

**CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL  
Annual Report 2007/08**



**Mayor's Foreword**

The Annual Report provides an opportunity to take stock of the last year. The Town Council is only one of many organisations working within the town and I would like to thank those who have helped us in our efforts. We have demonstrated that partnership working can and does deliver.

The North East Carterton development area is nearing completion. The local centre is well underway and the shops there should be open before Christmas. A new Community Centre is also being built there and will be completed in the autumn. During the year, David Wilson Homes carried out some informal consultations on the next phase of the development which is some 200 homes in the area to the north of Garner Close.

Building has also continued on our two new industrial sites at Ventura Park and the West Oxfordshire Business Park. Last year the District Council gave planning approval for a much needed family pub restaurant and a hotel on the land adjacent to the Broadshires Health Centre roundabout. Sadly the owner of the site has not taken this forward.

Following a change in the ownership of the old market site there has been a lull in progress on the redevelopment of the town centre. An agent has now been appointed and discussions with the various landowners have begun. The Town Council continues to run the market on its new location in Black Bourton Road.

During last year, the site of Dowlays Garage and Party Zone was sold to Aldis. We understand that there has been some discussion between Aldi's and the District Council planners but that there is, as yet, no detailed planning application.

On a less positive note, progress on the rebuilding of the married quarters continues to be frustratingly slow. A consortium had been identified some 5 years ago but it fell foul of the Government's PFI rules. We were led to believe that things were back on track but all has gone quiet and I doubt if anyone would like to predict a start date. We do however continue to ensure that our local MP

David Cameron lobbies the MOD on our behalf. We have, with the help of other bodies, managed to secure the demolition of the worst of the flats on the estate.

We have also been pressing for the redevelopment of the Osprey site and were delighted to hear that [planning approval has been granted for a refurbished garage and the construction of 50 dwellings]

The provision of recreational facilities continues to be a high priority for us. Our annual Extreme Wheels Day has now become a regular fixture, with the youngsters taking on much of the organisation themselves. The Town Council and the RAF are jointly arranging the third 10K road run which takes place on Sunday 11 May.

The Carterton Fast Forward Project is now in its fifth year and continues to provide a fine example of how much can be achieved with community involvement. The main project undertaken during the last 12 months has been the refurbishment of Tower Square. Most of this work will be funded by a grant from the Lottery Fund.

The Council recognises that law and order is a concern to residents and has continued discussions with the police with a view to achieving higher profile policing in the town. The Council has made the decision to support the introduction of cost effective CCTV in the town centre and is now discussing the details of implementation with the District Council and the police.

We have also been working closely with young people and I was particularly pleased that 2007 saw the establishment of Carterton Youth Council.

As Mayor, I have had a fascinating year and have been hugely privileged to meet many interesting people. I have continued with my fund raising for charity. The Mayor's Walk on New Year's Day is now a regular feature in our calendar and has raised in excess of £20,000 for Macmillan Nurses since its inception some 10 years ago.

I should like to end by thanking my fellow Town Councillors and the Town Hall staff for their continuing support.

Cllr Phil Scott  
Town Mayor  
April 2008

## Introduction

This Report describes the main achievements of Carterton Town Council during 2007/08. It also gives details about the services provided by the Council.

## About the Town

Carterton, the second largest town in West Oxfordshire, is situated some 7 miles south west of Witney. The town lies on the edge of the Thames Valley and is close to the Cotswold 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 15,000. This figure will continue to increase as some 1500 new homes are built in the development area to the north east of the town.



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 Southern 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, 70s and 80s without any compensating provision of public leisure services. However, the current planned growth will be matched by improvements to the town centre and local facilities. The Town Council is working with West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to attract new shops and businesses to the town and also to provide much needed sport and leisure facilities.

## Employment

The 1991 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 commuted to work outside Carterton. Since then, the number of jobs outside the base has been increased both by the development of the District-owned industrial estate off Black Bourton Road and by the new retail and commercial development in the town centre.

The attraction of Carterton to major employers will increase now that the link road to the A40 has been completed.

## Carterton Town Council

The Town Council Offices are at the Town Hall, Alvescot Road, Carterton, Oxon, OX18 3JL. Tel 01993 842156, Fax 01993 844898. Email: [jeustace@carterton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:jeustace@carterton-tc.gov.uk) Website: [www.carterton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.carterton-tc.gov.uk). The Town Hall is open 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.



