



TRING TOWN CRIER

Published by Tring Town Council

February 2020

A MAYOR'S YEAR

Welcome to new and existing residents of Tring. I have been privileged to spend this year as Mayor of Tring, a town that I have lived in for over 40 years. This has given me the chance to see how many people are involved in activities within the town and how that enhances the lives of residents.



Cllr Roxanne Ransley
Town Mayor

I began the year with a large number of new Councillors all of whom have enthusiasm and ambitions for the future of Tring. We have declared a "climate emergency" and as Mayor I have signed a declaration demonstrating the commitment of the Council to work in this area. Tring has always supported local produce with the Farmers Market and our provision of allotments which lowers "food miles", and I have supported special markets and allotment shows.



At the beginning of the year I opened the refurbished pool at Tring Sports Centre (at Tring School) and was pleased to see swimming returning to Tring. We are lucky to have many great sports clubs in Tring and I am sorry that I have not had the chance to visit them all. As a volunteer with Beavers Disabled Swimming Club I know the difference that sport can make to people's lives.

I have joined our younger residents on many occasions, from school "bake offs" to Carnival and Brownie pack meetings. It is wonderful to see the different interests that people have and how many volunteers are helping to maintain those interests. I encourage those who can to volunteer within the town to keep these interests alive.

There are a large number of businesses in Tring and I am encouraged that they find Tring a place in which to thrive. I hope that local initiatives such as Business Network and Shop Local help to support them. I have attended various occasions organised by Tring Together, which is supported by Tring Town Council, and these continue to contribute to the wellbeing of our town.

I look forward to the future and meeting more of you before my year's end in



May. I welcome your thoughts on the future of our town and the new residents who will live here, and hope that you will come to the Annual Town Meeting to hear about our plans.



Annual Town Meeting

On Monday 23rd March at 8pm in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street.
Open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Allotments & Environment Committee

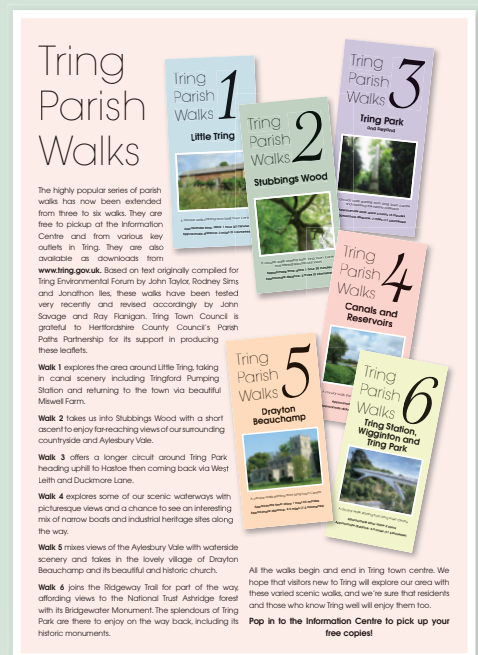
AN UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE CHAIR, NIGEL NUTKINS

The Committee has focused on the town environment this year, with Climate Change high on the agenda. Consequently, a Climate Change Working Party was set up with representatives from various environmental organisations within the town collaborating to promote awareness.

Tree and hedge planting at Nora Grace Hall, Kingsley Walk and the allotments at Duckmore Lane has improved wildlife habitat and the ambience of the area. At Meadowbrook, the newly purchased brush cutter has created a usable green space and better access along Footpath 41. The brush cutter was also used at the allotments to maintain paths through the Millennium Wood and cut the meadow area.

Parish Paths Partnership

A grant from Herts County Council has enabled the re-surfacing of Footpath 84 linking Christchurch Road and Miswell Park. There is a greater emphasis on the provision of sustainable routes to discourage car use. The Council wish to thank John Savage for his contribution to the Allotment and Environment Committee, as a co-opted member, over many years. His tireless work on the footpaths will, thankfully, continue on behalf of the Ramblers Association.



Duckmore Lane Allotments Site

Allotments – Most plots are in good condition and thanks are due to everyone for their efforts to “grow your own”. There are some vacant plots so if you are interested, please contact the Deputy Clerk at admin@tring.gov.uk. A successful Summer Show was held by the Allotment Association in August and the Council wishes to thank the members for their co-operation during the year.

Community Garden – the volunteers have transformed a derelict area of the site into an environmentally friendly community and garden space. More “gardeners” are always needed so please contact Tring in Transition www.tringintransition.org.uk if you are interested in helping out at their monthly Sunday morning sessions.

