



Photograph by: Mike Bass

THE MAYOR'S YEAR

As my year as Town Mayor draws to a close, it brings with it time to reflect on a most enjoyable and memorable 12 months.

At a very moving church service in June, Tring remembered those who had lost their lives in World War 1, reminding all of us of the brave soldiers who left this town never to return home. Their names and some of their stories were told alongside the Roll of Honour during the service.

It was a hot sunny day as we left the church for the re-dedication of the War Memorial. I, together with Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, laid a wreath on behalf of the town accompanied by so many townsfolk who had gathered in Church Square. After the short act of remembrance, Mike Bass photographed all those assembled in Church Square, echoing what had happened in 1919 when the Memorial was first erected and Tring celebrated Peace Day. In November at the Remembrance Day Service there were so many townspeople attending, filling the church to capacity with many remaining outside to take part in the service. Tring Church is not only a place of worship, it is a place for reflection and is open to all throughout the year.

Cllr Penny Hearn
Town Mayor



Tring Together has been my charity for the year – an organisation responsible for many of the wonderful events the town enjoys. It was a very fine sunny day for the Carnival, which commenced with a colourful parade through the town with all gathering in Pound Meadow for a very special Tring event. The Christmas Festival was another memorable evening which attracted in the region of 10,000 people – and I'm pleased to say that the very next morning the town had been cleaned and was spotless, prompting comment by so many people. I don't know how they manage it, but they do! These are just two of the events organised annually by Tring Together: they are involved in so many other ways, organising support for our town and businesses throughout the year. The Town Council is pleased to support them with an annual grant, knowing that it will be used wisely for the benefit of the whole community.

Tring is certainly becoming a town recognised for its positive outlook and engagement. In carrying out mayoral duties, I often receive very pleasing comments about our town. We have many wonderful groups, schools, charities and churches where so many give up their time to become involved in helping others. This is what makes Tring a very special place.

I must say a very big thank you to the yarn bombers who have worked so hard during the year decorating our Church Square, the church and the town generally. It is so original and colourful, and is appreciated by many.

As Mayor, I have to chair the full Council monthly meetings, which can be very challenging, especially when there is a contentious planning application to consider. Our Council encourages members of the public to take part, so if you have not visited the Council Chamber for a meeting then do come along – we encourage you to voice your opinion and concerns.

I would like to thank my Town Council colleagues, the Clerk of the Council, Michael Curry, and Dawn Slade, the Deputy Clerk, together with the staff for the hard and dedicated work they have undertaken during my year of office.



Annual Town Meeting

On Monday 15th April at 8pm in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street.
Open to anyone who wishes to attend.

The Planning Committee

CHAIRMAN GERALD WILKINS

The Council's Planning Committee work has two aspects: making a recommendation on individual applications to Dacorum Borough Council (DBC), who make the final decision, and commenting on strategic plans for Dacorum.

205 planning applications came before the Planning Committee in the past 12 months. For only 19 applications the recommendation was refusal (approx. 10%). There are strict guidelines about the grounds on which a planning application can be refused. This can be frustrating for neighbours fearing a loss of amenity. The Planning Committee tries to take a pragmatic approach to all planning matters, attempting to minimise the impact of development as much as possible.

The LA5 development between the Aylesbury Road and the Icknield Way is a good example of this. As a local allocation, this development will eventually go ahead; however, having listened to the comments of neighbours, when the initial planning application was received it was

rejected. A revision was welcomed, but considered not to have gone far enough; a further revision is awaited. The site of the former St Francis School was another example of the Council's efforts to ensure that development is in keeping with the townscape.

There was success with regard to the proposed development of the Brook Street garage. This was dismissed at appeal with DBC, the Town Council and neighbours working closely together. The proposed fencing on the south side of Bulbourne Road also lost on appeal. Again this was opposed well by local residents.

