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An anthem for the town

At its January 2005 meeting, the Council resolved to adopt 'Bridlington Bay' as its official anthem. The seven-verse song was penned by Laurie Mitchell in 1980 and has been sung by various local choirs including the Sewerby Singers and the Quaynotes. Mr Mitchell's musical career includes his service in the band of the 5th Dragoon Guards, musical director at the Parkway Hotel in Bramhope, bass guitarist with the Edwin Harper Dance Orchestra and more recently as an organist at various clubs in Bridlington. The Council is investigating the possibility of making a recording featuring a school choir with the view to producing a CD for sale to the public.

Festival 2005 Update

The Council, on behalf of the Festival 2005 Committee, has applied for a "Home Front Recall" Lottery Grant of £15,276 to finance five events. These are the Combined Ex-Services Reunion Week End 10th to 12th June, Victory Ball 2nd July, Family Forces Day at Sewerby 3rd July, Victory Parade followed by a service and tea dance at the Spa 10th July, and Junior Schools' visits to Eden Camp. PAGER has already applied for and has been awarded a grant regarding Martongate. Our application covers the other six schools. The 16th of May will be the start of a fortnight of events, including an Old Town Commemoration, as part of the annual Arts Festival. The Harbour Commissioners are planning an open day to display the history of the harbour on the 17th and 18th of June and a boat blessing service on a date to be decided. The RNLI are having a parade, with lifeboats, to and from the Priory with a service on the 26th June to celebrate the bicentenary of the establishment of a lifeboat at Bridlington. The Lions have applied for a "Grants for All" award to enhance the Carnival on 6th of August, more floats this year please. 158 (Lissett) Squadron Association have a re-union on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th September. It was hoped to arrange a ceremony and dance on the 3rd. Unfortunately age has taken its toll and all they ask is for attendance at the memorial ceremony at Lissett church 11 a.m. on the 4th September. They were granted the Freedom of the Town in 1989 in part recognition of their Bomber Command Service during WWII, during which over 50,000 aircrew were lost. Most of the above events will proceed even if grants are not forthcoming.

Trees

Stage Two of the tree planting programme is now complete. Provision has been made for the Summer watering of new trees planted on Kingsgate, Queensgate, Scarborough Rd., Limekiln Lane and various gardens along the front by the ERYC. Householders have kindly agreed to water those trees planted in First, Third and Sixth Avenues. Crescent Garden is to have its metal railings restored. During WWII the Government removed nearly all metal railings and used them in the steel making process. Victoria Garden is also to have metal railings installed. The Town Council has been involved in the selection of some locations, but all funding has come from the Regeneration budget. Our tree budget disappeared into the Bridlington's Britain in Bloom budget. The East Riding has the least tree cover of any county in England.

England Expects...

Attempts are in hand to finance 14 x 8m flagpoles. Twelve on the seaward pavement of South Cliff Road to fly Nelson's signal to the Fleet at Trafalgar, these flags will be held horizontal and swivel with the wind. In later years national flags will be flown. One pole in Pembroke Gardens to fly the RNLI flag in celebration of the bicentenary of Bridlington's Lifeboat. The final one at Sewerby Village flying the Union Flag. Sponsorship is being sought for half the cost to be match funded from Regeneration funds. Each flagpole will carry a plaque acknowledging the sponsor.

Urban Renaissance Town Charter - The Formal Signing of the Town's Urban Renaissance Charter, by 45 members of the Town Team, was completed recently at a ceremony and Town Team meeting at the Town Hall. This formally seals the ideas and plans developed over the last 2 years for the town's 'urban realm' over the next 20-25 years. It is led and funded by Yorkshire Forward in partnership with ERYC and the Town Council, amongst others.



Representation of the People

The proposal to the East riding of Yorkshire Council to hold an Electoral Review to increase the number of councillors on the Town Council from 12 to 19 was rejected by the ERYC, because a review was carried out in 2001. That review reduced the number of Bridlington councillors on the ERYC from 9 to 8. Ward boundaries were re-drawn, including the Town Council's, which were reduced from 6 to 3. with the result of the three wards having electorates of: - Old Town 7059, North 8953 and South 11613 each being represented by 4 councillors. All these arrangements were agreed by the last Town Council. The result of halving the number of wards meant that the two by-elections held since May 2003, cost the town's council taxpayers and candidates twice as much as had the wards remained at six. Bridlington, (electorate 27,625) has the worst, by far, ratio of councillors to electorate in the East Riding. e.g. Hornsea, (electorate 6,735) 14 Cllrs, Driffield (electorate 9,747) Cllrs. 16.

Old Town Public Toilets

The kind offer of the Lord Feoffees to refurbish the toilets provided that the Town Council operates them, reactivated the subject. These toilets have been closed for three years; in the interim the Town Council has rejected an application from ERYC to demolish them, due to the building being in Conservation Area, in the hope that they might one day be re-opened. On behalf of residents and our visitors the Town Council decided to accept the offer. This has resulted in an increase in the Town Council's precept by £14,000, (£1.20 per annum on a Band D property) a generous estimate of operating costs. Sewerby Cliff public toilets remain a problem which the Town Council will endeavour to resolve.

Skatepark - Bridlington Skatepark Projects Receives Further Funding - But will it be enough!

The Bridlington Skatepark Project has received confirmation this week that it has been awarded funding from both the Peoples Places funding scheme and Living Spaces. Jon Crossley the enabler for Living Spaces said The Bridlington Urban Leisure Project is a sound project and an excellent example of a local community group seeking to create a significant environmental improvement to an underused site, which has the capacity to be very important to the whole community.

Simone Wilkinson said, the project is now in its final stages, the consultation event regarding the plans went very well, we received some constructive comments so it is now just a matter of getting all the funding in place. The Bridlington Town Council has also resolved to double its contribution should there be a shortfall in grant allocation highlighting that it is really important for everyone to work together to ensure the project is up and running for this year.

If anyone would like any further information regarding the project or can offer support in any way, please contact the Skatepark Group on 01262 608040

Quality Council - This Newsletter, along with subsequent publications, fulfills a qualification requirement, all that remains is for the Clerk to the Council to complete his portfolio of evidence of competence.

CPZ - We note, with dismay, that this scheme, which the Town Council resolved should be abolished, is about to be extended.

Speed bumps - There has been no progress in altering the off-set speed bumps along the centre of St. John's Avenue West.

No parking on grass verges - We await the erection of signs by the ERYC and enforcement of the By-Law by the Police.

The Green Howards - as yet, our invitation to exercise their right to march through the town has had no response.

Conservation - There is a proposal, that we have opposed, that all conservation issues should be decided at Beverley instead of by Area Committees, on the grounds that such issues are better resolved locally.

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