Millennium Wood – Thanks to Colin Chambers and his willing band of “friends”, this project has continued to improve the woodland and encourage biodiversity. The group meet monthly during the autumn and winter on a Saturday morning. They have planted a wild harvest hedge (donated by the Woodland Trust) between the allotments and the meadow which is growing well. If you wish to become a friend, please contact the Information Centre at info@tring.gov.uk

Meadow Area – the open area between the allotments and the woodland is being managed to create a chalk downland wildflower meadow. This is a long-term project which will improve the wildlife habitat and contribute to the greening of Tring.



Greening of Tring

Future projects will include mapping the course of streams, ditches and culverts in the town to increase biodiversity and assist in re-wilding the town. Tree and hedge planting will continue with the aim of making Tring a sustainable and bio-diverse community.

Climate Change Working Party

WORKING PARTY COMMITTEE CHAIR, HELENA PIPER

Hi, I'm Helena the chair of the Working Party for Climate Change. To be honest with you I was pretty ignorant about how I could do my bit until I became chair of this group. I am a normal parent who works 9-5 and does my recycling, but there is so much more I can do and so can everybody else. I volunteered to chair this group to give my children a better future and the knowledge to maintain it. What we do now will help, but what the next generation learns will keep the climate safe for their children. I really have learnt so much since we started and met some amazing local people.

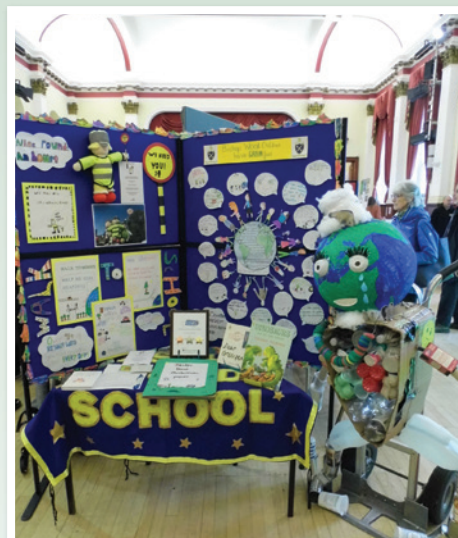
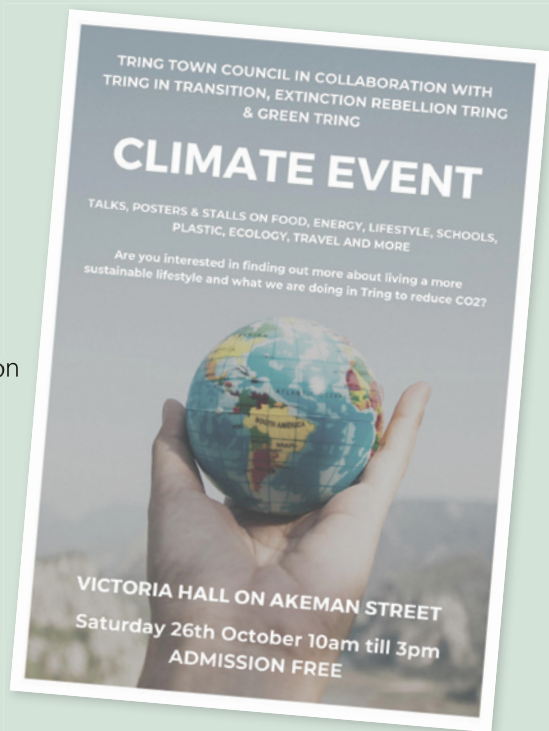
The idea behind the working party was to bring all like-minded groups together to share ideas and experience. We recognised that Tring has many budding community groups all working towards the same goals and felt our working party would be a great platform for them to meet. We invited representatives from different community groups around Tring and had an amazing response. Regularly around the table we have people

from Tring in Transition, Green Tring Facebook Group, Extinction Rebellion Tring, representatives from local schools and businesses.

An important start to our mission was to ask for the Mayor, Roxanne Ransley, to consider signing and adopting the Covenant of Mayors which Tring in Transition had identified as setting out clear actions Tring could accomplish during this climate emergency. This was signed by the Mayor on 23rd September 2019 and adopted by Tring Town Council. Tring in Transition have done a lot to help Tring meet some of these actions already and have worked tirelessly to encourage environmental and ecological friendly practices around Tring, especially at the community garden site in Duckmore Lane.