A planning application for 41 extra care apartments adjacent to the Old Silk Mill, was recommended for refusal, not on grounds related to the building itself, but because of road safety fears. The site would exit onto a busy bottleneck where the pavements are narrow and a lot of pedestrians, including school children, pass by. A decision is awaited. Traffic and parking are also the main concerns with regard to the conversion of Akeman Street Business Park into residential accommodation. The principle of the change could not be opposed because of government legislation which is weighted towards housing, although the Town Council did not want to see any loss of local employment.

There have been several examples of smaller sites where the proposals would have resulted in over-development inappropriate for the local surroundings.

Dacorum Borough Council's Single Local Plan to 2036 Issues & Options Consultation outlined possible ways of delivering the growth required across Dacorum appropriately in terms of location, design and quality.

In last year's edition of the Town Crier, we reported the Town Council's response to this consultation which was one of 2000 responses. The common themes raised were the overall level of housing proposed, objections to particular sites and concerns about infrastructure.

Responding to the comments, however, has been seriously delayed by Central Government changing the way housing need should be identified. As well as delaying the process, this makes it likely Dacorum will have to provide many more houses than was anticipated. The Town Council is very concerned so we have set up a working party to liaise with Dacorum Borough Council to get the best possible result for Tring, bearing in mind that some growth is inevitable but it must be accompanied with the necessary infrastructure.



The Town Plan

CHAIRMAN HENRY GRACE

In 2014, Tring brought together a plan of the things that mattered to the town and a grant of £100,000 was given by Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) to implement the Town Plan. Much of this work has now been completed, so a new approach is required to meet the changing needs of Tring.

The Town Plan Legacy

Throughout the implementation of the plan, the Council has been careful to use funds (DBC's and its own) in a way that will have a lasting legacy. For example, by funding an initial event in the hope that it will become self-financing e.g. the Community Cinema or by purchasing equipment e.g. weed ripper which can be used in the future.

It is already possible to identify the Town Plan legacy:

- The work of the Road and Home Safety Working Party – street audit (to identify and report highway faults), dog fouling (prompt reporting and cleansing), litter pick (to keep the town tidy)
- The promotion of Tring through "Visit Tring", the Retail Forum/I Love Tring campaigns (in conjunction with Tring Together) and the Tring Job Show (an event held in Victoria Hall)
- Meadowbrook – creating a usable open space for residents to enjoy
- Pond Close Play Area – refurbished with new play equipment
- Community Garden – encouraging growing and outdoor activity
- Friends of Millennium Wood – conserving a beautiful woodland area.



Infrastructure and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

CIL is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool to help local authorities deliver infrastructure projects to support development in their area. The money the Town Council receives is currently being accrued to fund appropriate improvements across Tring to offset the impact of new development.

The Town Plan & Infrastructure Committee is looking at the long-term infrastructure needs in order to accommodate future housing growth. As Chairman, I have met and will continue to meet key local groups as the first stage of public consultation. In the future, focus groups will be arranged to take this project forward. We will be referencing the DBC Infrastructure Plan to ensure that our efforts are not duplicated.

The County Council has also made commitments towards the town:

- Hertfordshire County Council Officers are visiting Station Road as part of a possible project to completely resurface the cycle way and provide some street lights
- The Hertfordshire County Council project to refurbish the High Street has paused pending engineering investigation of the substrate.

The Committee has recently started working on a project with London Northwestern Railway (which other local groups and organisations will be asked to join) on the preparation of an integrated transport plan.

Allotments & Environment

AN UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVE CONWAY

Allotments

Tring Town Council has two allotment sites: Duckmore Lane and Bulbourn. At Duckmore Lane many improvements have been made to the site including the Community Garden, managed by Tring in Transition together with hard-working volunteers, and it is a great credit to them. Their efforts were recognised when they won Dacorum Borough Council's Community Champion Award 2018 (group category).

The Allotment Society was very busy during the year with its annual show and plant sale – thank you to Ian Brownell and his committee. There are vacant plots at Duckmore so if you have any enquiries please contact the Deputy Clerk for information (admin@tring.gov.uk).



The Millennium Wood

The Millennium Wood continues to thrive, also, through the efforts of a new 'Friends' group under the guidance of Colin Chambers. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Information Office (info@tring.gov.uk). Hedging and fencing has been upgraded and the field opposite has been let for grazing.

