



DISS AHEAD

AUTUMN 2006



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DISS AHEAD is published
quarterly by

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Honorary Citizen 2006

Mr Mike Booty, Musical Director of the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band became the eleventh Honorary Citizen of Diss when he was presented with a framed scroll of honour at a reception held at the Corn Hall following the Town Council Meeting on 19th July.

Due to his efforts the Band has been involved in a residential weekend with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and has toured in Holland and Germany. Mike, who has been involved with the Band for over 30 years, was a popular choice for this honour because of his commitment to the young people of the Band, helping to teach them the qualities of confidence and discipline and creating a Band that the Town can be proud of.



Mr Mike Booty and his wife at the presentation Ceremony at the Corn Hall

NEWS UPDATE



Park Kiosk Open for Business

Visitors to the Park will have noticed that the Park Pavilion Kiosk is once again open for the sale of refreshments. The franchise has been taken over by Mr Bernie Elvin assisted by his associate Elsie and is open every day from 10am – 4.30pm. The Town Council welcomes the use of these facilities again not only because visitors to the Park can get a welcome drink or ice cream but it also means there is someone in the Park during the day to report any problems or incidents which may occur. Bernie is also on duty for the Music events during the summer which has proved very popular with performers and audiences alike.

Vacancy for Town Councillor

Are you passionate about the town of Diss? Do you care about its future? Would you like to be involved in decision making that affects the residents of the town? If you answered yes to all three above, then why not put your name forward for consideration? No by-election has been called so the Town Council is able to co-opt a new member, who will then have to stand for election along with all other Councillors at the 4-yearly elections to be held in May 2007. If you are interested in joining an active, motivated and dedicated Council, are over 21, are a British/Commonwealth citizen, live or work within three miles of the Parish Boundary, have not been declared bankrupt within the last eight years and have no recent criminal convictions, then please write to the Town Clerk at the address given, explaining a little about yourself, how long you have lived/worked in Diss, why you would like to become a Councillor, and what you feel you have to offer your community and the Council.

Gifts to the Town Council



At the July Council Meeting Town Councillors were delighted to hear of two gifts which had been donated to the Town Council. The first was from Diss Infants School who gave a book about Diss with pictures and poems by the children. The book will be presented to the Library for display in the children's section.

The second item was an 1811 Diss Minted coin to be donated by Charles Michell, Chairman of Suffolk County Council. Councillors are hoping that Councillor Michell will come in person to a Town Council meeting to present the coin and that it will then be displayed in Diss Museum.

Council Information Centre 1st Anniversary

It hardly seems possible but nearly a year has passed since the official opening of the Council Information Centre in Diss in October 2005. Staff at the centre have been very busy with an increasing number of enquiries and undertaking training to take on new responsibilities for the District and County Councils. One of the busiest times has been in March and April when all current bus passes for the area had to be renewed and the new free scheme was introduced. Customers have commented on the advantages of being able call into the Diss office rather than travelling to Long Stratton. New services available include assistance with completion of Blue Disabled Badge applications online and providing detailed information and availability checks for Adult Education courses throughout Norfolk. Staff member Amanda Osborne says "It has been a busy year but I have really enjoyed welcoming customers old and new to the centre, I have had a great variety of enquiries most of which I have been able



to answer and others which have been more challenging. For example does anyone know where to find a stilt walker to hire?"

Cittaslow Update

Funding of £146,000.00 is being sought from LEADER + to spend on Cittaslow Projects agreed by the Cittaslow Steering Committee. LEADER + is a body which provides European funding for projects which are shown to enhance the local countryside and historic environment, increase local economic benefits from tourist and recreational activity and improve links between market towns and surrounding areas. Diss Town Council and South Norfolk District Council have agreed to contribute £20,000.00 each to the funding to enable the bid to proceed. The projects outlined are:

- Recruitment of a Co-ordinator to oversee projects and secure further funding.
- Re-branding Diss with new signage to attract visitors to the Town
- A Diss Cittaslow website
- A directory of businesses committed to the Cittaslow ideals
- Creation of an Open Food Co-op
- A Clay Lump construction project to document and preserve this distinctive style of building in the local area and provide training and advice to local trades people.