With this in mind we felt we needed to share all the great ideas happening in our town and proceeded to plan and hold a climate change event. This event allowed not only the public to access information but our wonderful local businesses to network and share ideas. The event had 24 stalls and 12 guest speakers throughout the day, with a footfall of over 300 on a wet Saturday in October. People learned about the science behind climate change from Andi Stephens, the Carbon Trust, as well as different initiatives like Chilfest only using vendors with eco-friendly packaging and Healthfare selling every eco-friendly product imaginable right on our High Street.

Going forward we propose to hold monthly climate change themed events working in partnership with different community groups, such as the Mayor's Preloved Clothing Show, Summer Carnival, Greening Tring and many more.



The working party has committed to achieve the actions set out in the Covenant of Mayors and feels we have made a positive start.



Sustainable Transport

MICHAEL CURRY, TOWN CLERK

At the Annual Council meeting on Monday 20th May 2019 the Council split the role of the Town Planning & Infrastructure Committee between the Buildings & Assets Committee and a new Committee, the Local Transport Committee, now that the implementation of the Tring Town Plan was reaching a conclusion.

The decision to create the Local Transport Committee was taken because Tring is under increasing pressure from greater car usage with congestion, lack of parking, and, of course, the impact it is having on the environment. The proposed growth in Tring will add to the pressure unless the housing developments are integrated with the town through viable alternatives to the car.

The aims and objectives of the Local Transport Committee are:

- To develop an over-arching strategy for transport policy in Tring, liaising and involving neighbouring Parish Councils
- To co-ordinate the production of a local transport plan with the necessary coverage and evidence to be adopted by Dacorum Borough Council as a supplementary planning document
- To produce a plan that reflects the Town Council's environmental objectives i.e. to promote sustainable alternatives to car transport

The Council co-opted Henry Grace, who had led the prior Town Planning & Infrastructure Committee, and Mrs Bendall of the Local Bus Users group onto the Committee. The Town Council thanks them for their contribution. County Councillor Nick Hollinghurst also agreed to attend meetings.

The first stage of the Committee's work has been to establish a local stakeholders' group and a co-ordinating group of the local parish councils to assist London Northwestern Rail (LNR) produce a Local Station Plan for Tring & Cheddington.

It is hoped that by co-operating with LNR and highlighting the real issues being faced by station users, meaningful progress can be made to tackle:

- The poor transport links
 - Limited bus services especially from the surrounding villages that are poorly integrated with the rail services
 - insufficient car parking spaces
 - poor drop-off facilities
- And the lack of facilities on the station forecourt

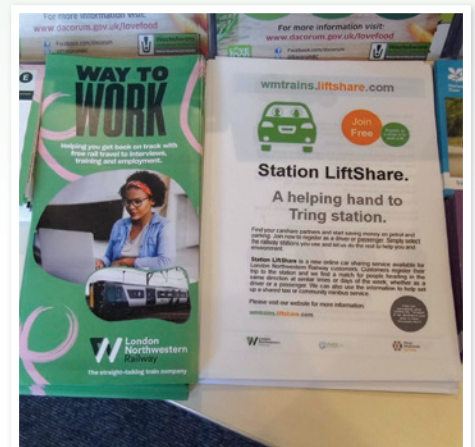


It is recognised that just adding car parking spaces will not solve the problem – extra spaces will quickly be filled adding to the congestion. Initiatives like car sharing – recently introduced by LNR (wmtrain.liftshare.com) – are designed to maximise the potential of the existing spaces.

This is the first local station plan being produced by LNR and they have welcomed the input they have received from the local community. The project will be completed in March 2020.



Working with the Parishes, the intention is to take forward any actions from the local station plan and, using the research evidence gathered by LNR, develop a Local Transport Plan with a wider focus. Having the evidence base will give the work the necessary credibility to get the resulting plan adopted by Dacorum Borough Council as a supplementary planning document i.e. a reference that should be used when considering planning applications.