Meadowbrook

Meadowbrook has seen a great improvement with planting and clearance, so thanks to all who helped, especially Stephen Hearn for his hard work. The footpath has now been upgraded and provides a useful link to the town centre from New Mill.



Tring High Street

The High Street looks great with the hanging baskets and planting in Church Square. The Community did us proud for the World War 1 commemoration – many thanks to the yarn bombers and the Poppy Project people at St Peter & St Paul for the staggering display of knitted poppies.



Local Footpaths

John Savage continued to monitor the state of the local footpaths, liaising closely with Dacorum Borough Council. Funds to extend the range of footpath leaflets – there are now six – were obtained from the Parish Paths Partnership.



Finance & Policy

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEPHEN HEARN

The Finance & Policy Committee reviewed 5 policies throughout the year. The Council has a rolling programme of policy reviews with the key ones, such as the financial regulations, reviewed annually. The policies are available on the Town Council's website www.tring.gov.uk.

With funding at all levels of local government facing cut-backs, Tring Town Council has been cautious with its expenditure but successful in balancing the books with a small surplus. The Council will continue diligently to look after the finances in an ever changing environment. The Council has continued to support many local community organisations after careful consideration of their requests, and without exception these will provide help to the community.

There has been budgeted expenditure to maintain the Council's assets, in particular at Duckmore Lane Meadow and allotments which now includes the Community Garden. At Meadowbrook, New Mill the work is close to completion providing an interesting area of open space.

The external audit regime for Town & Parish Councils changed for the financial year 2018/19. I am pleased to report that new auditors, PKF Littlejohn, appointed by central government, passed the Town Council's annual accounts without comment.

The budget for 2019/20 has been set – details are given in the accompanying table. The band D rate was increased by two percent in line with inflation to £26.70 (The national average for Town & Parish Councils was £64.05 in 2018/19). This gives a precept (the Town Council's share of council tax) of £134,524.

The more notable changes are:

1. The budget is based on minimal repairs and maintenance except for the following allocations:
 - i. Nora Grace Hall - implement tree audit recommendations **£3,500**
 - ii. Old School Yard - white lining **£750**
 - iii. Duckmore Lane Allotments/Millennium Wood Boundary - clearance and reinstatement **£1,000**
 - iv. Duckmore Lane Allotments - annual allocation for pipework replacement **£1,000**
 - v. Pond Close - trim & planting Kingsley Walk boundary hedge **£1,200**
 - vi. Millennium Wood/Meadowbrook - Brush cutter (purchase to replace hiring. Estimated payback period 3.5 years) **£2,800**
 - vii. Increase Market House sinking fund contribution to cover 10 yearly external works due 2023 **£6,000**
 - viii. Improve lighting in the Information Centre with LED fittings **£250**
2. There are no projects in the coming year requiring legal work and the projects to promote tourism, develop Meadowbrook and establish the Community Garden are coming to an end. Allocations to the Market Place Car Park Project have been completed and World War I Commemoration finished
3. Given the success of the Street Food Event, this will be continued for a further six months (Apr-Oct 2019)

The overall effect of these changes is a budget with a surplus of £724.

The 2019/20 Budget & Precept

	2018/19	2019/20
Income		
Precept	£130,873	£134,524
Grants Received	£18,984	£18,909
Assets	£97,845	£98,301
Interest Received	£30	£345
Total Income	£247,732	£252,079
Expenditure		
Administration	£163,701	£157,830
Grants	£17,300	£18,600
Market House	£15,622	£11,646
Market Place	£19,722	£20,420
Other Holdings	£7,890	£16,130
Allotments	£3,387	£4,257
Open Spaces & Environment	£6,536	£6,302
Projects		
High Street CCTV	£0	£9,000
Friends of Millennium Wood	£0	£870
Market House Works	£0	£6,000
Footpath 41 & Meadow Brook	£0	£300
Total for Projects	£9,750	£16,170
Total Expenditure	£243,909	£251,355
Surplus/Deficit	£3,823	£724

Supporting good causes - Council Grants

Tring Loneliness Project

JOHN ALLAN, CHAIR

Being lonely has proved to be very bad for health. Loneliness affects people of all ages; there is a greater percentage of lonely people in the 16-35 age group than in the over 65 age group. Loneliness has been shown to be as dangerous to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and lonely people are 50% more likely to die prematurely than those with good social relationships.

