



Burgess Hill
Town Council

Annual Town Report 2021/22

The opening of the modernised Burgess Hill Help Point in November 2021 with Town Mayor Councillor Anne Eves and Mims Davies M.P.



Town Mayor Cllr Anne Eves

A Message from the Mayor

As we hope for better times ahead, we thank all those in the community who have worked so hard to help others through the pandemic. After a difficult two years, we look forward to a summer full of exciting new community initiatives and monthly events.

I have enjoyed seeing the wildflowers coming up again in our town verges, and I look forward to more tree planting this year as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project. During the winter we planted nine trees around the town, one in Folders Meadow to commemorate the work of Prince Philip, and thirty in Batchelors Farm. As they grow, these trees will all help to draw down carbon and give us shade. The excellent Town Council team continues their work to support Burgess Hill and its residents. Our Help Point was modernised as it reached its 25th anniversary - I would encourage all residents to go in and take a look! There have been some big achievements throughout the year: the public loan for building the Beehive was approved and Burgess Hill finally gained its own petanque rink. The Kiln community hub has gone from strength to strength and the new all-weather walking and cycling paths have been enjoyed by our townsfolk through the winter.

It has taken dogged determination to battle through another difficult year, but Burgess Hill is blessed with this in spades. I have no doubt that our community will continue to flourish despite whatever life throws at it and I look forward to being a part of its exciting future.

The Beehive Centre for Community Arts

Burgess Hill's proposed Beehive community centre and arts venue has received a massive thumbs up as the Town Council received approval for the £4.8m loan from the Public Works Loan Board. In 2021, the Council consulted widely with the residents of Burgess Hill and received overwhelming support for the project to go ahead. The pandemic has affected costs and the professional team are reviewing this as they manage the demolition/construction.



Welcome Back Fund

We have delivered lots of exciting events for the community thanks to the Welcome Back Fund, a share of the European Regional Development Fund managed here by Mid Sussex District Council. The events supported a return to the town centre and included the Burgess Hill Artists & Lens Cap Off trail; Outdoor Escape Game; Fire show; LED Light Show; Live Music on the bandstand; Snow Queen Performance; Jump in January exercise tasters; Fun in February with an Ice Rink, photo booth and Love Heart Trail & Quiz; Climbing wall and strike a light game with street entertainment; Make in March children's and adult's craft activities. Empty shop windows were covered with positive environmental themed designs building on from the ethos of COP26. The project has brought colour to the town centre and buildings that are waiting for new tenants.



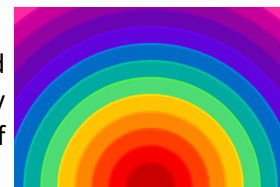
Pétanque Rink goes live

Burgess Hill now has a new Petanque Rink at Fairfield Recreation Ground. Pétanque, also known as boules, is a highly accessible sport that can be enjoyed by all. Burgess Hill U3A Pétanque Group, who previously had to travel to Haywards Heath and Handcross to play, worked with the Town and District Councils to develop a rink at Fairfield Recreation Ground. This will enable the group to develop the sport locally, making it much more accessible to all. The new rink provides enough room for five games to take place simultaneously and was funded by Sport England and developer contributions. To book a terrain at Fairfield Recreation Ground, contact Mid Sussex District Council on 01444 477379 or online at <https://bit.ly/3413gXb>.



Burgess Hill is Back

Burgess Hill is Back was the first of a series of events following the pandemic restrictions and several cancelled events. The event was held on 3 July in the Town Centre with community groups invited to run stalls to raise funds and their profiles. The Town Council funded Crazy Golf and a Strike a Light game. We look forward to holding monthly events throughout 2022.



Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing Day was held on 4 September. It aimed to provide free activities for people of all ages; promote local resources to support residents' Health and Wellbeing; and support the Town Centre and local community groups, charities and businesses. The Town Centre was steadily busy throughout the day, with a large amount of people taking part in the activities and talking with groups.

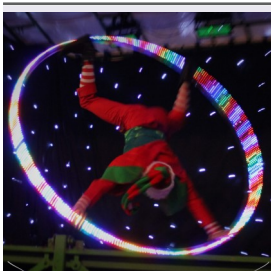
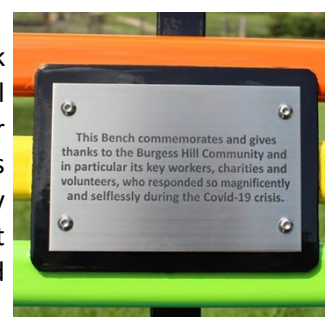
Burgess Hill Town Market - A Celebration of Young Traders and a new Operator

In June 2021, we were excited to organise a special Young Traders Market celebrating local talent. The event was a successful addition to June's regular monthly market and young traders compete and become Burgess Hill's Young Traders Market Local Champion and go forward to the London & South East Regional Young Traders Market Finals, run by the National Market Traders Federation. The Town Council was pleased to announce 'The Anonymous Travelling Market' has been appointed to operationally manage Burgess Hill Town Market, with key objectives to increase stall numbers, improve footfall and awareness. The market operator is working with current and past traders as well as bringing additional traders to develop the product choice at the market. Any traders or entrepreneurs interested in having a stall at the market please contact The Anonymous Travelling Market by emailing them at info@theatm.co.uk, www.theatm.co.uk.