Park Road Car Park

Readers of the local press will have seen much discussion on the problems of anti social behaviour in the Park Road Car Park. The problem is caused by drivers of cars playing loud music and speeding around the car park late into the night disturbing the residents of Parkside Court which adjoins the car park. Various solutions have been attempted in the past including police patrols, writing to the registered keepers of the cars and installing an access ramp at the entrance to the car park to restrict entry by lowered cars. None of these measures have had much success so the latest solution suggested by the Police is to close the car park between the hours of 7pm and 8am by constructing barriers across the entry to the car park. The Town Council has considered this idea and believes that it will not be an effective or desirable solution to the problems for a number of reasons. Firstly erecting barriers at the entrance to the car park will be costly to install, subject to vandalism, and will not be effective in stopping cars entering the car park as all they have to do is to drive onto the grass at the side of the park to access the car park. Also it could cause problems for people who park in the early evening and come back to find that their cars are locked in the car park. If the offending cars are precluded from using this area then they will simply move to another car park and before long all the car parks in Diss will be locked and barred every night. Finally the car park is used by visitors to the Park on summer evenings and people attending functions at the Park Hotel. The general consensus arrived at is that a more effective means of dealing with this problem would be to work with local youths to try and find a long term solution, although this is easier said than done. The Town Council intends to work with the Police to find other ways of alleviating this problem and if you have any suggestions please contact one of the Town Councillors or the Police.



Meet the new member of our Maintenance Team

The new post of Working Maintenance Foreman has been taken up by Robert Ludkin who joined the Town Council team in April and has quickly established himself as a popular and versatile member of staff. Robert is a qualified electrician and has worked in a number of management positions most recently at T&P Fire Division Ltd. He has a particular interest in Health & Safety the knowledge and experience of which will be of great benefit to the Town Council.

Play equipment in the Park

The new swings which were installed in the Park in July have been well used by children during the summer holidays and the Town Council is now looking to redesign the whole play area with new equipment, retaining only the new swings, aerial runway and basketball area, and to also incorporate provision for older children in the scheme.

To do this the Town Council will be carrying out a consultation to find out whether a new play area is wanted by the children and parents of Diss and surrounding area and if so, what should be incorporated in the new scheme.

Please complete the questionnaire below and return it to the Town Council Offices to enable us to create an exciting play area for our children to enjoy.



Questionnaire
Your Play Area – Your opportunity to tell us what you want

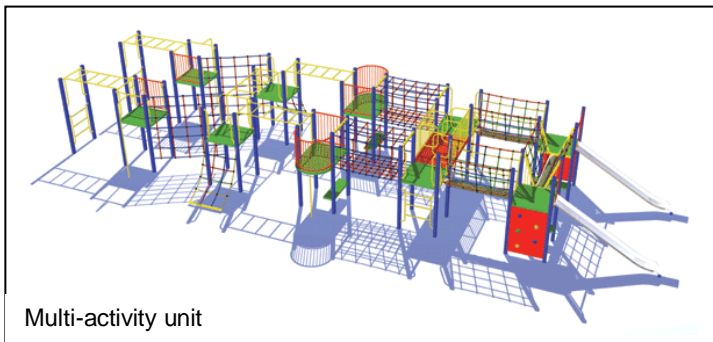
1. Do you support Diss Town Council in its proposal to scrap all existing play equipment excluding the new swings, aerial runway and basketball area and replace with a whole new scheme? YES NO

2. If YES do you agree with the inclusion of the following in the scheme?

- A fenced off Toddler area incorporating swings and other equipment with seating for parents/carers? Strongly agree Agree Disagree

- One or more multi-activity units for 6-12 year olds (see possible design below of multi- activity units and rock & cross unit)