Tring Town Council has funded the Tring Loneliness Project which aims to produce a directory of all activities for all age groups that people who are lonely may find helpful. In addition, the Project is setting up mechanisms for identifying and contacting people who are lonely. It is hoped that the plan will be implemented at about the time you are reading this!

Rennie Grove Hospice Care

CLARE JOYCE, TRUST FUNDRAISER



Rennie Grove Hospice Care (formerly known as Iain Rennie Hospice at Home) is a local charity that provides clinical and emotional support to people with life-limiting illnesses (such as cancer, motor neurone disease and heart disease) giving them the choice to be cared for at home.

The kind donation awarded by Tring Town Council enabled us to purchase a laptop for use by one of the nurses caring for patients living in Tring and the surrounding area. With a laptop, our nurses are able to gain immediate and secure access to a patient's clinical and medication history, send prescription requests to GPs or promptly refer a patient or carer to another service. Our nurses are therefore able to provide more immediate, safe care to patients who may be in physical and emotional distress and allow our nurses the flexibility to work away from the office, increasing the amount of time that they spend caring for patients.

With an ageing population and rapid advances in medical science, people are living longer with more complex conditions

and we have seen a growing demand for our service. We are expecting this demand to continue for the foreseeable future.

The use of laptops by our nurses is just one of the innovative initiatives that Rennie Grove has introduced to improve the efficiency and efficacy of our service. This ensures we are able to meet the demand and care for all those people in our local community who may need our help and who may wish to stay at home surrounded by the people, pets and things they love during their final days.



1066 Club for Blind and Partially Sighted People

MRS MARY CUTLER, CHAIRMAN

The 1066 Club welcomes all partially sighted and blind residents of Tring, Berkhamsted and surrounding villages to join them at their meeting at 2.30pm on the first Monday of the month at the Court House, Berkhamsted.

Carers are welcome and will also enjoy the varied programme. The Club is well supported by town councils, Rotary & Lions and can provide transport to and from meetings and events where needed.

A varied and relevant programme is the goal of the Club and the 2018 programme included talks on foreign countries; home security; the Woodland Trust; cycling holidays; preventing scams; running a theatre group. Social events included a cream tea outing, quizzes and a Christmas party attended by a school choir and local mayors.

Come and join us! Tea, coffee and cake are always served. Please contact **01727 860695** for more information.

Signpost in Tring

DENISE FENN, CEO

Signpost has 2 experienced counsellors working in Tring. They are based in Tring Park School and provide support to young people in the local Tring and wider community. Young people are usually referred by the Rothschild surgery but they can also refer themselves directly through Signpost's website. www.signpostcounselling.co.uk

Signpost offers free counselling to young people aged 13 - 18 and low cost counselling to clients aged 19 - 24. The most common difficulties that our young clients present with are:

- Anxiety and low mood
- Relationship difficulties at home and at school
- Identity issues
- Low self-esteem

We also see clients who have been self-harming or are experiencing suicidal thoughts and we are able to provide specialist support when Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are unable to offer sessions due to their long waiting lists. We offer 12 sessions and have a wide range of skills that we can use to help our clients - including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Mindfulness and Positive psychology tools. We also use art materials and worksheets to help enable clients to express their feelings and identify thoughts.

During the 12 weeks we have regular reviews to assess what has improved and what things still need addressing. We use self-report questionnaires to identify what has changed - the scores are kept each week and clients can be involved in seeing what progress they have made. We encourage our clients to explore different strategies that can help them deal with issues such as anxiety and stress. Some will find writing a thought journal can help - others might find walking or listening to music helpful.

Having the opportunity to talk and be listened to without judgement or advice can often enable young people to work things through.

