

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2014/15

Mayor's Report



Town Mayors Message

As I come to the end of my second Mayoral Year, it is an opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months.

In June we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of D-Day with a community dance at Brownes Hall which raised money for my nominated Charities. Carterton also showed its support to the Armed Forces with services held at the Town Hall and at the Memorial Garden on Monahan Way. My thanks go to all of the residents who came out in appalling weather and the RAF personnel who supported us on the day. In keeping with this year's commemoration of the First World War, my thanks go to all those people who helped at Carterton Community Centre's tree planting ceremony and the Candlelit Vigil held at the War Memorial at the Town Hall.

In July Carterton held its first 'Green Week' in which the Town and the District Councils worked together to bring to the town a number of activities and events to encourage residents to recycle more and take more care of the environment.

I was very proud to support the post-16 facility that opened at Carterton Community College in September. I know that the school will continue to do well and achieve outstanding results; at last our community is getting one of the things it deserves.

One of the Council's major projects was completed at the end of November; I do hope that you are all as pleased as I am with the new Market Square. What a wonderful venue on which to hold the switching on of our Christmas Lights and the Lantern Parade, which was more successful than ever this year. We were honoured to have The Rt Hon David Cameron MP unveil the plaque to commemorate the opening of the new Square. He also stayed to switch on our Christmas Lights along with Rachael Clarke and my charity teddy bear, Flying Officer Ted Little. It was wonderful to see so many of you enjoying yourselves on the evening and the lanterns were quite exceptional this year.

One of the key aspirations for Carterton Town Council was to produce a Master Plan that will set out a framework for future development, not only for the regeneration of the Town Centre, but also ensuring key infrastructure and the right amenities to support this future development. The Plan was commenced in 2014 and we are excited at the potential it has to improve the town's future.

Finally, my thanks go to our County and District Councillors for their support over the past year, and to Group Captain Simon Edwards and numerous members of RAF Brize Norton for the support they continue to give to the Town.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Mrs Lynn Little
Town Mayor
May 2015

Introduction

As a town council we offer a range of services within the town of Carterton. West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council also provide services in Carterton. Although each council is an independent organisation providing separate services, we all work together to ensure that all the services provided improve the quality of life for the people of Carterton.

The Town Council is responsible for Allotments, the Cemetery at Black Bourton, Civic Ceremonies promoted by the Town Mayor, Events, Grants to Voluntary Organisations, Recreation Grounds, Play Areas, the weekly Market, Planning Matters (as consultee), the Town Hall and War Memorial, and Willow Meadows. More about these responsibilities later in this Report.

About the Town



Town Centre Planters

Carterton, is the second largest town in West Oxfordshire, and is situated about 7 miles south west of Witney. The town lies on the edge of the Thames Valley and is close to the Cotswolds - an area of outstanding natural beauty. The population of Carterton has more than trebled in size during the last 30 years, to a present total of about 16,000.

Much of this high development rate has been due to the presence of the adjoining RAF Brize Norton air base. Carterton is rightly proud of its close and friendly relationship with the Royal Air Force, which is the largest employer in the area. Other local employment is found on the Carterton South Industrial Estate where there is a wide range of firms of all sizes. For employment further afield, Carterton is conveniently located for Oxford, Swindon, Cheltenham, Witney and Faringdon.

Carterton grew rapidly through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s without any compensating provision of public leisure services. The Town Council is working hard to attract new shops and businesses to the town and also to provide much needed sport and leisure facilities.

Employment

The 2011 Census statistics revealed approximately 5,000 jobs in Carterton, of which a significant proportion were at RAF Brize Norton. About 50% of the town's residents commute to work outside Carterton. The Town Council recognises that more employment land is needed in the town.

Carterton Master Plan

Carterton Town Council commissioned the Carterton Master Plan to identify the potential of the town for growth and the issues that will need to be addressed to deliver a sustainable, economic, viable and attractive town. The intention is that the Master Plan can be fed into the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, and it is probably the biggest thing that will ever happen to the town. At the moment, Carterton is vulnerable to speculative planning applications, but a Master Plan will give added weight to Town Council decisions.



The Master Plan was completed at the end of March 2015 and will be made available for public display early in the new financial year.