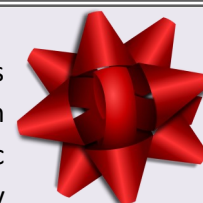
Rainbow COVID Bench

A rainbow COVID bench was installed in St John's Park by BHTC to commemorate and give thanks to the local community. In particular we wanted to recognise our key workers, charities and volunteers. The bench was dedicated by the Town Mayor, West Sussex Deputy Lieutenant and dignitaries from Mid Sussex District Council at an unveiling ceremony during the NHS and Frontline Workers Day on 5 July 2021.



Christmas in Burgess Hill

Christmas came early to Burgess Hill with celebrations and community projects starting with **It's Christmas** on 20 November. The Town Centre bustled with an exciting variety of stalls, festive games, competitions and live music performances. Santa Claus spoke to children at a mobile Santa's Grotto, run by local charity The Budding Foundation. Visitors met Star Wars heroes and villains, thanks to the Imperial Outlanders, a group of passionate cosplayers who brought the characters to life. The lights were jointly turned on by nominated Community Heroes, all of whom made contributions to the Burgess Hill community during 2020 and 2021. Prizes were awarded for the second annual Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition. The winner in the Independent category was Stitch Xpress, with their traditional nutcracker scene, with props and costumes handmade by their staff. The winner in the National category was Cancer Research, with a fully decked tree, snowy window scene, and a display of festive products for sale.



Christmas Hampers

On 3 & 5 December, 260 hampers were delivered by volunteers to families and individuals in need in Burgess Hill and the surrounding area. The delivery of Christmas hampers in 2021 was organised by a multi-agency group comprising Burgess Hill District Lions Club, The King's Church Mid-Sussex, Burgess Hill Town Council, Burgess Hill Youth and Burgess Hill Community Food Bank. This is the ninth year it has operated from the Church but the programme of supporting families at Christmas was led by the Lions for some years prior to this.



Financial Summary

2021/22 Budget Analysis



The town council's budgeted revenue expenditure for the year amounted to £1,027,291 with a total of £923,047 being funded directly by residents through their council tax. The Council is pleased to announce that a modest surplus will be achieved which will be reinvested to provide future services for the community.

The charge for services levied by the town council for a Band D property in Burgess Hill for the 2021/22 financial year was £75.32 per annum which was the same as the previous financial year 2020/21, and the town council is pleased to announce the charge for the forthcoming financial year, 2022/23, has been set at the same level.

The town council is fully accountable to residents, with this year's Annual Town Meeting being held on Monday 11th April 2022 in the Cyprus Hall where residents are welcome to attend and raise questions.

Community Grants Awarded		Revenue Budget : Income and Costs £000s		
In total £7,875 in community grants were awarded, detailed below:		Where the money comes from		
Burgess Hill Heritage and History Ass	100	Council tax payers (Precept)	2021/22	2022/23
Windmills Opportunity Playgroup	1,000	Partner income (MSDC/WSCC)	923	933
West Sussex Mediation Service	500	Hire of Council facilities	24	24
Signposts Mid Sussex Ltd	1,000	Burial Ground income	15	14
Mid Sussex Round Table 95	675	Roundabout Contract Income	29	30
Kangaroos Mid Sussex	500	About Town magazine	17	17
		Other	5	4
TOTAL	£3775	Total Income	1029	1039
Burgess Hill Heritage and History Ass	500	Where the money is spent		
Hurst Hedgehog Haven	1,000	Help Point Services	87	113
SASBAH (Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus)	100	External Services (Grnds Maint, Burial, Allot')	267	258
Burgess Hill Shed	2,500	Community Engagement & Events	210	203
TOTAL	£4,100	Provision for Community Facilities	109	109
		Civic and Planning	101	100
		Total Direct Services	774	783
		Support Services	159	162
		Insurance, Business Rates, Utilities, etc	96	96
		Total Revenue Expenditure	1029	1041
		Council Tax—Band D rate per annum	£75.32	£75.32
		Council Reserves at the 1 April 2021 £000s		
		General Reserve	£224	
		Earmarked Reserves	£686	
		Total Reserves	£910	
		Town Council Employees		
		Full-time equivalents	21/22	22/23
			Bud Act	Bud
			16.2 15.2	16.7

Public Notice

Under sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234), it is reported the accounts for year ending 31 March 2021 for Burgess Hill Town Council have been duly audited by the District Auditor, Moore.