After 12 weeks we ask our clients to review the counselling experience and to give feedback. We then discuss how they feel about ending and what they feel has been useful. The outcomes we see are usually positive - most clients feel they have gained something in terms of their confidence and wellbeing. They have more awareness of their own resources and have found ways of becoming more resilient by using learned coping strategies.

Tring Neighbourhood Watch

EMMA COWELL, SECRETARY



Tring Neighbourhood Watch (TNHW) is grateful for the generous grant from Tring Town Council enabling our 'OWL Card Minder' project launch. The OWL card minder is a low-cost solution to reduce the risk of unauthorised payments being taken from your contactless credit or debit card. For just £1 you can keep your card safe inside this protective sleeve to prevent it from being scanned by thieves.

The Card Minder sleeve has been tested against commercial contactless payment terminals as well as mobile phones running apps that scan contactless cards. In both situations the card inside the sleeve could not be scanned by the devices until it was purposely removed from the sleeve.

All profits from the card minders will support local community projects. We have some great ideas but it is also important that ideas from our members and the wider community are proposed. Please send them to tringnhw@yahoo.co.uk

We are part of your community, working together with you, the police and other organisations to fight crime and the fear of crime. We hope the project will also provide an increase in Tring NHW membership – you can sign up at www.owl.co.uk. Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team sent out email alerts via the OWL system about crime and local issues happening right now in your area. This helps prevent burglary, finds missing people, makes people feel safer and even catches suspects.

So please look out for your neighbours, get to know what's normal activity in your road and report to the police anything you see out of place (call 101 non-emergency or report online at www.herts.police.uk/Report). Don't forget to relay NHW information to your elderly and vulnerable neighbours. Help make Tring and surrounding areas positive places to work and live.



Buildings & Assets

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MIKE HICKS

Tring is in the fortunate position of owning property that provides facilities and generates income to help support services.

It is the Council's duty to make the most of these valuable assets. Your councillors are committed to a long-term programme for this. In previous years we have re-seeded the grasskeep and repaired fencing in Duckmore Lane as well as enabling the formation of friends groups to enhance the facilities.

The Nora Grace Hall is now being used for many more activities but the building is really at the end of its useful life, maintenance is difficult and expensive. Tring Together and the Council are working together on plans to bring the hall up to date. We must not forget the existing users and founders of the hall but must make a facility fit for the future generations as well. The availability of grants for rebuilding is tight at the moment. We are investigating sources of funding and visiting other halls to gather ideas for what can be done and how much it will cost.

Since the successful move of the markets, the old Market Place on Brook Street is under-utilised. We are looking to use this land for more car parking while also keeping it available for

town functions. However, the layout of the site and entrances are making this a very slow and bureaucratic process. It must proceed in a cost-effective way. In the meantime the land is regularly rented out for functions and filming.

The Town Council has had an ambition to provide social housing in conjunction with Dacorum Borough Council. We are hopeful that agreement will soon be reached to provide a small development. Full details will be released as soon as possible.

The Buildings & Assets Committee is working in cooperation with others both to preserve and enhance the facilities for Tring residents.



Youth Council

EMMA CAVE, YOUTH TOWN CLERK

Tring Youth Council members have enjoyed great success with their regular participation in community events this year. The annual Summer Carnival featured our ever-popular Dog Show. On a beautiful sunny day we welcomed over 100 entries to the various categories. Our Bake Off in Tring Park was in a slightly different location this year but we still enjoyed judging the entries which, of course, means tasting them! At the Christmas Festival our renowned Vintage Tombola and Raffle, along with hot chocolate and brownies, netted our stall over £300.

The work the group undertakes is fun and productive and gives young people opportunities to learn about local issues and problem solving in a non-school environment. We meet monthly in the Council Chamber with homemade

refreshments and have elected young officers to run the group. These positions, and indeed simply being a member, can show a great deal about a young person's qualities and look great on CVs later in life. Youth Council members also get a chance to make new friends along the way.

