



An image from Burgess Hill's WW1 Armistice Centenary Celebrations, 11 November 2018.



Town Mayor Chris Cherry

A Message from the Mayor

I am pleased to present Burgess Hill Town Council's Annual Report for 2018/19. It has been an incredibly eventful year for Burgess Hill Town Council with the town's huge redevelopment plans beginning to take shape. Despite the changing landscape, the Council has continued to put its residents' needs first with new and ongoing initiatives to improve life for all our citizens.

Within its strict budget constraints, the Council has strived to still meet its ambitions and aims for Burgess Hill. The dedicated staff team work exhaustively to ensure that residents continue to get the best service possible.

Our community is a strong one, as demonstrated by the events we have witnessed over the past twelve months. Town-wide celebrations were organised including the 9-day Burgess Hill Summer Festival and the community's moving tribute for the WW1 Armistice Centenary. This year also saw events targeted directly at young people including an Open Air Cinema and a Zipwire at St John's Park.

We are of course indebted to the local charities and community groups in Burgess Hill whose invaluable support makes all of this possible.

Burgess Hill's Northern Arc

July 2018 saw the acquisition by Homes England of the land known as Burgess Hill's Northern Arc. The 176 ha site will deliver 3080 new homes and was identified as a priority in the District and Neighbourhood Plan. The development will also look to include a proposed Science Park, Business Park and new Community Sports Centre. Due to the complexities of different land ownership and the significant infrastructure required, all parties agreed to dispose of their interest allowing Homes England to take ownership of the whole site. The first outline planning application came in January 2019 and can be viewed online at the Mid Sussex District Council Planning Portal. The development will see the construction of two new primary schools, a secondary school and a range of leisure facilities. The Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Soames, MP for Mid Sussex, said: "This very significant investment and long term commitment to Burgess Hill will ensure the housing comes forward in a timely manner and is accompanied by much needed infrastructure. It is a vote of confidence in Burgess Hill and Mid Sussex." The first phase of the development will look to deliver 460 homes.



Town Centre Redevelopment

Work continues on the town centre site. NewRiver Retail remains committed to investing in Burgess Hill and to delivering this exciting project for a revitalised town centre, sustainable for Burgess Hill's future needs. NewRiver Retail is in conversation with more brands/retailers and updates will be shared with the local community at a later date. Hollywood Bowl is in the final stages of negotiation and will complement the new Cinema complex. Work has started on the new Lidl and other stores including Iceland and Argos have successfully relocated into new premises. This is an exciting but difficult time for the local community as facilities in the town centre are periodically unavailable. The Town Council has planned a number of initiatives to bring uplifting events to the town centre including youth activities and the **Urban Sand Pit** which returned for its second year in 2018.



Community Performance Venue

Proposals for a new Community Performance Venue continue to develop with some changes to the design being accommodated in order to reduce the overall cost and ensure a viable project. The auditorium/theatre will seat 230 with up to 298 for a standing event. It will feature retractable seating, making it a flexible space. The venue will include a dance studio and meeting room plus flexible spaces that can be adapted to fit different users' requirements. A pre-planning application has been submitted and plans are available for inspection and comment by the public at the Town Council Help Point or online at: <https://bit.ly/2XSt53p>. The Public Works Loan Board has confirmed they will offer a loan of £3million towards the demolition of the old Royal British Legion building and the construction of the new venue. The project is dependent on the Town Council raising the remaining £2 million and a professional fundraiser has been employed who is confident that sufficient funds can be raised over a period of two years. The Town Council is delighted that Dame Vera Lynn and Judy Parfitt have agreed to be Patrons of the new facility. A small committee has been formed to consider the naming of the building and a competition devised to involve local schools and colleges.



100 Years On - Remembering World War I

11 November 2018 marked 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of World War I. Burgess Hill took part in the Nation's Tribute and commemorated the 145 young men named on the town's Great War Memorial who went to fight for King and Country but did not come home again. To remember their sacrifice, Burgess Hill residents made 145 poppy lanterns - one for each soldier - at a series of free workshops in October. During the evening of 11 November the lanterns were carried in a procession, led by Mid Sussex Brass Band, from the War Memorial to the Burgess Hill beacon site in St John's Park. This was followed by a short ceremony of readings and songs, and lighting of the town's beacon.