*Carterton Town Hall*

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

## 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 Administration, Planning, Policy, Recreation, Traffic and Fire.

The Council meets at 7.45 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month (except in December when it meets on the second Tuesday). The Planning Committee meets at 7.30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings of the Recreation, Policy and Administration Committees take place on a Tuesday 4 times a year, and the Traffic and Fire Committees meet twice a year. Other Committees meet by agreement. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend any of the Committee meetings.

## Town Councillors

Carterton's sixteen Town Councillors represent the five wards in the town. They are elected every four years. The last elections were in May 2007.

Councillors serving during 2007 are listed below:

### Gateway Ward:

Councillor Mrs. L. Walcott  
112 Queens Road, Carterton  
Councillor W.O. Walcott MBE  
112 Queens Road, Carterton

### **Shillbrook Ward:**

Councillor Mrs. D.V. Bulley  
53 Swinbrook Road, Carterton  
Councillor Mrs. M. Crossland  
111 Burford Road, Carterton  
Councillor E. Wearing  
24 Burswin Road, Carterton

### **Upavon Ward:**

Councillor B. Crossland  
111 Burford Road, Carterton  
Councillor N.A. MacRae MBE  
10 Hibiscus Way, Carterton  
Councillor P.L. Scott  
39 Alvescot Road, Carterton  
Councillor A.D. Coomber  
8 Kestrel Close, Carterton  
Councillor Mrs S E. Stone  
7 Humphries Close, Carterton

### **Rock Farm Ward:**

Councillor Miss E. L. Liston  
11 Lawton Avenue, Carterton  
Councillor S. D. Lodge  
28 Netheravon Close, Carterton  
Councillor Mrs N. J. Miah  
2 Willow Drive, Carterton

### **Milestone Ward:**

Councillor R. Crapper  
13 Corbett Road, Carterton  
Councillor A. Farmer  
29 Corbett Road, Carterton  
Councillor P. Madden  
33 The Crescent, Carterton

## **OFFICES**

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairmen of the various Council Committees are elected annually in May. During 2007/2008 the following Councillors held office:

### **Town Mayor**

Cllr. P. Scott

### **Deputy Town Mayor**

Cllr. Mrs M Crossland

### **Chairman Administration Committee**

Cllr. B Crossland

### **Chairman Recreation Committee**

Cllr. Mrs. D.V. Bulley

### **Chairman Policy Committee**

Cllr. B Crossland

### **Chairman Planning Committee**

Cllr Mrs D V Bulley

### **Chairman Traffic Advisory Committee**

Cllr. Mrs. D.V. Bulley

## **Chairman Fire Advisory Committee**

County Councillor J. Couchman

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

## **Staff**

### **Clerk of the Council**

Janet Eustace

### **Assistant Town Clerk**

Tan Marchant

### **Administrative Assistant**

Stella Catt

## **Council Facilities**

The Town Council maintains two recreation grounds, one at Alvescot Road and the other at Swinbrook Road, a children's play park, squash courts, 23 acres of water meadows for public access at Willow Meadows, The Dell skateboard park with a trim trail, the Queen Mother's Garden, and numerous open spaces throughout the town.

The Council provides allotments in Kilkenny Lane and a burial ground in the village of Black Bourton. The Council also pursues an active policy through direct action or grant aid measures to improve and enhance the general environment and condition of the town.

## **The market**



*Market in Black Bourton Road*

In December 2006, the Council took over the running of Carterton Market. This followed the sale of the old market site. Each Thursday, the top end of Black Bourton Road is closed to provide a site for a street market. Stalls include fruit and vegetables, clothes, plants, meat, fish, cheese, sweets, pet provisions and jewellery.

## **Carterton Check and Carterton Fast Forward**

The Council was fortunate to secure in 2002 a package of funding from the Countryside Agency to allow it to employ a consultant to carry out a Market Town Healthcheck. The Carterton Check was published in the summer of 2003. The Countryside Agency has provided a further package of funding which runs until the summer of 2006 to help the Council employ a Project Manager to take forward the 49 projects identified

in *Carterton Fast Forward Towards 2010*. Many organisations and individuals are now working to bring these projects to a successful conclusion.

