Hall will cost about £1.3m. Half of the cost is being met by contributions from developers. A further £150,000 is being provided as grants from SEEDA (SE Economic Development Agency) and Wren (the landfill tax people) and the Town Council is also investing some of its capital receipts in the building.

When finished it will provide a large hall which will seat 200 people, and a demountable stage. There will also be a smaller hall, and a number of meeting rooms. There will be a modern kitchen which will open onto both the hall and the foyer and there are plans to use the foyer as the venue for a community café. We hope that this will provide an attractive place where people can meet for an informal chat over a cup of coffee.

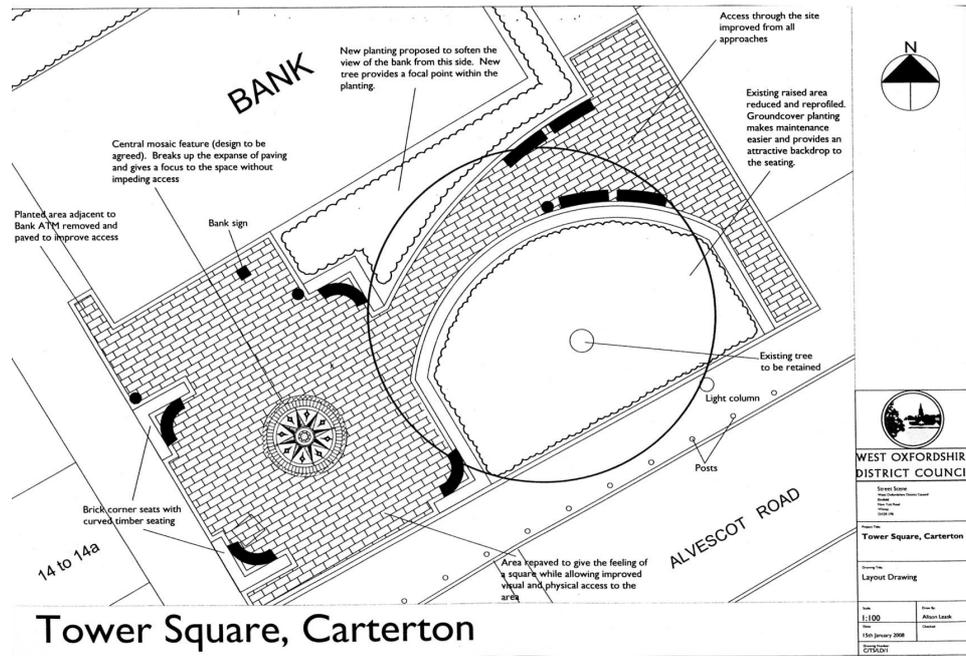
A number of potential users were involved in drawing up a 'wish list' for the hall which has been designed to be as flexible as possible. In addition to a café there will be a number of local organisations and groups based there but it will also be used for large scale performances, classes, small meetings, parties and receptions. We are planning to mark the opening of the Hall with a production of our community play.

The Hall will be run by an independent management committee who will be appointing a manager and a caretaker/cleaner later in the year. This committee will also be deciding on the hire charges. The aim is to provide an affordable venue for a wide range of users.

Plans of the Hall can be seen at the Town Hall on Alvescot Road. Please contact the Town Hall on 01993 842156 if you are interested in booking the hall or would like to be involved in running the community café, serving on the management committee or organising any of the opening functions. Please also contact us if you would like to be sent details of working at the Hall as a member of staff.

September 2008 may seem some way off but it is not too early to think of the Hall as a venue if you are planning a wedding or a special party. So book early to avoid disappointment.

# A NEW TOWN SQUARE FOR CARTERTON



Just in case you hadn't heard, Carterton won £38,380 from the People's Millions Lottery Fund on November 27<sup>th</sup> last year. 2,895 votes were phoned in to the Thames News programme to support our project when a film was shown about our proposal to regenerate Tower Square. We were up against a project for a play area in Oxford, which attracted 1,583 votes, so it was a resounding win. Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to vote, and persuaded family and friends to do so as well. Carterton Town Council has also provided £10,000 to add to the budget. It may seem a lot of money, but to design and install attractive, durable paving is expensive, and Tower Square is an important public open space in the town centre

The Working Group has met twice since November to finalise the design and plan the work. The landscape architect from West Oxfordshire District Council is overseeing the design and installation, and another small working group has been set up to work with a professional artist to develop an art feature to act as a focal point for the square, which is likely to be in the form of a mosaic set into the paving. The plan above is the basis for the design, but may be subject to some amendments as the County Council has placed some stringent conditions on the work to protect the tree.

We want to provide as much opportunity as possible for the wider community to be involved in this project, and hope to do this in a number of ways. The final plans will be on display at the Town Hall and

other local venues such as the Library from March 3<sup>rd</sup> for 2 weeks. We will expect the artist recruited to lead the work on the art feature to organise at least one event to consult the wider community. We will also be putting information on the town council website [www.carterton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.carterton-tc.gov.uk) as it becomes available and further details will be at the Town Hall for anyone to take a look at during opening hours (9.00am -4.30pm)

Although you will not see any evidence of progress on the ground just yet, much work is going on with the detailed design and preparations to let the contract. We expect the work on site to take place between June and September, with the artwork being installed in October and the landscaping in November and December, and the whole project completed by the end of the year. Inevitably there will be some disruption while the work is in progress, but we will ensure it is as little as possible and that all proper health and safety measures are in place.

Please do contact the Town Hall if you would like to know more.

**Members of the Tower Square Working Group:**  
 Ady Coomber, Maxine Crossland, Roger Crapper, Sheila Stone, Barbara Brookes, Dee Bulley, Mike Bulley, Ashley Farmer.

**Members of the Arts Working Group:**  
 Ady Coomber, Maxine Crossland, Roger Crapper.