Councillors' Allowances Claimed

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

Allen, Graham	£1,254	Gibbs, Lee	£1,254	Travel & Subsistence costs reclaimed for undertaking official Town Council duties	
Barrett-Miles, Andrew	£1,254	Henwood, Janice	£1,254		
Cartwright, Roger	£1,254	Hicks, Simon	£1,254		
Chapman, Peter	£0	Hussain, Tofojju	£1,254		
Coe-Gunnell White, Emma	£616	Lawrence, Sarah	£1,254		
Cornish, Matthew	£1,254	Neumann, Sylvia	£616		
Duggan, Robert	£1,254	Nielsen, Max	£0		
Eggleston, Robert	£0	Willis, Kathleen	£1,254		
Eves, Anne ^	£1,878				
Foster, Joseph	£1,254				
		Total Allowances Claimed:	£18,158		
					Nothing declared as at 05/04/2022
					^ Town Mayor

New Pathway - Place & Connectivity Project

Following requests from local residents to improve the pathways in West Park Reserve to enable cycle use on what is a busy school route, the Town Council successfully added the pathway upgrade to the Burgess Hill Place and Connectivity Programme. Mid Sussex District Council is working with West Sussex County Council and the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Programme, supporting the strategic growth programme for Burgess Hill. The project is funded by a £22.8m of government grant, including Local Growth Funding and developer contributions.



The Queen's Green Canopy

As part of The Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative, created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, Councillor Sylvia Neumann successfully applied for a pack of 30 saplings from the Woodland Trust. These saplings were planted in November at Batchelors Farm, an area of open space to the south of the town, by volunteers from the Friends of Batchelors Farm Group along with Councillors and the Town Council's Maintenance Team.



Brightening up Burgess Hill

Virgin Media boxes around the town are being brightened up by local artists in a project being run by the Town Council. Residents are being consulted on the design by the Ward Councillor before their neighbourhood box is approved by Virgin Media. The box in Wheatsheaf Close (pictured) was painted by Jayne Crow, a member of the Burgess Hill Artists group. In addition, a new bench was installed near to the bus shelter on Queen Elizabeth Avenue, funded by Burgess Hill Town Council. This follows a request from a resident for seating at this location as they had nowhere to sit while waiting for the bus.



Tree dedicated to HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh



In memory of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh who died on 9 April 2021, Burgess Hill Town Council planted an *Acer Campestre* 'Field Maple' tree at Folders Meadow Children's Play Area on 14 December. Flowers laid by residents to pay their respects at The Duke's passing were composted and used in the tree planting.

Halloween Trail



20 businesses participated in the Halloween trail in the Town Centre. Young people followed the trail of Pumpkins to find the answers to the quiz, with all entries receiving a sweet treat. Four winners were randomly selected to receive a £25 Kids Stuff voucher.

Burgess Hill Asset List

Over the last year, Burgess Hill Town Council has been working with the Burgess Hill Heritage and History Association to produce a Burgess Hill Assets List. The list features historical farmhouses, street furniture, terracotta mouldings and more. Also included are newer assets which will be of historical value in the future. You can now view the Burgess Hill Public Realm Assets list on the Town Council website. Printed copies can be requested from the Help Point.

Help Point



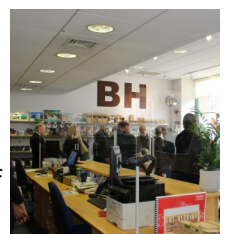
Help Point Modernisation

To celebrate the 25th anniversary the Help Point has undergone redecoration and an extensive refurbishment to create a new shop, which will support local traders, as well as a computer terminal for customer self-service. As previously, the Help Point's knowledgeable staff will still be on hand to answer queries.

The Help Point shop will act as an extension of the current Burgess Hill Market to provide local small businesses, market stallholders and artisans another affordable platform for selling their products outside the monthly market. It is part of the Town Council's support for the Town Centre and fledgling local businesses. If you are a small business owner or local artisan and are interested in renting a shop space, please contact Gemma Wallis on 01444 247726, email: gemma@burgesshill.gov.uk or pop in for an informal chat.



Looking to the future as we celebrate the last 25 years of service to the community, the Help Point will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the people of Burgess Hill.



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