



Swanage Town Council

Annual Report 2013/14

Swanage Town Council
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Swanage Town Council
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TIC Supervisor

Mrs Carolyn Hooper

Dear Resident

As your Town Mayor I am pleased to present Swanage Town Council's Annual Report, summarising the Council's main activities during the last financial year.

During 2013/14 the Town Council again took steps to ensure that its finances were in robust shape to both continue to fund the services that it operates and plan for future investment to improve facilities for the town. To ensure that this was possible the Town Council increased its portion of the Council Tax, known as the parish precept, by 2.5%. As can be seen from the summary of accounts provided in this report the Council's other largest sources of income were car parking charges and investment income. A net surplus of £454,904 for the 2013/14 financial year enabled a contribution of £351,491 to be made to earmarked reserves to help fund future projects. Further detailed financial reports are available from the Publications and Downloads page of the Town Council's website.

The Town Council's main focus during the year was the Seafront Stabilisation Scheme, designed to provide a long-term solution to land slippage on the Recreation Ground and Downs. The seafront scheme also includes the construction of additional beach huts, a new toilet block and a permanent corner kiosk. The public consultation held during spring 2013 on the architect's initial proposals met with a largely positive response and a planning application was submitted over the summer. Following a lengthy tender process the contract was awarded in late November and work got underway in early December, with a completion date of early June 2014.

However, the project was severely hampered by the extreme wet weather over the winter months which caused a significant delay to progress and necessitated additional works to enhance ground stability. The scheme was also expanded to address the risk of land slippage in the central section beneath the war memorial, with the memorial itself being painstakingly dismantled and rebuilt nearby. These additional works are likely to add an extra £550,000 to the price of the works, which had initially been costed at £2.1 million. Although it is very disappointing that the work will continue through the summer season, the scheme will protect and enhance Swanage seafront for future generations.

This winter's weather also led to flooding and the closure of Shore Road and the Lower High Street on a number of occasions. I am very proud to say that the Town Council's workforce played a key role in supporting the Emergency Response led by Purbeck District Council. Assistance included the distribution of sandbags to local residents, the removal of damaged and fallen trees, and the clearance of debris, stones and sand from affected roads.

Although now a distant memory last summer was actually one of the sunniest in recent years and I was extremely pleased that the town's beach was once again successful in being awarded the Blue Flag and Seaside Award, as it has been again in 2014. This ensures that the beach remains a prime attraction for visitors to Swanage. The town's tourism and beach teams work extremely hard to deliver a great service and high quality environment for visitors, and these awards confirm that the beach meets the highest of standards.

Through the last year the Town Council has continued its work with Purbeck District Council and a wide range of other local organisations to develop the Swanage Local Plan, which will identify sites for new housing and additional shopping facilities. Earlier this year an extensive public consultation exercise was undertaken, generating more than 800 responses. It is an exciting prospect that we have this opportunity to shape the future of our town and thank you to all of you who responded. Work will be ongoing throughout the coming year so it is not too late to still get involved.

As I embark on my second year as Mayor, I look forward to continuing to work with my fellow councillors and the Council's dedicated workforce on behalf of this wonderful town in which we live. If you have any suggestions as to things that you think we could be doing better or differently, or improvements that you would like to see to our town then please don't hesitate to contact us.

Cllr Ali Patrick
Town Mayor

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Contact your Councillors

You may contact any of your Town Councillors to raise any issue of concern to the local community.

North Ward:

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Cllr Mrs Gloria Marsh
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South Ward:

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Cllr Ian Brown
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Cllr Mrs Ali Patrick (**Town Mayor**)
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Cllr Mike Pratt
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Summary of Annual Accounts 2013-14

The cost of the Town Council's services are summarised in the table below. For further information please either contact the Town Hall or visit the 'publications and downloads' section of www.swanage.gov.uk

2012/13 Net Expendi- ture £	Services			2013/14 Net Expendi- ture £
		Expenditure £	Income £	
372,722 Cr	Car Parks	159,779	534,833	375,054 Cr
31,224 Cr	Boat Park	16,804	47,540	30,736 Cr
124,337	Public Conveniences	131,629	29,548	102,081
2,334 Cr	Cemeteries	38,894	43,705	4,811 Cr
259,028	Parks and Operations	356,703	125,846	230,857
15,501	Beach Gardens	64,268	38,390	25,878
36,471	Beaches/Foreshore	81,818	50,396	31,422
52,683 Cr	Beach Chalets/Bungalows	30,802	78,202	47,400 Cr
82,385	Publicity/Tourism	112,875	23,935	88,940
5,243 Cr	Allotments	2,392	7,339	4,947 Cr
89,610 Cr	General Buildings & Grounds	12,572	115,181	102,609 Cr
11,217	Grants & Donations	12,980	0	12,980
328,684	Central Administration	333,853	15,818	318,035
81,091	Democratic & Corporate Management	88,004	0	88,004
6,070	Loan Repayments, Interest and Bank Charges	8,656	0	8,656
166,667 Cr	Investment Income	0	172,200	172,200 Cr
0	Council Tax Support Grant	0	41,031	41,031 Cr
224,301	Net Expenditure			128,065
364,574	Transfer to Earmarked Reserves			351,491
	Financing Capital Expenditure			15,659
608,775 Cr	Precept			582,969 Cr
19,900 Cr	General Fund Balance for Year			87,754 Cr
390,100 Cr	General Fund Balance Brought Forward			410,000 Cr
410,000 Cr	General Fund Balance Carried Forward			497,754 Cr