



Crewkerne Town Council ANNUAL REPORT

Report No.21 -
May 2024

Crewkerne Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LN
Tel: 01460 74001 Email: towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

The Mayor's Report



Welcome to the 2023/24 edition of the Council's Annual Report, the yearly summary to keep residents informed on all the work that Crewkerne Town Council is doing on your behalf.

Enjoy reading reports from our Committee Chairs, as well as a financial report and a round up of Council achievements during this year. We continue to work with uncertainty surrounding the services currently carried out by Somerset Council, which continues to experience serious financial difficulties. We are prepared for this and in the meantime we continue to work hard to maintain our beautiful open spaces and council-run facilities.

Two new councillors have joined the team and are working hard to represent your views - welcome to Cllrs. Simon Woodland and Christine Rawe.

HONOURED CITIZENS & MAYOR'S COMMENDATION AWARD 2024



This year Crewkerne Town Council was delighted to recognise another group of citizens who have contributed to the town over many years. Sarah Langdon received a Mayor's Commendation for her work with the local Brownies and Guides. Annette Roffey was made

an Honoured Citizen for many years of volunteering with many projects and groups, and Dave Lumbard was also made an Honoured Citizen, recognising over 40 years' involvement with Crewkerne Scouts.



There has been much to celebrate, including our 50th birthday (1974-2024) and our Quality Status Award (more details further on in the report)! Please get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions about Council services.

Cllr. Alice Samuel, Mayor of Crewkerne.





**Cllr. Teresa Bond,
Chair, P& H Committee**

Planning & Highways Committee

The Planning and Highways Committee meetings continue to take place on the second Monday of each month. We always hold a public open forum at the meeting where personal representations are welcomed. The Town Council is only able to make observations and recommendations on planning applications which are taken into account when they are considered by the Unitary Authority, Somerset Council. Somerset Council takes all the decisions on the applications. The Planning & Highways Committee has considered 53 applications this year to date. We continue to meet regularly with Somerset Council Highways Officers about issues in the town.

Amenities Committee

We have had another busy year to report from the Amenities team at Crewkerne Town Council. The Lodge was refurbished and brought back into use in April as a base for our operations and grounds team. There is still some repointing work to do to the outside to ensure it survives for many years to come. The initial project scope was brought in under budget, and the remaining funds have been earmarked to pay for this work. Severalls tennis courts were both fully refurbished and are now open to the public - it is good to see so many people booking and playing, especially as the weather improves.

We were fortunate to obtain funding from the War Memorials Trust which has enabled us to carry out repointing works to the historic Severalls pillars and further funding helped with a professional cleaning, pointing and lettering of the 'Tommy' war memorial by a heritage stone mason.

October saw the first Bincombe Day since the pandemic, and we welcomed the Lord Lieutenant and many local families who enjoyed chainsaw sculptures, made charcoal and took part in woodland story telling. The new sculptures were added to the nature trail, for which we have been awarded funding to update the welcome boards and trail leaflets.

A public meeting regarding the George Reynolds Centre was well attended, and from this volunteers from sports clubs, preschool and community came forward to form a company to take on the management of the Centre going forward. This will be a complex process but regular updates will be given at Council meetings.

Finally, our weekly Wednesday market has made a welcome return to Market Square. It is operating on a trial basis, so please support it where you can. So far, we have enjoyed artisan cheese, bakery goods, preserves, wooden crafts, meats, vegan quiches and treats, fruit and veg, and hope to welcome more traders in the future.



**Cllr. Mike Best, Chair,
Amenities Committee**

Policy & Resources Committee



**Cllr. Andrea Stuart,
Chair, Policy &
Resources Committee**

The Policy & Resources Committee has continued to refresh all policies and procedures in accordance with the policy review schedule drawn up and implemented last year. Out of 45 policy documents, only 5 are now outstanding for review. This formed a key part in our submission to the Local Council Award Scheme, which resulted in CTC being awarded Quality Status; the only council in Somerset to hold this award.

The next key piece of work will be to implement the new model Financial Regulations which have recently been published.

