

Quality Update

The Official Newsletter of Bovey Tracey Town Council – Issue 34 – February 2012

BOVEY TRACEY TOWN COUNCIL – 01626 834217 – BOVEY TRACEY WEBSITE - www.boveytracey.gov.uk



Timeline of Events

The following article lays out the facts of what has happened since the initial approach by Storegap Commercial Ltd regarding the land adjacent to Le Molay-Littry Way. The Town Council considers it is very important to publish this 'time line' to provide all parishioners with a clear and accurate picture of what has happened and what is currently happening.

On 1st June 2011 Storegap Commercial Ltd, representing Sainsbury's, contacted Bovey Tracey Town Council (BTTC) requesting a slot at a meeting to make a presentation regarding Council owned land on Le Molay-Littry Way, and the possibility of putting forward a proposal regarding this land. It was agreed that the presentation could go ahead and Storegap Commercial Ltd (in the person of Tony Cook) gave a presentation to BTTC on 4th July 2011. The presentation outlined how they had identified the site and what they would like to do with this site. Following the presentation an invitation was extended by Storegap Commercial Ltd to travel to Ottery St Mary to meet members of Ottery St Mary Town Council and their Chamber of Trade to discuss the issues and processes that they had experienced during the development of a similar site in Ottery. The Council decided that the best next step would be to explore the key issues regarding such a proposal - amongst these, the impact on the town and the parish, and the legal standing of the covenant that is in place on the land in question. As such, in order to gather background information the Council agreed to undertake some fact finding activities.

10 members of BTTC, the Town Clerk as well as three representatives of Storegap Commercial travelled to Ottery on 18th August 2011. Once introductions were made the representatives of Storegap were asked to leave in order for Councillors from both Councils to have an open discussion. At no point on this trip were there any discussions regarding the proposal that had been made for Bovey Tracey other than there had been an approach by Storegap. Following this meeting, members of BTTC and Ottery Town Council visited Dawlish to look at the new Sainsbury's retail development there. It was following this meeting that a member of Ottery St Mary Town Council informed a local business man in Bovey Tracey that Sainsbury's were coming to Bovey Tracey and it was a 'done deal'. This was a completely untrue statement and has led to a lot of worried people thinking that the Town Council has in fact acted without consulting the people.

On 5th October 2011, two members of BTTC travelled to Shepton Mallet to attend a large meeting regarding the developments there and the impact of a large store on three small market towns. This was a large forum with 44 people

attending from across the South West. This had been organised by the Somerset Towns Forum. At this event there was a representative from Storegap Commercial Ltd, and representatives from other similar development companies as well as Town and Parish Councils. The two members of BTTC were not involved in any dialogue with Storegap (or any other representatives of Sainsbury's or similar type organisations) and this was just a trip to gather information and intelligence, and to hear about the experience of other towns and communities when they have had the experience this sort of development could have if it went ahead here.

On 24th October 2011 seven members of BTTC and the Town Clerk travelled to Kingsbridge to meet members of Kingsbridge Town Council and their Chamber of Trade. This was organised by the two Town Councils and was aimed at finding out the impact two major developments (Tesco & Morrison) have had on Kingsbridge, a town with similar demographics as Bovey Tracey but with a different hinterland.

Since the start of this process, the Town Council have held a partially closed meeting, which was solely for a representative of Teignbridge District Council to explain what the legal protocols are surrounding any attempt to develop a site - regardless of the purpose of the development and the possible constraints surrounding it. This meeting took place on 7th November and the reason for the closing of the meeting was because of the potentially sensitive nature of any information and advice that was being given. If it were possible to sell this land (for a development of any sort) it would have to be subject to EU procurement rules.

The meetings held on the 20th June (where the request from Storegap Commercial Ltd was raised), 4th July (where the representative from Storegap Commercial Ltd made a presentation) and 12th September (when the reports from the visits to Ottery St Mary and Dawlish were received and discussed) were partly held in closed sessions as items on the agenda. This was necessary because the discussions which took place formed part of the pre-planning process and had commercial sensitivities. The outcomes of these discussions have been recorded.