Buildings & Assets

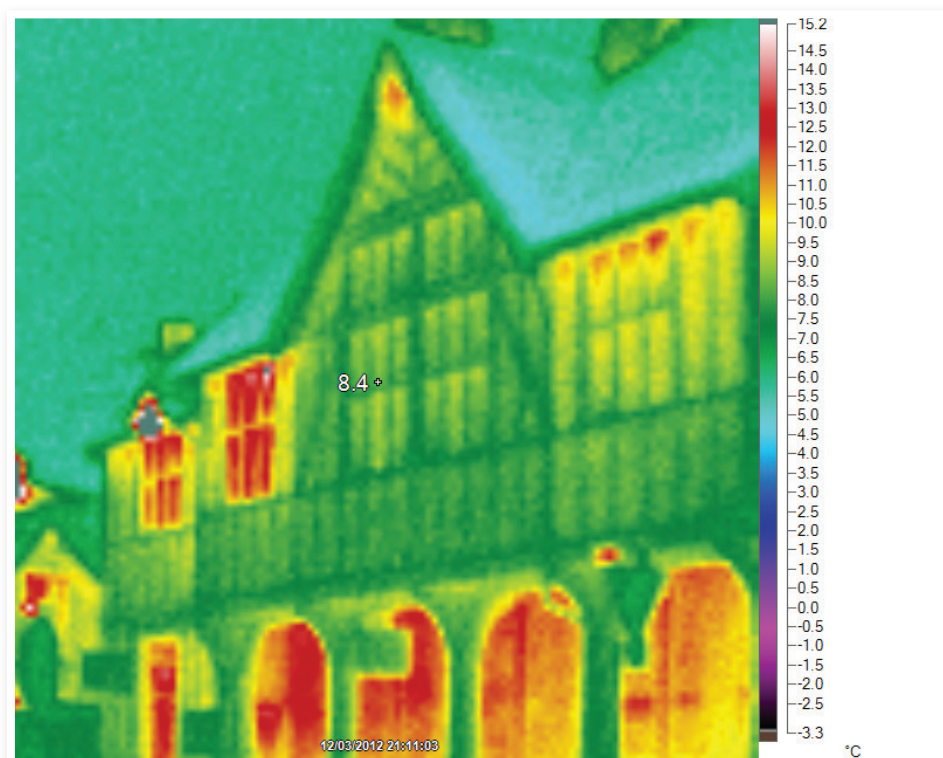
COMMITTEE CHAIR,
ROSEMARIE HOLLINGHURST

The Buildings and Assets Committee is responsible for the buildings and land owned by the Town Council. The income earned by these properties enables the council to achieve more on behalf of the town and reduces the amount we need to raise from council tax payers.

Tring Town Council meets in the Market House, the principal building that it owns. It is a Grade II listed building and is carefully maintained to a high standard. This year we are looking to improve the insulation in the attic in compliance with our commitment to the Covenant of Mayors Climate Change Declaration which was signed by the Mayor Roxanne Ransley in September. This building also houses offices and a retail unit which are rented out and the Council's Information Centre, which remains busy and appreciated, in spite of the availability of on-line search facilities.

Another well-known asset is the Nora Grace Hall. Built in 1972 it is at the end of its repairable life and needs to be replaced. Tring Together, who use the hall as its base, is working alongside the Town Council to organise this project. Initial research, visits to other halls and public consultation on what Tring residents would like to see was completed in the Spring of 2019. A two-storey building providing a contemporary, sustainable building in a beautiful space with facilities for everyone, for leisure, learning, arts, therapy and business is the vision but would cost over £2m. All are agreed that the new hall should remain a community-owned asset available to be shared by all Tring residents.

Exploration of ways to increase usage of the old Market Place on Brook St have faltered. The council looked into setting up a temporary car park to ease the pressures in the town. However, discussions with Dacorum Borough Council did not run smoothly and the profitability of running a small car park needs to be revisited. Whilst talking of parking, the charges are up for review as I write and it seems that, thankfully, the Borough are allowing



us to retain our very valuable first free hour, though charges will rise a little. The old Market Place performed a useful role in providing accommodation for the equipment while the gas main in the High Street was being replaced. I'm sure we were all relieved when the High Street opened again – especially the traders and Arriva buses.

Of particular pride is our land at Duckmore Lane; the allotments are well used; the Millennium Wood and open land is tidy, having been cut with the brush cutter; the grasskeep is being grazed.

As our responsibilities expand and it is impractical for staff to use their own vehicles for certain tasks, the Council has decided to purchase a van. It is regrettable that this will be a diesel van as

there is no suitable electric vehicle on the market at the moment. However, your new Town Council is committed to taking care of the Town and safeguarding its assets in the most sustainable ways possible for future generations.



Finance & Policy

COMMITTEE CHAIR, CHRISTOPHER TOWNSEND

It has been a busy year settling into the role of Chair, given the large number of new Councillors. However, I have the advantage of having sat on the Finance and Policy committee for many years, and have tended to be the one to make geeky points about finance and policy as this is an area where I have some professional expertise. Hopefully it hasn't been too frustrating for the Clerk!

Finance and Policy should not be at the heart of the council, in my view. Rather it needs to be a smoothly run adjunct to ensure that councillors and the Council as a whole are not distracted by the complexities involved. This can enable the Town Council to better focus on the more important role of serving local residents.

