

# SALCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009 – Issue No. 6

## Introducing the Mayor

I first came to Salcombe in August 1974 with my wife, Margaret, on our Honeymoon and was immediately smitten by the place. At that time I was running my own company in Germany. We purchased Ringstead in Coronation Road in 1975, which has always been my UK domicile. Margaret was born in Plymouth, a Pearce, with Steers and Hannafords on her mother's side, whereas I am a Yorkshire-man, (but feel at home and love living here). In 1980 we moved to Washington DC where I started a second electronics company; I was lucky enough to be named twice in the top 500 fastest growing companies in the USA, consequently the Company was purchased by a fledgling multi-national and I stayed on building a specialised global electronics division in Germany, UK & USA.

We lived in 13 different houses in 3 countries in our first 14 years of marriage but in October 2006 we moved back to Salcombe, something that was always in our plan. Two of our sons remained in the USA where they are settled; they both however refer to Ringstead as home in conversations, having enjoyed every summer here since they were born.

As your Mayor I will do my best to listen to all views, suggestions and concerns and conserve and improve our living environment in Salcombe. My telephone number is on this newsletter and both telephone and email are on the town council website and I am always walking around the town, so please feel free to broach any town related topic with me and I will do my best to get you an answer. The previous Mayor wrote in the last newsletter that things will get more difficult with spending cuts at District and County. I am hopeful that the Council can apply my business experience to gain a fair return on assets, practice zero-based budgeting, reduce overheads and monitor District, County and Police expenditure, all of which will be a benefit to the Community, especially in the present economic climate. With an active community and well organised Town Council, which has just achieved Quality status, Salcombe can emerge as a stronger, better Town.



## Quality Council Status

**Devon Association of Parish & Town Councils has awarded the Salcombe Town Council Quality Status. This is a select group of currently 30 councils from 357 total membership.**

**A BIG thank you must go to our Town Clerk, Gill Claydon, for all the hard work she put into our application for quality status.**

## Planning

Although the number of planning applications in Salcombe have dropped over the last months, in part no doubt due to the economy, the Councillors on Planning Working Group of the Town Council are still reviewing every planning application and visiting every site to report to the Full Council. This is important to ensure that the Salcombe we know and love is maintained, even improved and enhanced. We all look at buildings or works that have been done over the years, even recently, that have spoilt streets or areas. The Council may not always be successful in challenging planning applications that are not right in our view, but over the last months in discussions with planners at South Hams District Council, with architects and applicants – changes we believe have been made for the better in some applications. The Town Council have had success in a number of Planning Appeals before Government Inspectors that have turned down proposals that we felt were wrong for Salcombe – one decision was key in highlighting many of the arguments we have made against some developments that have come forward.

Recently a major step forward was made with Planners at South Hams District Council (SHDC) issuing a formal legal 'Stop' notice on a house that was being re-developed without planning permission; also an enforcement notice has been issued to remove works done at a house that went beyond the planning permission granted. This is the first time a 'Stop' notice or an enforcement notice have been issued in Salcombe. The Town Council has demanded more attention to enforcement by SHDC to make sure that building without planning permission or flouting planning regulations is taken seriously in Salcombe. If you see building works that you have doubts about let the Town Council know.

It is also important that if you are concerned about a planning proposal that you make your views known, in opposition or even maybe support. Remember you can view all planning applications on-line on the South Hams District Council website; also plans are available to look through in the Salcombe Town Council office in Cliff House, call the Town Clerk on 842282.

'A planning application is put into District Council as the Planning Authority. They then send such application out to statutory consultees to collect their comments before considering the application. Thus Salcombe Town Council receive ALL planning applications relevant to this area and consider such ahead of District Council Planning Committee. Thus any resident/landowner/developer who has put in an application who wishes to put forward a proposal or just attend and listen to discussions on their application should take note of Town Council Agendas as to when their application is to be discussed or contact the Town Clerk to ascertain the date when their application is to be considered. Everyone whether they be the applicant/architect/agent or neighbour/Salcombe resident etc are welcome to attend any Town Council meeting and put forward any comments in the Open Forum before the formal meeting is started and councillors consider such.'

### **Finance**

Since the last Newsletter the Finance Working Party has been considering grant applications and also the criteria for the paying out of grants. The main purpose of any grant is that they are awarded to meet the costs of 'Capital Items' or any unforeseen essential repairs, such as the Salcombe Swimming Pool pump; grants should not normally be paid out to cover general running expenses. This financial year grants have been given to the TIC and the Maritime Museum. At our next meeting we will be considering a grant application received from the Cliff House Trust.

The Working Party have been in negotiation with the Committees of the TIC and the Maritime Museum, who occupy the Council Hall in Market Street, which is owned by Salcombe Town Council. This is to agree the rent they will pay over the next three years. Likewise we have been looking at the rent we as a Council have to pay to the Cliff House Trust for the use of the Town Clerk's office and the Library, where we currently hold our Council meetings. Another very important task that this Working Party has been charged to look at is what land South Hams District Council may be prepared to transfer back to Salcombe Town Council and whether or not such transfers would be financially viable. We have to consider the cost of maintaining such land. The Berry is an obvious choice as we already maintain it, but the Parks may be prohibitively expensive. It would be lovely to have ownership of the Car Parks and the income they generate, but it looks unlikely that South Hams District Council would consider relinquishing them.

