



Biddulph Town Council Update

A reminder that we have new contact details.:

You can contact us at: 01782 498480 or email office@biddulph-tc.gov.uk

We also add regular updates to our Facebook page: 'Biddulph Town Council' or Twitter 'BiddulphTC'.

The Biddulph Artisan Market

The first Artisan Market of the year was held on 7 May and was combined with a Covid vaccination day at the Town Hall. The High Street was busier than it has been for a long time, and it was really lovely to see!



We used the Town Hall frontage to make a 'market square' feel, and covered the grassed area with a special matting to protect it. There was hand sanitiser at various locations and social distancing measures were in place. Markets over the coming months will be on the

first Friday of the month - 4 June, 2 July and 6 August. When you feel able to join us, we look forward to seeing you.

We have some new businesses on the High Street, and lots of returning bespoke traders. It's great to see so many return, particularly after the challenging few months we have all had. We wish you the very best of luck! Please come and see them next time you are in town.



The end of virtual meetings?

Government was unable to extend the emergency legislation which enabled town and parish councils to meet virtually. This means that we must return to face-to-face meetings in order to make decisions. We're very disappointed by this, as we had more people than ever before getting involved in Town Council business. There was a High Court challenge to extend the legislation, but the court concluded that:

"... the Secretary of State was correct in November 2016 and July 2019 to say that primary legislation would be required to allow local authority "meetings" under the 1972 Act to take place remotely. In our view, once the Flexibility Regulations cease to apply, such meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location; attending a meeting at such a location means physically going to it; and being "present" at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location."

We are now looking at ways to hold meetings where all the attendees are physically in the same space. We are mindful that some Councillors and the public are still shielding and we're also aware that social distancing requirements remain in place for now. Our hope is that in June we can meet face-to-face again. We feel very strongly that a virtual element should be included in all future meetings. As a result, we are investigating ways for the Town Council to continue with a hybrid system of meetings to ensure that we can continue to involve people in local democracy.



Virtual meetings will be coming to an end



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A new Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Biddulph Town Council held the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday 4 May to elect a new Mayor and to approve the constitution that forms the basis of the Town Council's core documents and processes. Councillor Sylvia Rushton was elected Mayor and Councillor Jim Garvey will be the Deputy Mayor. If you would like the Mayor (and Town Crier) to attend an event, please get in touch as soon as you can.



Tenders and opportunities

We have a number of opportunities that will be added to the Town Council website over the coming weeks:

- Management of the bar in the Town Hall
- Installation of new lighting at the front of the Town Hall
- Grass-cutting at Springfield Road
- Provision of a Lengthsman service

For more information, please look at <https://biddulph.co.uk/vacancies-tenders/>

Grants

Grants are allocated in June each year. Applications are welcome for grants between £30 and £2,000. Larger amounts may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Only one application will be considered per organisation. You will find further information here: <https://biddulph.co.uk/grants/>

Please complete applications by Friday 11 June 2021.

Dementia Action Week (20-26 May)

From Monday 20 May to Sunday 26 May, it's Dementia Action Week. Every three minutes, someone in the UK develops dementia. This means almost all of us knows someone affected by dementia - a family member, customer or member of staff - and it doesn't just affect old people. Too many people living with dementia report feeling cut off from their community, losing their friendships and facing the disease alone. Having dementia shouldn't mean an isolated life.



Biddulph Town Council is committed to helping those living with Dementia and their families and carers. We are proud to be working towards being a Dementia Friendly Community and have recently been making some changes to the Town Hall signage, to make it easier for people who are experiencing dementia. We look forward to the return of our popular Cinema events that are open to all but suitable for those experiencing Dementia.

We continue to make Dementia Friends to help support those in our community. If you or your workplace would like to become a Dementia Friend please do get in touch.

Look out for useful information during Action Week!

Useful Information

Here are the telephone numbers of the other Councils in the area:
Staffs Moorlands District (Council Tax, bins, Environmental Health) 0345 605 3010
Staffordshire County Council (Highways, Social Services, Libraries) 0300 111 8000

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The Caravan Storage Centre. Opposite Tesco
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Tel: 01782 787887

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