Bus Real Time Displays

SERVICE	DESTINATION	TIME
35A	Worlds End	Due
100	Horsham	3min
168	Hessocks	12min
769	Sheffield Park	20min

Bus users are now able to take advantage of the new Real Time Passenger Information displays installed at six bus stops in Burgess Hill located in Church Road, Station Road, Leylands Road and Valebridge Road. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) Bus Operators can track their buses and feed the location data to West Sussex County Council's Real Time Passenger Information system.

The cost of this first phase of the project was £60,000 and was funded by developer contributions allocated to sustainable transport. The project was delivered by the Town Council in partnership with West Sussex County Council.

Summer Festival



Wall to wall sunshine during the 2018 Summer Festival in June saw a wide variety of events enjoyed by residents of all ages. 66 events took place during the 9-day Festival with something for all ages and pockets - 52 of the events were free or cost £5 or less. The Festival was co-ordinated by the Town Council with 47 local groups, business and individuals organising events this year. The 2019 festival will take place 1-9 June.



Caring for the Carers



During 2018/19, 13 free Fun Day outings and a trip to the Pantomime were organised for Young Carers during the school holidays, organised by the Town Council and Burgess Hill Youth. A free Pamper Day for adult carers was held at Burgess Hill Girls in March with entertainment, information about support available and a variety of pamper sessions.



Burgess Hill Roundabouts



Burgess Hill Town Council will continue to maintain the roundabouts during 2019/20 having reached agreement with West Sussex County Council. The Town Council wish the roundabouts to remain as attractive as they are currently in our continuing aim to make Burgess Hill a pleasant place to live, work and visit. In addition we will look to refresh and find sponsors for planting beds around the town.



Financial Summary

2018/19 Budget Analysis

The Town Council's base budgeted revenue expenditure for the year amounted to £1,018,653(i), and the Council is pleased to announce that a surplus will be achieved which will be reinvested to provide future services for the community. A total of £843,577(i) was raised from residents of the town and the Town Council is fully accountable to residents at the Annual Town Meeting, which is being held this year on 9 April 2019 in Cyprus Hall.

The actual Town Council charge for services for a Band D property was £78.08 for the year and includes £72k in regard to monies raised to fund the original performance venue project. It has been agreed, however, to credit this amount back to residents in the 2019/20 budget. Taking this adjustment into account, the Band D rate for 2018/19, for comparison purposes, would amount to £71.91.

For the 2019/20 financial year, as noted above, the £72k raised towards the original performance venue project has been credited back to residents. This adjustment has decreased the Band D Council Tax charge to £67.22. After taking into account these adjustments, the Band D rate, for comparison purposes, would amount to £73.30, an increase of £1.39 (1.9%) on the prior year.

(i) For comparison purposes, funds raised in 2018/19 and credited back to residents in 2019/20 have been removed from these figures.

Community Grants Awarded		Revenue Budget : Income and Costs £000s		
Community Grants totalling £12,593 were awarded to the following organisations:	£	Where the money comes from	2018/19	2019/20
St Catherine's Hospice	£500	Council tax payers (Precept) (i)	844	873
Windmills Opportunity Playgroup	£500	Partner income (MSDC/WSCC)	83	39
Sussex Community Day Centre	£1,000	Hire of Council facilities	15	10
Friends of Green Circle Network	£773	Burial Ground income	24	24
Respect Youth Club	£700	Roundabout Sponsorship/Contract	20	19
Revitalise Respite Holidays	£500	About Town magazine	10	10
Burgess Hill Royal Air Force Cadets	£750	Other	23	24
Mid Sussex Brass Band	£270	Total Income	1,019	999
Maple Drive Community Group	£250	Where the money is spent		
Mid Sussex District Scouts	£500	Help Point Services	83	90
Burgess Hill Local History Society	£350	External Services (Grnds Maint, Burial, Allot')	316	270
Signposts (Mid Sussex) Ltd	£1,000	Community Partnerships & Events	129	124
Summerhaven	£500	Community/Facility Development	(i)142	143
Kangaroos Mid Sussex	£1,000	Civic and Planning	104	99
Burgess Hill Rugby Club	£2,000	Total Direct Services	774	726
Burgess Hill Cricket Club	£2,000	Support Services	166	173
TOTAL	£12,593	Insurance, Business Rates, Utilities, etc	79	100
		Total Revenue Expenditure	1,019	999
		Council Tax—Band D rate per annum	£78.08	£67.22
		Band D rate excluding venue element	£71.91	£73.30

(i) For comparison purposes only, funds raised in 2018/19 and credited back to residents in 2019/20 have been removed from these figures.