We are still working on improvements to the Skate Park and are seeking new members to assist and join our team. We continue to support the Tring Youth Club at the Temperance Hall on Friday evenings with supervised sessions between 6.30pm-9pm. The Youth Club has been running for nine years and the staff have a real understanding of the pressures our young people face today; they provide a supportive, safe and fun setting for the youngsters to meet up and socialise whilst enjoying snacks from the tuck shop. The Tring Youth Project as a charity runs the Temperance Hall in Christchurch Rd, with the comfortable, warm and well-equipped building being hired out to community activity groups and for children's party hire. The hall is ideally placed in the centre of town; for booking enquiries contact Carol Lawrence at tandcc@hotmail.com

If you are a young person between the ages of 11-18 interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you – please come along to a meeting and bring a friend. Our meetings are usually on the second Wednesday of the month at 4.30pm until 6pm – you will be made very welcome.

Please contact Emma Cave at youthcouncil@tring.gov.uk for more details.



Tring Parish Walks

The highly popular series of parish walks has now been extended from three to six walks. They are free to pickup at the Information Centre and from various key outlets in Tring. They are also available as downloads from www.tring.gov.uk. Based on text originally compiled for Tring Environmental Forum by John Taylor, Rodney Sims and Jonathon Iles, these walks have been tested very recently and revised accordingly by John Savage and Ray Flanigan. Tring Town Council is grateful to Hertfordshire County Council's Parish Paths Partnership for its support in producing these leaflets.

Walk 1 explores the area around Little Tring, taking in canal scenery including Tringford Pumping Station and returning to the town via beautiful Miswell Farm.

Walk 2 takes us into Stubbings Wood with a short ascent to enjoy far-reaching views of our surrounding countryside and Aylesbury Vale.

Walk 3 offers a longer circuit around Tring Park heading uphill to Hastoe then coming back via West Leith and Duckmore Lane.

Walk 4 explores some of our scenic waterways with picturesque views and a chance to see an interesting mix of narrow boats and industrial heritage sites along the way.

Walk 5 mixes views of the Aylesbury Vale with waterside scenery and takes in the lovely village of Drayton Beauchamp and its beautiful and historic church.

Walk 6 joins the Ridgeway Trail for part of the way, affording views to the National Trust Ashridge forest with its Bridgewater Monument. The splendours of Tring Park are there to enjoy on the way back, including its historic monuments.



All the walks begin and end in Tring town centre. We hope that visitors new to Tring will explore our area with these varied scenic walks, and we're sure that residents and those who know Tring well will enjoy them too. **Pop in to the Information Centre to pick up your free copies!**

Dates for your Diary FROM TRING TOGETHER

Tring Spring Fayre Launch Day - Saturday 27th April

Tring Job Show - Saturday 11th May - supported by Tring Town Council

Passion for Fashion - Thursday 16th May - a Shop Local fashion show, brought to you by local fashion and beauty retailers.

Tring Carnival - Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th June

Saturday is Carnival Day in Tring, with our theme of "Space" to celebrate 50 years since the first moon landing in July 1969.

Tring Together Christmas Festival - Friday 29th November

Council Competitions

Throughout the year, the Town Council holds an eclectic range of competitions that has developed over time for its allotment holders, front gardens across the Town and High Street shop windows at Christmas. Other events that have fallen by the wayside included a safe driving competition!

This year the winners were:

The best kept allotments:

1st	Plot 59
2nd	Plot 96
3rd	Plot 40
4th	Plot 80b

The front gardens as seen from the road:

Best overall	66 Grove Road
Best small garden	18 Henry Street
Best in Eight Acres	82 Eight Acres

High Street Christmas shop windows:

1st	Emmaus Nineteen 49
2nd	Magnolia Flowers
3rd	Atkins the Bakers
Highly Commended	Clips of Tring & House of Cards



The Annual Community Award

Each year the Town Council make an Annual Community Award of £300, to be donated to a charity of the recipient's choice, to an individual for their contribution to the community.

This year's winner was Michael Demideski, Secretary of the Justice & Peace Group, Tring in recognition of his work to champion respect for the environment, human rights, help for people in need, and maintaining Tring's Fairtrade town status.