***Please note that the criteria for the awarding of grants, together with grant application forms, are available from the Clerk.***

### **Salcombe Conservation Area**

As you know a review of the Salcombe Conservation area is underway to produce a management plan to guide and control development, as well as look at ways of enhancing this important area of Salcombe. Many residents contributed to the initial consultation when the review commenced. To progress the review a Working Group chaired by District Councillor Bill Hitchins, made up of Town Councillors Paul Coulson, Mark Long, Roger Moore and David Stevens, together with the South Hams Council Director of Planning, Area Planning Officer, and Conservation Officer have met over the past

months to look at extending the area covered by the Conservation Area, to what steps can be taken to enhance and protect the buildings in the Conservation area, also to shape a workable management plan. We will keep you informed as the Conservation Area review progresses, any proposals will come out for consultation before being finalised.

### **Housing Land Allocation Review**

Remember we can expect in the coming months proposals for potential sites for housing in Salcombe to come out from South Hams District Council for formal consultation, keep an eye on the South Hams District Council website. The Town Council will also put any proposals that come forward on to the Town Council website, and take steps to make sure the consultation process is open to everyone. Make sure you get involved and make your views known.

### **Your help is needed to help improve our green spaces.**

The Town Council is working to prepare management plans for areas such as the Berry, Bonaventure Woods, Redfern Woods and even Shadycombe Cemetery, that will guide how we maintain and improve the green areas of Salcombe over the coming years. This may involve works on trees, tree and shrub planting, fencing, installing paths, improving habitat for wildlife, recreation facilities or just generally making sure that areas are in a good condition to be enjoyed by all for years to come.

This is where you come in, do you care about, live near or look over an area like this, would you like to get involved and help the Town Council - you can. A number of residents have already volunteered to get involved with the Council, many thanks, but we need more. Can you spare one day this winter or a few hours every now and then - to join with working parties, any help however small will be greatly appreciated.

Over this coming autumn and winter, works will be carried out by contractors on trees in Redfern Woods and Shadycombe Cemetery, and general maintenance in other areas, you can also make a difference - with your help we can give areas an extra bit of tender loving care.

The same call for help involves footpaths around Salcombe - every now and then we need to look to improve footpaths, would you like to help?

If you feel able to give your time and energy however small in helping to keep our green and open areas the way we would like to see them, give the Town Clerk a call on 842282 or Councillor Mark Long on 843828, so we can build our list of volunteers.

Mark Long together with some local residents has had talks with South Hams District Council about making sure that Hangar Marsh at North Sands is kept maintained as the important wildlife area it is. If you would like to help this winter with wildlife habitat conservation works at Hangar Marsh and can spare some time call Cllr Mark Long on 843828.

### **Overgrown Hedges.**

When a hedge or tree grows next to a pavement or footpath it can sometimes give problems to pedestrians particularly the elderly or partially sighted, but when it involves a narrow pavement it can be a danger to all. Remember if your garden or piece of land borders a pavement or footpath you are responsible for both sides of the hedge/tree and need to make sure that you keep it clear and cut back regularly. It may be at the back or side of your property in an area you may not walk – take a few moments to look and see if it is causing an obstruction or could as it grows in the spring and summer. If the property is not your main residence it is even more important to ensure you carry out these works regularly, or employ someone to do so. Thank you for your consideration of others.

### **Cllr Mrs Ann Thompson**

It is with regret that the Council announces the resignation of Cllr Mrs Ann Thompson. Cllr Mrs Thompson has served the people of Salcombe for a number of years in her roles as both Clerk to the Council and latterly as a Town Councillor. She has also been a stalwart member of the Town Regatta Committee, being one of the main driving forces behind securing the Red Arrows and their wonderful display. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Ann a happy and healthy 'retirement' and say a huge thank you for all that she has done.

## **Cllr Mrs Gaynor Tabiner & Cllr David Stevens**

Regretfully Salcombe Town Council has accepted the resignations of two long-standing members of the Council, Cllr Mrs Tabiner and Cllr Stevens. The Council would like to wish them both well for the future and thank them for their past support.

**\*\*STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS\*\***

**Salcombe Town Council now has vacancies for THREE councillors. If you think that you might be interested in being a Councillor, please contact the Town Clerk who will be happy to answer any questions and tell you how to apply.**

## **HOW TO GET IN TOUCH**

**COUNCIL MEETINGS** take place on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, commencing at 6.30pm, in Cliff House Library. At the beginning of each meeting we hold an **Open Forum** where members of the public may speak about any item on the Agenda, or raise any other urgent issues. Your opinions and ideas are important to us. So please come along and let us hear your questions or views on any topic which concerns you or which you think will benefit Salcombe.

***Please note that, as part of our commitment to further engage with the local community, some Council meetings scheduled over the winter months will be held in the hall at Salcombe C of E Primary School, Onslow Road, Salcombe.***

**THE CLERK TO SALCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL, Mrs Gill Claydon**, will be in the Council Office (behind the Library) at Cliff House each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. She will be able to let you see Planning Applications and will deal with any administrative problems or questions you may have or put you in touch with someone who can help you. Should you be unable to get to the office in person, Gill can be contacted on:

Telephone: 01548 842282      Email: [gillclaydon@salcombetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:gillclaydon@salcombetowncouncil.gov.uk)

Town Councillors can be contacted on:

Cllr Roger Moore	Mayor	01548 842006
Cllr Ms Lonija Balgalvis		01548 843910
Cllr Roger Clark		01548 842914
Cllr Paul Coulson	District Councillor	01548 842867
Cllr Lewis Dilling		01548 842921
Cllr Mrs Jean Furness		01548 843799
Cllr Mrs Jackie Lidstone		01548 844526
Cllr Mark Long		01548 843828
Cllr Mrs Tina Roberto		01548 842897

District Councillors can be contacted on:

Cllr Paul Coulson	01548 842867
Cllr John Carter	01548 562022

County Council Members can be contacted on:

Sir Simon Day	01752 691212
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**For more information on Salcombe Town Council visit our website on**  
[www.salcombetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.salcombetowncouncil.gov.uk)