Finance Report

The accounts for the current year, which ended 31 March 2024, will not be audited until later in the year. The final accounts will be approved at the June meeting of the Town Council. Members of the public will have the opportunity to examine the full accounts on request. Please see opposite for last year's audited statement of accounts ----->

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024 is as follows:

	Income £
Aqua Centre	1,000
Allotments	319
Bank Interest	4,444
Cemetery Income	26,744
CIL Funds	492
Events	7,754
George Reynolds Centre	26,363
Grounds Maintenance	9,902
Henhayes Car Park	5,854
Precept	527,656
Projects	2,938
Town Hall	15
Victoria Hall	9,869
War Memorial Grounds Cont	6,000
TOTAL	629,350
	Expenditure £
Aqua Centre	0
Cemetery	33,859
Events	18,813
General Administration	66,350
George Reynolds Centre	55,980
Grants	9,786
Grounds Maintenance	75,368
Projects	4,254
Public Toilets	11,505
Salaries	238,525
Town Hall	18,318
Victoria Hall	18,688
War Memorial Grounds	16,513
Youth Service	21,542
TOTAL	589,501

Statement of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2023

	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£	£
Balances b/fwd	292,164	289,899
Annual Precept	440,037	466,525
Total other Receipts	92,442	109,976
Staff Costs	186,353	219,415
Loan Int/Capital Repay't.	0	0
Total other Payments	348,392	331,032
Balances c/fwd	289,899	315,952
Total Cash & Investments	272,680	353,547
Total Fixed Assets	6,902,543	6,909,581
Total Borrowings	0	0

The External Auditor raised no matters of concern

Crewkerne and West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee (JBC)

West Crewkerne Parish Council and Crewkerne Town Council jointly own the cemetery. This dates back to 1893 when West Crewkerne joined Crewkerne in a Joint Burial Board. So, the cemetery is managed jointly by the JBC for the benefit of residents in both parishes.

The Committee meets five times each year and is responsible for overseeing the grounds maintenance, memorials and burials. This year we have had the cemetery gates refurbished, which has improved the approach to the cemetery. We are about to open two new sections; one for full burials, one for ashes and pathways to help with access are being laid. We had a very successful and well-attended open day in September, with a talk about 'Life and Death in Crewkerne' from Tracey Warren of Stoodley & Sons.

During the past year there have been 34 interments, which includes both full burials and ashes burials. 18 grave plots have been purchased.

Cllr. Julia Borland, Chair, Joint Burial Committee.



Awards to the Community - Grant Awards 2024-2025

Crewkerne Town Council's Community Grant Awards scheme opens for applications each year in September. The Town Council recognises that Community Groups find themselves facing unexpected pressures outside of this cycle and reserves a portion of the grant fund for groups to apply for this during the year. For further details please contact the Council offices.

Organisation	Purpose of grant	Award
Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre	Running costs	£500
Crewkerne in Bloom	New self-watering planters and compost	£300
Henhayes Community Centre	Running costs	£500
Merriott Majorettes	New costumes	£500
Citizens Advice South Somerset	Crewkerne Community Access Point costs	£972
Crewkerne & District Shed	Running costs	£1,000
1 st Crewkerne Scout Group	New tents	£500
Crewkerne Pegasus Karate Club	Floor mats, head guards, mitts	£1,000
CUDOS	Communication system	£200
Speedwell Club	Kitchen upgrade	£250
St Bartholomew's School	Forest School area	£250
Severalls War Memorial Gardening Group	Tools, plants and soil	£400
Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club	Improvements to ramp/seating area	£250
Phoenix Brass	New music stands	£250
Crewkerne Gardening Club	Table coverings for flower show	£200
Crewkerne Cricket Club	Renovation/weed killing of cricket square	£500
Rotary Club of Crewkerne District	Traffic management costs for the Fair	£750
Crewkerne & District Twinning Association	Hospitality for twinning visitors	£250
Rockin Daddy's Emporion CIC	PRS Licence	£207
TOTAL GRANT AWARDS		£8,779

Cllr. Contact information

Cllr. Steve Ashton
07850 960605
steve.ashton@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Mike Best
(Chair-Amenities Committee)
01460 74245
mike.best@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr. Teresa Bond
(Chair-Planning & Highways Committee)
01460 75284
teresa.bond@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Nigel Draycott
01460 74001
nigel.draycott@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Kathy Head
(Deputy Mayor, Vice Chair-Amenities Committee)
07704 197469
kathy.head@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. David Livesley
01460 74001
david.livesley@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Judith Morris
(Vice Chair-Policy & Resources Committee)
07809 404377
01460 271545
judith.morris@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Jan Nathan
(Vice Chair-Planning & Highways Committee)
07718 234421
jan.nathan@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Christine Rawe
01460 74001
christine.rawe@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Alice Samuel
(Mayor)
01460 74001
alice.samuel@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Andrea Stuart
(Chair-Policy & Resources)
07776 414267
andrea.stuart@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Simon Woodland
01460 74001
simon.woodland@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