Currently, advice regarding the covenant on the land is being waited upon. This is to ensure that the advice we are given is both clear and easily understood. Once this advice has been received it will be published on the Town Council's website as well as notice boards and in the library. Depending on this advice and also advice from the Environment Agency (part of the site is in a flood plain) then there may or may not be a need

to have a public consultation. If the advice is that there is no potential use for this land other than being left fallow, then there will be nothing further to do. If advice comes back that there could be some sort of use of this land, then BTTC with the support and scrutiny of Teignbridge District Council and Devon Association of Local Councils, will undertake a full public consultation, and it needs to be a public referendum on any possible future use of this land. This would be for all residents of the Parish and would also include a postal survey to all households in the parish.

On 12th January 2012 members of the Town Council Communications Group met three members of the public to talk through concerns and issues regarding this, and this helped to clarify some of the inaccurate speculations surrounding the initial approach. On 2nd February 2012, two members of the Amenities Society met with the same Communications Group and were able to put forward many of the worries and concerns that they were aware of.

No consultation can take place until clear information has been received regarding the legal position of the land in question. BTTC does not have a view on this either way. We are aware there are both pro and anti-groups for a specific development on this site. We cannot signpost people to either group as this would obviate our impartiality in the process. Teignbridge District Council and the Devon Association of Local Councils will always act as an overview and scrutiny check in any and all of the processes regarding a public consultation.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2012

YOU ARE invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting in the Town Hall, Bovey Tracey on Wednesday 28th March 2012, starting at 7.30pm.

Please come along to see and hear about what has been happening in the Parish over the past 12 months. This will include an update on the activities of the Town Council and reports from local organisations and primary schools.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2012
(25th February – 10th March)

Don't forget to visit www.boveytracey.gov.uk for latest news on events in and around the Parish



BOVEY TRACEY TOWN COUNCIL

IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR
THE HONORARY TITLE OF

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LORD OF THE MANOR OF BOVEY TRACEY for 2012

THIS IS awarded annually at the Town Council's Annual Meeting on 14th May 2012 to a Bovey or Heathfield resident, who in the opinion of the Town Council, for whatever reason, has made a significant voluntary contribution to the Parish of Bovey Tracey over the past 10 years and should be publicly recognised for those actions.

If you know of someone who should be considered for this award, please contact the Town Council Office for a nomination form and the criteria for nomination or download a copy from www.boveytracey.gov.uk. Completed nomination forms should be returned by 31st March 2012 to

Bovey Tracey Town Council Town Hall Bovey Tracey

For any further information required, please contact:

Terry Westwood – Town Clerk
(01626 834217 - mornings only)

Bovey Tracey Youth Café Update

Bovey Tracey Youth Action (BTYA) was officially opened in 2002 and this year we are delighted to be celebrating our 10 year anniversary since opening our Café doors. The Café caters for an age range of 11 – 18 years inclusive. We maintain close links with a number of people and organisations in the area, including the Town Council, the Police, and Youth Offending Team. The Café opened in March 2002 and has been very successful in attracting young people both regular and occasional attendees; for whom the Café has rapidly become an important part of their social landscape. On average up to 30 young people attend the Café each evening. We currently open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings for young people aged 11-18 years.

We have an outstanding team of dedicated staff of various ages, from diverse backgrounds and experience including some that have, or do work professionally with young people in a variety of settings. We offer various recreational and creative activities. We receive our funding from local businesses, grant applications and the Town Council. We are continuously looking for other funding opportunities to continue our good work and have recently started to seek individual donors and wish to thank those who have recently given for their generosity. We would particularly like to thank Ros Smalley for kindly agreeing to become our patron. If you would like any further information please contact the Youth Café on 01626 832361 or email admin@btvc.wanadoo.co.uk



Don't forget to visit www.boveytracey.gov.uk for latest news on events in and around the Parish

2012 Precept - £188,855

After careful consideration, at its meeting on 23rd January 2012, the Town Council has set its precept for the next twelve months starting on 1st April 2012.