Schools

Carterton has a good number of primary schools and a high achieving secondary school. Details of the schools are given below:

Primary Schools:

St Joseph's Primary School,
Lawton Avenue, Carterton, OX18 3JY

Carterton Primary School,
Burford Road, Carterton Oxon OX18 3AD

Edith Moorhouse Primary School,
Lawton Avenue, Carterton Oxon OX18 3HP

Gateway Primary School
Netheravon Close, Carterton, Oxon, OX18 3SF

St John the Evangelist CE Primary School,
Bluebell Way, Shilton Park, Carterton, OX18 1JF

Secondary School:

Carterton Community College Upavon Way
Carterton Oxfordshire OX18 1BU

Post-16 provision at the Carterton Community College commenced September 2014 and courses now include 'A' Level English, Mathematics, Geography and History and BTEC Level 3 Art and Design, Creative Media and Sport.



Sixth Form Art Class

Carterton Town Council

Carterton Town Council was established in 1985 when the Carterton and Black Bourton Parishes were split.

The Town Council Offices are at the Town Hall, 19 Alvescot Road, Carterton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3JL. Tel: 01993 842156. Contact details and further information is on the community website - www.carterton.net. The Town Hall is open 9.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

The Town Hall is open to all residents and there are a variety of booklets and leaflets on display

about local organisations and events, together with copies of the town map and the latest Town Guide.

If you have any comments or complaints or queries, do call in and see if we can help.



Carterton Town Hall

The Council and its Committees

The Full Council oversees all the activities of the Council and approves all financial expenditure. The main areas of the Council's work are covered by a number of Committees. These are Amenities, Economic Regeneration, Planning, and Policy & Resources. A number of other sub committees and working parties are set up to deal with particular issues or projects.

Full details including dates and times of meetings can be found on the community website and on the noticeboard at the Town Hall.

Town Councillors

Carterton's sixteen Town Councillors represent the five wards in the town. They are elected every four years, the most recent occasion being May 2015.

Councillors serving during 2014/15 are listed below. An illustration of the five town wards is available on the website.

Gateway Ward:

Councillor M Brennan
18 Foxcroft Drive, Carterton

Councillor M McBride
17 Meadow Way, Carterton

Shillbrook Ward:

Councillor Mrs D V Bulley
53 Swinbrook Road, Carterton

Councillor Mrs L Little
1 Connolly Drive, Carterton

Councillor Mrs J Smith
1 Richens Drive, Carterton

Upavon Ward:

Councillor Miss S Coul
5 Manor Road, Carterton

Councillor Mrs L Delaney
3 Magdalen Place, Carterton

Councillor H Jobs
19 Boundary Way, Carterton

Councillor Mrs M Mead
16 Trefoil Way, Carterton

Councillor P Scott
39 Alvescot Road, Carterton

Rock Farm Ward:

Councillor H Howard
1 Lime Tree Close, Carterton

Councillor Mrs N J Miah
2 Willow Drive, Carterton

Councillor M Steward
24 Alvescot Road, Carterton

Milestone Ward:

Councillor R Crapper
13 Corbett Road, Carterton

Councillor P Madden
33 The Crescent, Carterton

Councillor D Wesson
16 A Carter Close

All Councillors can be contacted by telephone or email. Please see the website for further details.

OFFICERS

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairmen of the various Council Committees are elected annually in May. During 2014/2015 the following Councillors held office:

Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs L Little

Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor H Jobs

Chairman Policy & Resources Committee
Councillor P Scott

Chairman Amenities Committee
Councillor M Brennan

Chairman Economic Regeneration Committee
Councillor H Howard

Chairman Planning Committee
Councillor R Crapper

Town Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out any Council business.

Council Responsibilities

The Town Council maintains two recreation grounds, one at Alvescot Road and the other at Swinbrook Road, as well as 5 children's play parks, squash courts, the Allandale Youth Centre, 23 acres of water meadows for public access at Willow Meadows, The Dell Skatepark with a BMX track, the Queen Mother's Garden and numerous open spaces throughout the town.



Alvescot Road Recreation Ground

The Council provides allotments in Kilkenny Lane and a burial ground in the village of Black Bourton. The Council also strives to improve and enhance the general environment and condition of the town.

The Council runs the weekly Carterton Market on the new Market Square outside the Town Hall. The Market moved to this new position in December 2014 and the Council is now striving to improve the number and variety of stalls and the overall look of the market. Initial impressions are that it will do

well and is an improvement on the street market which used to be held on Black Bourton Road and needed a weekly road closure.