That said, money is important, and I am pleased to be able to point out that from an asset point of view the Council is in a strong position. We have, for example, high levels of reserves and this is a position I would hope to maintain. Where we are more challenged is on income and one reason for this is that for the Town Council part of council tax we only charge residents, on average, under £30 a year. This figure is low in comparison to other Town Councils and I would hope to maintain it as well. However, it does mean that we have less officer support than perhaps is optimal and that our capacity to plan for larger projects is somewhat limited. This is relevant as we hope to embrace ambitious plans for our Nora Grace Hall and we absolutely must provide an active response to the climate emergency.

Responding locally on Climate Change may form a blue-print for a global change and Tring could be at the forefront of this. I am pleased to note, for example, that some councillors are exploring very ambitious plans around green buses for Tring. This may require money; we will plan appropriately and thoughtfully.

Given the low base I do hope that residents are not too put out that in percentage terms the Town Council portion will increase. At less than £30 a year it is as cheap as chips in my view - given the huge amount of voluntary local councillor effort and modestly paid, yet very dedicated staff that you get for it!

The accompanying table details the budget and precept – the Town Council's part of your council tax bill – with a comparison to the last financial year. The Band D property rate for the Town Council will increase from £26.70 pa to £28.39 pa. The sums allocated for projects are listed. Reference has already been made to the Council's priority – Climate Change; other projects are support for the 75th anniversary VE Day celebrations, and contributions to build up funds for works to the Market House, a listed building, and the replacement of the Nora Grace Hall.



The 2020/21 Budget & Precept

	2019/20	2020/21
Income		
Precept	£134,524	£144,683
Grants Received	£18,909	£18,522
Assets	£98,301	£97,362
Interest Received	£345	£766
Total Income	£252,079	£261,333
Expenditure		
Administration	£157,830	£166,742
Grants	£18,600	£18,600
Market House	£11,646	£12,524
Market Place	£20,420	£20,117
Other Holdings	£16,130	£15,069
Allotments	£4,257	£4,545
Open Spaces & Environment	£6,302	£5,366
Projects		
Local Transport Plan	-	£250
Climate Change	-	£6,120
VE Day Celebrations	-	£1,000
Market House Works	-	£6,000
Nora Grace Hall	-	£5,000
Total for Projects	£16,170	£18,370
Total Expenditure	£251,355	£261,333
Surplus/Deficit	£724	£0

Planning Committee

COMMITTEE CHAIR, NIGEL NUTKINS

On-street parking is a problem which continues to dominate discussions about many planning applications considered by the Town Council. Brook Street, Tring Triangle and Akeman Street have constant issues which are highlighted by plans to develop sites with the town.

Planning permission has been granted for a temporary car park on the Market Place, although this is not viable in present circumstances. However, the site was used on an adhoc basis by film companies, the company repairing the gas main through the High Street, parking for events, the Street Food Heroes and parking for market traders. The Intalink coach also uses the site to advertise public and local bus companies.



The Council consistently recommends refusal of applications which may cause long-term harm or adversely affect the Chilterns AONB. These recommendations are taken into account by the Planning Officer but the final decision is made by Dacorum Borough Council (DBC), as the planning authority. Members of the public should always make their comments to DBC and copy in the Town Council for their consideration.



A response was submitted on the proposed expansion at London Luton Airport. The need for expansion was questioned in light of the present climate crisis and the effect of noise and traffic on the quality of life for residents in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The Council responded to the draft Parking Standards document from DBC which failed to address modern circumstances and omitted important considerations. Also, parking charges were reviewed and the free hour in Tring will be retained.

Over 200 plans are considered by the Council annually ranging from minor modifications (which can have a positive effect on the street scene) to major applications which could be detrimental to the area. Neighbour notifications are hand delivered (by the Town Warden) as a service provided by the Council to enable developments to be considered by those most affected. All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to come along and have your say.

Councillors were pleased that the garage in Brook Street has been retained and the re-development to provide 1-2 bed flats is welcomed. The development off the Icknield Way (LA5) has commenced. Tring Town Council has submitted suggestions for street names after consultation with Tring & District Local History & Museum Society and local residents. The Council was also consulted on the diversion of the footpath across the site and hope that the existing route can be maintained while also providing another "green" path to the open area to the west of the site.

It is hoped that developers and planning authorities will move towards more sustainable building standards in the future to reduce the environmental impact. Tring Town Council will continue to consider all planning applications and make appropriate recommendations to enhance the quality of life for residents of the town.