### **A Quality Council**

In March 2004 Carterton Town Council was awarded Quality status: the first town or parish council in Oxfordshire to achieve this distinction. The Quality scheme was launched by the Government in 2003 to provide an independent assessment of the effectiveness of local councils. Those Councils awarded Quality status are assessed as being representative, competent, well managed and able to take on an enhanced role. Using grant aid from the Quality Council Fund, work is underway to expand the services provided at the Town Hall. We have provided an integrated travel information point and are now able to give out travel tokens to eligible residents. Carterton has also been awarded Beacon Status for its CFF work.

### **Recreational Facilities**

The new leisure centre, which is run by Wycombe Leisure, opened in November 2003 and continues to be very popular. A new recreational area on Trefoil Way was opened in 2005 and provides different equipment for a wide age range, including a ball court for teenagers.

The Council organised a successful 'Xtreme Wheels' day at the skateboard park in 2004 and was delighted when the youngsters said that they would like to organise their own event, with help from the Council, in both 2005 and 2006 when the event featured live local bands. Plans are underway to hold an even larger event in 2008.

After a gap of many years, the Council and RAF Brize Norton combined forces to hold a 10K road run around the town. As the 2006 run was so successful, the event was repeated in March 2007 and will take place again in May 2008.

### **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. More than 120 applications have been considered by the Town Council during the year.

### **Promoting Carterton**

Carterton is a thriving 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 ways to promote the town to the outside world. The Town Council web site ([www.carterton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.carterton-tc.gov.uk)) has been redesigned. The production of a quarterly

newsletter continues and provides a vital link between the Council and residents.

### **Carterton Youth Council**



*Youth Councillors 2007*

The Youth Council, one of the first in Oxfordshire, was established in 2007. Youth Councillors are elected to represent schools, churches and other organisations and serve for 12 months. In the first year, the Youth Council has raised funds for charity, helped to organise the Extreme Wheels Day and taken part in facilitated discussions on how to help combat antisocial behaviour. Youth Councillors will be establishing a web site aimed at youngsters.

### **The Civic Function**

The Council has continued to play an important Civic role. The annual St George's Day Charity Dinner and the Mayor's Walk raised substantial funds for charities. The Mayor has represented 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.

### **Annual Competitions**

Every year the Council holds a number of competitions including the Best Kept Allotments Competition, the Carterton in Bloom Competition and the Best Decorated House at Christmas Competition. There is also an annual swimming gala held for the local primary schools.



*Allotments Competition 2007*

### **Highways and Traffic**

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for Highways matters but the Town Council has a

Traffic Committee which takes an active interest in Traffic issues, advising the County Council of matters of local interest. During the year this Committee raised a number of issues with the County including road safety in the centre of town, speed limits, the siting of bus stops, the resurfacing of roads and vandalism to traffic signs and signals.

### **Grants to Voluntary Groups**

The Council gives financial support to a number of local clubs and organisations. During the year the Town Council awarded the following grants:

Home Start	£1,000.00
Methodist Church	£500.00
Harefield Transplant Club	£500.00
West Oxon CAB	£1,000.00
Kilkenny Cricket Club	£500.00
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	£3,500.00

### **How your money is spent**

The net budget for 2008/09 is £314,440. Because of continuing new development in the town, the charge to each household has increased by just 3%.

Nearly £200,000 has been allocated to recreation in the forthcoming year. This includes the maintenance of the Council's land and facilities and of many of the verges in the town. All this work is carried out by contractors and is re-tendered every three years. The Recreation budget also funds the Christmas lights and the planned improvements to Tower Square.

The Carterton Fast Forward (CFF) Project is supported financially by money from the Lottery, the District Council and other sources. Projects include the redevelopment of the town centre, improvements to Tower Square and preserving the heritage of the town.

The new community hall will cost £1.5 million in total and will be funded by contributions from developers, grants and the Town Council's own reserves. The hall will open in autumn 2008.



*Carterton Community Centre*

*For further information about the Town Council contact the Town Hall on 01993 842156 or visit [www.carterton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.carterton-tc.gov.uk).*