Strongly agree Agree Disagree



- A Football wall for the older age group Strongly agree Agree Disagree

3. What other equipment would you like to see in the Toddler area?

4. What other equipment would you like to see for the 6-8 year old age group?

5. What other equipment would you like to see for older children?

6. Any other suggestions?

All members of the public are welcome to attend all Meetings of the Town Council which are held at Diss Corn Hall.. Because the Council Chamber is not yet fully accessible, we will be happy to move the venue of a meeting to accommodate the needs of those with mobility problems. Full details of meetings and agendas for discussion are available from the Town Clerk and are published on the public notice board outside the Council Offices five days in advance of the meeting.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR.	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Properties Committee (Meets at 7:15pm)	-	1 st	-	5 th	-	7 th	-	2 nd	-	4 th	-	6 th
Project Development & Leisure Committee (Meets at 7:15pm)	4 th	-	1 st	-	3 rd	-	5 th	-	6 th	-	1 st	-
Amenities Committee (Meets at 7:15pm)	11 th	-	8 th	-	10 th	-	12 th	-	13 th	-	8 th	-
Planning Committee (Meets at 6:30pm)	4 th 18 th	1 st 15 th	1 st 15 th	5 th 19 th	3 rd 17 th	7 th 21 st	5 th 19 th	2 nd -	6 th 20 th	4 th 18 th	1 st 15 th	6 th 13 th
Highways Committee (Meets at 10:00am)	25 th		22 nd		24 th		26 th		27 th		22 nd	
Full Council (Meets at 7:15pm)	18 th	15 th	15 th	19 th	17 th	21 st	19 th	-	20 th	18 th	15 th	13 th

If you have any issues that you would like raised at a meeting of the Town Council or one of its Committees, please contact one of your local Town Councillors (details below). For matters relating to South Norfolk District Council (based at Long Stratton), please contact your local District Councillor and for County Council matters (based at County Hall, Norwich), please contact your local County Councillor. If you need assistance, the staff at the Town Council Offices will be happy to direct you to the appropriate elected Councillor.

Town Councillors' Contact Details			
Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Clark-Taylor, Brian	17 De Lucy Close, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4YL.	642085	elaineandbrian@sherland.freemove.co.uk
Cooper, David	15 Walcot Road, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4DB.	652717	d_cooper_town@yahoo.co.uk
Henderson-Gray, Paula	Entry House, The Entry, Diss IP22 4NT	642858	paulahendersongray@hotmail.com
Kitchen, Adrian	14 Roydon Road, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4LW.	642468	adrian_kitchen@hotmail.com
Maskell, John	12 Louies Lane, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4LR.	652576	-
Olander, Simon	5 Sycamore Way, DISS. Norfolk, IP22 4ZD.	641007	olander007@aol.com
Oxley, Richard	c/o Town Council Offices	652285	towncouncil@diss.gov.uk
Palmer, Anthony	8 Gainsborough Avenue, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4YR.	640925	tonybettypalmer@aol.com
Thurston, Andrew	Priory Wall House, 1 Clarke Close, Palgrave, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 1BE.	640789	thurston@priorywallhouse.freemove.co.uk
Trippett-Jones, Jane	3 Orchard Grove, Diss IP22 4LX	652352	jtrippettjones@aol.com
Walden, Glyn	6 Walcot Rise, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4PD.	644013	glyn@teachpe.com
Wenman Trevor	2 Walcot Rise, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4PD.	641423	trevorwenman@btinternet.com
Vacancy			

District Councillors' Contact Details for Diss			
Clark-Taylor, Brian	17 De Lucy Close, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4YL.	642085	bctaylor@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Proudlove, John	2 Millway Avenue, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4QL	650756	jproudlove@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Palmer, Tony	8 Gainsborough Ave, Diss, Norfolk IP22 4YL	640925	tpalmer@s-norfolk.gov.uk

County Councillor's Contact Details for Diss			
Chamberlin, Jenny	Flat 3 Chapel Street, Diss IP22 4AN.	642740	jennifer.chamberlin@norfolk.gov.uk

Diss Farmers' Market
ALL YOUR FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE AT THE DISS FARMERS' MARKET SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
7.00AM TILL 1:00PM IN THE MARKET PLACE
 Operated by Diss Town Council in association with local producers
 For further information contact the Town Council Offices.

Diss Friday Markets
Every Friday in the Market Place and Market Hill
Established for over 500 years
 For Further information contact the Town Council Offices.