Information Centre

The Centre was refurbished and redecorated last year to provide a more accessible, convenient and attractive space for both visitors and staff. As part of the wide range of services offered, residents concerned with their neighbourhood can view the details of upcoming planning applications on a dedicated screen at the Centre. We continue to offer leaflets on a wealth of venues and activities, as well as transport timetables, updates from local community organisations, and current arts and entertainment events. Our website also provides comprehensive information about all these and more - do visit us at **www.tring.gov.uk**



We have created a new 'Green Board' in the Centre, highlighting our collective efforts to combat Climate Change, and in our main display areas we have highlighted 'green' venues, facilities and activities. A key part of our leaflet display is the very popular series of six local walks which start and end in Tring town centre.

The Centre continues to be open from 9.30am to 3pm on weekdays and from 10am-1pm on Saturdays. So please come in and say hello, e-mail us at **info@tring.gov.uk**, or telephone us on **01442 823347**. If you can't make personal contact, then do visit the website **www.tring.gov.uk** - you might be surprised how much goes on in this little town of ours!



Tring Town Council's Annual Community Award... ... goes to Ted Oram

Ted has been an active member of the Parish Church community at St Peter's & St Paul's for many years. Recently, he led the restoration of the war memorial project culminating in the WWI centenary commemorations of November 2018. It was a project which involved deep research, wide communication and considerable charm.

He has also been engaged with Raynet locally at public events such as the annual Town Festival. Raynet is a national voluntary communications service provided for the community by licensed radio amateurs irrespective of the size of the event.

Council Competitions

This year, the Town Council held its competitions for allotment holders and Christmas shop windows. The competition for front gardens across the Town was dropped this year with the intention of re-launching it in 2020.

This year the winners were:

The best kept allotments:

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1st | Plot 19 |
| 2nd | Plot 96 |
| 3rd | Plot 59 |
| 4th | Plot 62a |

High Street Christmas shop windows:

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1st | Emmaus Nineteen 49 |
| 2nd | Magnolia Flowers |
| 3rd | House of Cards |



Tring Together's Christmas Light Competition

Each year Tring Together runs a children's competition to design a Christmas light with all Tring Primary Schools taking part. The winning design is switched on when the Christmas Festival is officially opened by the Mayor.

Youth Council

EMMA CAVE, YOUTH TOWN CLERK

Tring Youth Council have enjoyed their regular participation in community events this year. The annual Summer Carnival usually sees us running the ever popular Dog Show; however, due to the extreme heat and after taking professional advice, this was cancelled for the sake of our furry friends. Our Bake Off took centre stage for us instead and the entries with the space theme were fantastic. At the Christmas Festival our renowned Vintage Tombola and Raffle along with hot chocolate and brownies netted our stall nearly £300. The work the group undertakes



is fun and productive and gives the young people opportunities to learn about local issues and problem solving in a non-school environment, whilst making new friends along the way. We meet monthly in the Council Chamber with home-made 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. To view our promotional video, go to our Facebook page Tring Youth Town Council. We are always looking for new members to assist and join our team.

We attended the Climate Change Event in the Victoria Hall in October and were enthused by everything Tring is doing already and planning to do. It was such a positive day and our members were particularly keen to

get involved with the Community Fridge project and are looking to produce an installation to highlight recycling and reducing plastic waste later in the Summer.

We continue to support the Tring Youth Club at the Temperance Hall on Friday evenings with supervised sessions between 6.30-9pm. The Youth Club has been running for 10 years and the staff have a real understanding of the pressures our young people face today and provide a supportive, safe and fun setting for the youngsters to meet up and socialise whilst enjoying snacks from the tuck shop. We have been supporting the Tring Youth Project with a Mental Health Project for young people providing relaxation sessions which have been delivering powerful results and improvements in our young people's wellbeing. 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 tanddccc@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 and bring a friend. Our monthly meetings are usually on the second Wednesday of the month at 4pm until 5.30pm. You are most welcome.

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



Council Representatives

to local organisations

Tring Community Centre Management Committee

Cllr Mrs R. L. Ransley

Old Church House Members of Management Committee

Town Mayor (ex officio) & Cllr P. Elley

Tring Charities

Cllr P. Elley & Mr T. Oram

Tring & District Local History & Museum Society

Cllr R. Hollinghurst

Tring Bus Users Group

County Cllr N Hollinghurst
& Cllr B. Patterson

The Friends of Tring Church Heritage

Cllr P. Elley

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 A. Caps

Churches Together in Tring

Cllr C. Townsend

Justice & Peace Group

Cllr N. Nutkins

Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils

Town Clerk, Michael Curry

Arla/Olleco Liaison Group

County Cllr N. Hollinghurst

Dacorum Environmental Forum (DEF)

Cllrs B. Patterson & P. McDowell

Rothschild Surgery

Cllr C. Townsend

Tring Town Council *your representatives*



Cllr John Bowden
Liberal Democrat
Bunstrux Ward

30 Kingsley Walk,
Tring HP23 5DN

john.bowden@tring.gov.uk

I serve on the Planning Committee, the Finance & Policy Committee and the Buildings & Assets Committee. As an outside interest, I have been Chair of the Management Committee at Tring Community Centre for many years. The Community Centre is a self-funding charity. In my role as Tring Town Councillor I am passionate about representing the best interests of local residents where possible. I am also a Dacorum District Councillor for Tring Central.