The precept is the amount of money required by the Town Council to undertake various services on behalf of residents. These include the maintenance and management of Mill Marsh Park, the Town Hall, play areas, allotments, the cemetery and other open spaces within the parish. The Town Council also financially supports the work of Bovey Tracey Youth Café and Heathfield Youth Club as well as providing a significant contribution to the Christmas lights and Bovey Tracey in Bloom. Due to continuing strong and effective financial management by the Town Council, we have been able to maintain the level of the precept at £148,855 for each of the past four years.

In November we announced that the Town Council had purchased the Old Thatched Inn site. The plans are to redevelop the site to provide a community building to contain the Bovey Tracey Information Centre, a large community space available for meetings etc. and an office for the Town Council administration. To the rear of the building, it is planned that new public toilets will be built enabling the demolishing of the existing toilet building in Station Road car park, thus enhancing the appearance of this part of Bovey Tracey for residents and visitors. The wooden buildings currently used by the Information Centre will also be removed.

To enable the rebuilding of the Old Thatched Inn to go ahead, the Town Council has agreed to apply for a Public Works Loan Board Annuity Loan of £500,000 at a fixed rate of interest to be repaid over 15 years. In terms of the amount to be repaid each year this is approximately £40,000 per year paid in ½ yearly payments. The Town Council is very much aware that to take out a loan will have an impact on each tax band of the parish precept.

Therefore after careful consideration, the Town Council has set the precept for this year at £188,855 to allow for the repayment of the loan for the rebuilding of the Old Thatched Inn. The remaining part of the precept of £148,855 will be used to maintain the current level of services provided by the Town Council as previously mentioned.

Dates for your Diary

Diamond Jubilee Street Party & Entertainment
Sunday 3rd June 2012 from 4.00pm
French Street Market – Saturday 16th June 2012
Contemporary Craft Fair 15th to 17th June 2012

Bovey Tracey Diamond Jubilee Half Marathon & Fun Run – Sunday 1st July 2012.
Download an application form from
<http://www.boveytracey.gov.uk/events-article.php?e=312>

Wray Valley Trail



The Wray Valley Trail is the walking and cycle route that links Moretonhampstead to Bovey Tracey on the old disused Moretonhampstead branch railway line. It is proposed that the route will come into Bovey beneath the bridge under the A382 from Parke into Mill Marsh Park and then through Mill Marsh Park onto Station Road. There will be an exhibition of the proposed works in Mill Marsh Park at the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 10th March 2012 as well as a small unmanned display Bovey Tracey Primary School on Friday 9th March 2012 for parents and children to see at the beginning and end of the school day. This will include some drawings and some text on the scheme.

Town Councillors Contact Numbers

Town Mayor - Robert Bray	835591
Deputy Mayor	
Anna Klinkenberg*	834328
Bovey Councillors:	
Tony Allen	836239
Uli Arnold	833376
Bob Ashby	832388
Dorreen Black	834297
Taff Evans	830347
George Gribble **	832764
Fernley Holmes*	833171
Avril Kerswell	832923
Tina Richardson	835363
Mark Tregoning	835193

Heathfield Councillors:	
David Elphick	832125
Eoghan Kelly	830369

*District Councillor ** County Councillor
Town Clerk - Terry Westwood 834217

Bovey Tracey Town Council Meetings

Starting time 7.00pm
Public Speaking Period at the start of
each meeting

19th March 2012
Annual Town Council Meeting
14th May 2012
Meetings are held in the
Town Hall - Bovey Tracey



Pottery Road Roundabout

Thanks again to Louise and Dave of the Old Cottage Tea Shop for planting the daffodils on Pottery Road roundabout. This year again they will provide a splash of colour as people enter Bovey Tracey