Carterton Market - December 2014

Carter's Walk

Initial improvement works have now been carried out in Carter's Walk including alterations to the brickwork, the area has been cleaned, new shop signage has been hung, and two metal sculptures have been erected at both ends of the walkway. Future plans include a new coat of paint, lighting, hanging baskets and litter bins to make the area more attractive to shoppers. A micro pub has applied for planning permission to take over the former sweetshop premises in the walkway and the Town Council is excited about this new development.



Carter's Walk

Planning

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications. As such it is responsible for commenting upon all the applications which fall

within the Town. These comments are passed to West Oxfordshire District Council, who take them into account when reaching planning decisions. The Town Council has considered 69 applications during the year.

During the past 12 months the District Council has been consulting on its Local Plan which sets out future development for the District for the next 20 years. The Town Council has responded proactively to each round of consultation making a case for more land for employment and leisure and for improved road links.

How your money is spent

The net budget for 2014/15 was £444,000. A Reserve of £100,000 was set aside for improved sports facilities, with £10,000 for a possible Fitness Trail and £20,000 for improvements to the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground.

The budget also includes the maintenance of the Council's land and facilities and many of the grass verges in the town. All this work is carried out by contractors.

Carterton Job Search Area

The Town Council holds a Job Club for local residents on the first Thursday of every month, 9.30am to 11.00am. No appointment is required and an Adult Careers Advisor is on hand to help with career issues and job applications etc. We can also arrange for help with CV writing and there is also a wealth of information on our community website.



Job Search Area

Additionally, the Job Search Area within the Town Hall is open every weekday 9.30am to 4.30pm for job seekers to access the internet, look through the job vacancy folders and newspapers and gain assistance from Town Hall staff.

Events

Last summer saw the launch of a series of Bandstand Concerts on the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground and a line up is already being produced for performances in 2015.



Bandstand Concert

Other popular annual events include the Mayor's Civic Service in September each year, and the Switch-on of the Christmas Lights and Street Fair at the end of November.

Carterton Community Food Bank

The Carterton Food Bank, set up in early 2014 is continuing to provide a much needed service to families in the town struggling to make ends meet.

Opening times are Mondays 2-6pm and Thursdays 10-2pm at the Pavilion on the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground. Please note that these times are subject to change: please contact the Town Hall in the first instance.



The Food Bank is run by a band of diligent volunteers.

Promoting Carterton

Carterton is a town with a great sense of community and is fortunate to have many residents

who give willingly of their time and energy. The Council is now looking at better ways to promote the town to the outside world. The Town Council website has been redesigned and local businesses and organisations are invited to send in their details for inclusion on the site. The Town Council regularly contributed to the PICK magazine during the year, and hope in the future to subscribe to a publication which is delivered to every household in the town.

The Civic Function

The Council has continued to play an important Civic role. The Mayor represents the Town at various functions throughout the County and has also undertaken a number of local engagements, including attending many events organised by clubs and organisations based within Carterton.

The Annual St Georges Day Dinner in April raised over £2,000 for the Mayor's chosen Charities - the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and the Carterton Educational Trust.

Grants to Voluntary Groups

Grants and donations are awarded by the Town Council, at its Full Council Meetings, to community groups and other non-profit making organisations that meet the Town Council's strict guidelines and criteria. Any grant approved by the Council must benefit the local community.

During the year the Town Council awarded the following grants:

Organisation	Purpose of grant	Grant
Citizens Advice Bureau	To help maintain their services	£750
Lights Up Memory Club	Help towards operating costs	£1,000
Community College Climbing Wall	Upgrading and refurbishing the climbing wall	£550
RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation for Town Council Wreaths	£100
Christmas Lantern Project	To help with costs	£1,500

Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant
Carterton Primary School	Contribution towards the cost of the Life Education Bus	£600

Council Staff 2014/15

Clerk of the Council

Caroline Ramsey

Assistant Town Clerk

Tan Marchant

Administrative Assistants

Stella Catt

Teresa Whitford

Scott Edwards

Cleaner/Caretaker

Denise Archer

For further information about the Town Council, contact the Town Hall on 01993 842156 or visit www.carterton.net.