Cllr Alex Caps
Liberal Democrat
Bunstrux Ward

13 New Road,
Tring HP23 5EY

alex.caps@tring.gov.uk

I have been living in New Road for 5 years and visit the New Mill Baptist Church in New Road every Thursday, where I spend time with senior citizens of Tring, raising money for the church by treating the people as I am a Postural Alignment specialist. I have been helping the residents of Bunstrux ward with their problems, and have been setting up a fund for under privileged kids to support them doing sport in Tring with the help from the sporting community. I am also the Council's representative on Tring Sports Forum, and attend the breakfast meetings with Tring Together.



Cllr Paul Elley
Liberal Democrat
Bunstrux Ward

58 Christchurch Road,
Tring HP23 4EJ

01442 382052

paul.elley@tring.gov.uk

I am a councillor for Bunstrux Ward and I am the council representative on Old Church House and Friends of Tring Church Heritage. I was previously elected to the Council in 1979 and 1999, I have found that a lot has changed since I was first elected, but much hasn't. I have lived in Tring since 1975. I am Chair of Governors at Goldfield School. The thing that I like best about Tring is the variety of countryside walks near us, particularly the canals and reservoirs.



Cllr Penny Hearn
Conservative
Dunsley Ward

31 Chiltern Way,
Tring HP23 5LD

01442-824949

penny.hearn@tring.gov.uk

I am a member of all the Council's committees. I am also the Tring East Dacorum District Councillor. I am Chairman of the Tring Youth Project: we are a small group of Trustees who run a youth club at the Temperance Hall in Christchurch Road. The Tring Youth Project was first introduced by the Town Council in 1992. My hobbies are shopping(!) and gardening.



Cllr Rosemarie Hollinghurst
Liberal Democrat
Dunsley Ward

Farlands, Tinkers Lane,
Wigginton, Tring HP23 6JB

01442-866650

rosemarie.hollinghurst@tring.gov.uk

I was delighted to be elected to represent Dunsley Ward. It's good to be involved again with the local community. My previous experience on Dacorum Borough Council is proving useful. I sit on the Building & Assets and Planning Committees, and we all take part in the Climate Change initiatives - I have an electric car and I am reducing my use of plastic packaging. As a volunteer steward, I was happy to represent Tring Council on the Tring Local History and Museum Society. The U3A, classical music concerts, walks in the hills and round the reservoirs ensure that life in Tring is better than in many places!



Cllr Alex MacDonald
Liberal Democrat
Dunsley Ward

13 Highfield Road,
Tring HP23 4DX

01442 823490

alex.macdonald@tring.gov.uk

I have lived in Tring with my wife and two children for 12 years. I am a medical research scientist and work in Cambridge - so I have an interest in reducing road congestion as well as climate change. My children both attend Tring School and my wife works at Goldfield Infants School. I am a keen tennis player and currently I am the Junior & Welfare Officer for Tring Tennis Club.



Cllr Phil McDowell
Liberal Democrat
Bunstrux Ward
 2 New Canal Cottages,
 Bulbourne, Tring HP23 4NG
 01442 603346
phil.mcdowell@tring.gov.uk

Elected for the first time in Tring Bunstrux Ward and Dacorum Borough for Aldbury and Wigginton, it has been a great honour to represent the area. My passion for the great outdoors and our beautiful countryside has made pushing the climate change agenda to the forefront of my reason for standing and my decision making. I am totally enthused by, and grateful for, the support shown by the council and constituents, and believe that Tring and the surrounding area will continue to strive for the best for our environment.



Cllr Nigel Nutkins
Liberal Democrat
Miswell Ward
 113 Longfield Road,
 Tring HP23 4DE
 01442-825110
nigel.nutkins@tring.gov.uk

This is my third term as a Tring Town Councillor. Born in Wigginton, I have always lived locally, returning to Tring in 1980 after a period in Berkhamsted. I'm interested in the ecology of our town and animal welfare. I am Chair of the Planning Committee, Chair of the Allotments & Environment Committee, a member of the Building & Assets Committee, and a member of the Climate Change Working Party. I enjoy motorcycling, and I do first aid for the Red Cross and with Tring Rugby Club.