Information Centre

You can find a wealth of local information, travel timetables and entertainment programmes at Tring Town Council's Information Centre at 99 Akeman Street. If you have questions about local planning applications, we can show you these on a dedicated screen at the Centre (we no longer receive paper copies of plans from Dacorum Borough Council).

We've recently refreshed the look of the Information Centre and we've completed a series of six local walks leaflets that take walkers from the centre of Tring on a variety of lovely routes of varying lengths.

We're open from 9.30am-3pm weekdays and 10am-1pm on Saturdays, so come in and say hello, email us on info@tring.gov.uk or telephone us on 01442 823347.



Council Representatives to local organisations

Tring Community Centre Management Committee

Cllr Mrs R. L. Ransley

Tring Together (as observer)

Cllr M. Hicks

Old Church House Members of Management Committee

Town Mayor (ex officio) & Cllr Mrs O. Conway

Tring Charities

Cllr Mrs P. J. Hearn & Cllr Mrs O. Conway

Tring & District Local History & Museum Society

Cllr G. Wilkins

Tring Bus Users Group

Cllr N Hollinghurst

The Friends of Tring Church Heritage

Cllr S. Hearn

Chiltern Countryside Group (plus London Luton Airport Matters)

Mrs Sue Yeoman

County Market Company Ltd T/A Tring Farmers' Market (as observer)

Cllr Mrs R. L. Ransley

Tring Sports Forum

Cllr H. Grace

Churches Together in Tring

Cllr Mrs O. Conway

Tring Fair Trade Group

Cllr N. Nutkins

Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils

Town Clerk Michael Curry

Arla/Olleco Liaison Group

Cllr N. Hollinghurst

Dacorum Environmental Forum (DEF)

Cllr P. Hills

Rothschild Surgery

Cllr C. Townsend

Tring Town Council your representatives

John Bowden, Liberal Democrat

30 Kingsley Walk, Tring HP23 5DN

john.bowden@tring.gov.uk

Olive Conway, Conservative

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Henry Grace, Conservative

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Stephen Hearn, Conservative

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Penny Hearn, Conservative (Mayor)

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Mike Hicks, Conservative

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Nick Hollinghurst, Liberal Democrat

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Nigel Nutkins, Liberal Democrat

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Roxanne Ransley, Liberal Democrat

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Christopher Townsend, Liberal Democrat

8 Gordon Villas, Aylesbury Road, Tring HP23 4DJ

christopher.townsend@tring.gov.uk

Gerald Wilkins, Conservative

36 Grove Park, Tring HP23 5JR

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gerald.wilkins@tring.gov.uk

Inspection, Taxation and Regulation - a Clerk's report

with Michael Curry, Clerk to the Council

As always when looking back at the year, you are struck by the speed at which it passed by and how much has been happening. The previous pages have covered the 'headlines', but underlying this there is much day-to-day activity that is just as important. This ranges from tidying up around the town with the street vacuum, inspecting playgrounds and watering the plants to looking after the Council's properties, liaising with Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire Highways and answering enquiries from the public.



Whilst not directly affected by cuts in central government funding to local authorities, the Town Council is under indirect pressure to pick up tasks that are no longer carried out by the District or County Councils. It is difficult to strike a balance between providing these services and therefore having to increase the Town Council's element of council tax. This could be seen as double taxation and it would need a big increase in the tax rate, as a one percent increase in the Town Council's part of council tax generates less than £1,500.

Time was spent on implementing the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) throughout the year. I am pleased to say that an audit by the Council's externally appointed Data Protection Officer was very positive and resulted in some actions to refine what we had in place.

Finally, there are local council elections on **Thursday 2nd May** for both the Town Council and Dacorum Borough Council.

To vote you have to register – this can be done online at www.dacorum.gov.uk following the link to the '**Council and Democracy**' pages.



Contact us at Tring Town Council

Tring Town Council

61 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 4AB

Tel: 01442 823347

email: clerk@tring.gov.uk

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Open 9.30am – 3pm Monday – Friday

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Open 9.30am – 3pm weekdays & 10am – 1pm Saturdays