Council Reserves at the 1 April 2018 £000s

General Reserve	150
Earmarked Reserves	518
Total Reserves	668

Town Council Employees

	Bud	Act	Bud
Full-time equivalents	17.8	16.7	16.1

Public Notice

Under sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234), it is reported the accounts for year ending 31 March 2018 for Burgess Hill Town Council have been duly audited by the District Auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Councillors' Allowances Claimed

Annual Allowances are paid under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003

Agate, Wendy	£1,175	Jones MBE, Anne	£1,175
Barrett-Miles, Andrew	£0	Landriani, Jacqui	£1,175
Catharine, Cherry	£1,175	Merrill, John	£0
Cherry, Chris ^	£1,762	Moore, Pru	£1,175
Cherry, Richard	£1,175	Page, Kirsty	£1,175
Fussell, Claire	£1,175	Thomas-Atkin, Chris	£1,175
Hansford, Steve	£0	Thomas-Atkin, Mandy	£1,175
Heckels, Diane	£1,175	Thorpe, Julian	£1,175
Henwood, Janice	£1,175		
Holden, Colin ^^	£1,175		
		Total Allowances Claimed:	£18,212

Travel & Subsistence costs reclaimed for undertaking official Town Council duties (received as at 20/03/2019)

Holden, Colin £40.00

^ Town Mayor

^^Deputy Town Mayor



Zipline & Open Air Cinema

Following a consultation with young people the Town Council organised a Zipline with inflatables in St John's Park in August and an open-air cinema showing of *Spiderman Homecoming* in September. Both events were attended by large numbers of people.



Urban Sand Pit

For five weeks during the sunny School Holidays, Burgess Hill's free Urban Sand Pit returned bringing extra entertainment to local families. Children of all ages could be seen perfecting their sand castles and driving the small diggers. The sand pit was enjoyed hugely by local families and many residents mentioned what a big difference it made to their summer holidays. The Sand Pit returns on 24 July.



Summer Fayre

A gloriously hot sunny day saw record numbers attending Burgess Hill's annual Summer Fayre in June. The park was packed with fun and entertainment for all the family with free bouncy castles, climbing wall and rodeo bull, community stalls, fairground and miniature train rides, vintage car display and music and entertainment throughout the day. This year's Fayre will take place on 9th June.



Community Cricket Match

The second annual Community Cricket Match between St Andrew's Cricket Club and Shabash Cricket Club was supported by the Town Council, with large numbers of people enjoying a sunny day of cricket, music and children's activities with BBQ and Bangladeshi food.



Rock Up and Ride

A free Rock Up & Ride event was held in August at the BMX track off Maple Drive. 70 young people attended and enjoyed coaching from a professional BMX coach. The event was organised by the Town Council and Respect Youth Club with financial support from Burgess Hill Lions Club.



Lighting Up for Christmas

Paddington Bear was the star attraction at Burgess Hill's Christmas Celebration and Lights Switch-On in November. Organised by the Town Council, the event brought large numbers of families into the town centre to enjoy fairground rides, free Snow Globe and ice rink, music and entertainment throughout the day, the Lions Club's Santa's Grotto, fancy dress competition and the lights switch on at the end of the day.



Christmas Hampers

In December, a multi-agency group including the Town Council organised 280 hampers to families and individuals in need in Burgess Hill and the surrounding area. Food items were donated by local schools, businesses, the Food Bank and local residents. Volunteers sorted and packed the boxes and delivered them to bring some festive cheer to recipients in time for Christmas.



Help Point

During 2018/19 the Help Point received and responded to more than 35,300 enquiries from residents and visitors on a wide range of issues. The opening times for the Help Point are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5pm and Wednesday 10-5pm.

If you have an enquiry we can help with please contact Burgess Hill Town Council Help Point at 96 Church Walk, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AS, Telephone: 01444 247726, Fax: 01444 233707, email: helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk, or visit www.burgesshill.gov.uk