Cllr Brian Patterson
Liberal Democrat
Miswell Ward
 36 Highfield Road,
 Tring HP23 4DX
brian.patterson@tring.gov.uk

I am a retired civil servant and was elected as a town councillor last May. I have lived in Tring since the 1980s. At present I sit on the Planning Committee and on the Allotments & Environmental Committee, as well as the Climate Change Working Party. I also attend meetings of the Dacorum Environmental Forum.



Cllr Helena Piper
Liberal Democrat
Miswell Ward
 49 Okeley Lane,
 Tring HP23 4HB
helena.piper@tring.gov.uk

I'm pleased to have been elected as a new councillor this year. I've lived in Tring for 16 years now, having chosen to settle here and raise my family. I and my late husband both worked in Tring when we met and have both supported our local community. I work in Health and Social Care, plus, with the bereavement of my husband some years ago, understand the importance of mental health support especially for children. I am a keen outdoors person, enjoying horse riding and dog walking within our beautiful area. I have always enjoyed walking in and around Tring and educating my children on caring for their environment and local wildlife. I think it is important to give the next generation the knowledge and skills to support themselves thus empowering them.



Cllr Roxanne Ransley
(Mayor)
Liberal Democrat
Bunstrux Ward
 28 Nathaniel Walk,
 Tring HP23 5DG
 01442-824871
roxanne.ransley@tring.gov.uk

I am pleased to represent Tring on both the Town Council (Bunstrux Ward) and Dacorum Borough Council (Tring Central). As Mayor I go to all of the Town Council's committees and I try to get to as many working parties as possible. I am Chairman and volunteer at Tring Beavers Swimming Club for the Disabled, I enjoy growing my own veg (I am the Council's representative with the Farmers Market), walking and I am a social member of Tring Squash Club.



Cllr Christopher Townsend
(Deputy Mayor)
Liberal Democrat
Miswell Ward
 8 Gordon Villas, Aylesbury Rd,
 Tring HP23 4DJ
 01442 828225
christopher.townsend@tring.gov.uk

I have been a councillor for over ten years and live in the western part of Tring with my wife and three growing children. I focus on the finance and policy side of the Town Council. If I can use my professional skills to help council finances run smoothly, then the council as a whole can focus more on residents' needs. Keeping Tring clean and tidy and providing robust challenge against the pressure to build so much housing are the important Tring resident priorities, in my view.

All Change - Clerk's report

with Michael Curry, Clerk to the Council

The local elections in May 2019 saw a large swing to the Liberal Democrats, who now represent the majority on the Council. The election brought in seven new Councillors, who faced a tough learning curve as being a councillor is not as straightforward as people tend to imagine. It does involve taking a different perspective on how things are done and there is a lot to absorb.

The 'rules' can seem obscure, burdensome and time consuming, but one must not overlook that they are, generally, there for a purpose – usually to ensure best value for the community and to protect the Council from potential criticism. A Council also has to comply with all the legislation as an employer.

Consequently, throughout 2019 the Council's staff had to provide a sense of continuity as the new Members found their feet. This took more time than would otherwise been the case.

Conversely, new Members bring a new set of skills. It was fascinating to watch those who were new to the Council after the previous election in 2015 find a role where they could make a meaningful contribution. This is happening already as the Council develops its contribution to tackling climate change and pollution.

As I write this piece we are putting the finishing touches to the budget for 2020/21 and a clear direction is emerging. It will be interesting to see what can be achieved in the coming year.

Each year the Town Council and Dacorum Borough Council work closely together to get the Christmas light display in place ready for the Christmas Festival. Each year to date has been successful, but this year threatened to be different ... delays, requests for further information and poor maintenance by Hertfordshire County Council put the whole display at risk. Fortunately a lot of hard work by Sue Pilgrim at Dacorum Borough Council and Sparkx, the contractor, saved the day or, rather, the night. I must admit to being very relieved to see the Christmas lights in place when I came into town for the Christmas Festival this year.



Contact us at Tring Town Council

Tring Town Council

61 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 4AB

Tel: 01442 823347

email: clerk@tring.gov.uk

www.tring.gov.uk

Open 9.30am – 3pm Monday – Friday

The Information Centre

99 Akeman Street, Tring, Herts HP23 6AA

Tel: 01442 823347

email: info@tring.gov.uk

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