



# ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011

Much has happened in the Town since the Annual report of 2009/10 at the Annual Town Meeting last year.

Firstly, two valued members of the Council passed away this year, Cllr Mike Reilly in June, and Cllr Tony James in the Autumn. They were greatly missed by Council.

Cllrs Ann Mitchell and Helen Kane were welcomed to the Council during the year and have made a great start contributing to the work of the Council.

The Town Show was a great success again, with Saturday being the really busy day, and slightly quieter on the Sunday due to an England game in the World Cup Finals.

Waltham Abbey in Bloom was another success with attracting a large number of colourful entries. Entry forms for this year's competition are available from the Town Hall, the Tourist Information Centre and from the Web Site.

The Town Council were delighted to host the UK stopover for the Monte Carlo Rally for historic marques one very cold night in January. There was an amazing atmosphere in and around the town hall overnight, as Waltham Abbey welcomed rally drivers from all over the world.

The Olympic Games site for the White Water Canoe events is now complete and due to open to the public on 22nd April. The first raft down the course was waved off by HRH Princess Anne in December 2010.

The Town Council has also been working closely with District Council to enhance the town ready for the Olympics, and perhaps even more importantly, the legacy usage of the white water site. The two councils have agreed that some of the planning gain from the Lidl development should be spent directly on public projects in the town centre. The Town Council has produced a list of proposed projects, consulted with other organisations within the town, and is looking forward to getting some of these projects

started in the very near future.

Finally, after much work by both Councilors and Officers, and support from District Council, funding was finally secured for the new skate/bike park on Town Mead. Construction is nearing completion, and will be a great addition to the facilities on the field, and no doubt will be well used. A formal opening event is in the process of being arranged.

Enhancements have also been made to the baseball diamond on Town Mead, home to the Essex Arrows. There are now dugouts, "bleachers" and batting cages. The team are doing great work amongst the young people of the town, and now have several young teams.

The Town Council and the District Council are also working together to install a new state of the art artificial pitch on Town Mead. This is scheduled to commence in the very near future, with completion in the summer.

The Town Council was saddened to see the closure of the Larsens Social Club at the end of 2010, but hopefully, the new lessee of the building will move the Club forward.

The Town Council was also represented in the Town Twinning visit to Hörstel in September. Both the Leader of Council, and the Town Clerk, travelled to Germany to meet with our twinning friends. We were also delighted to welcome a return visit in late November, and to meet with old (and new) friends.

The Horstel visit here also coincided with the switch on of the festive lights, but, unfortunately this year, there was no Cavalcade. Due to health and safety issues in Sun Street, and additional costs, it was not safe to hold the event this year. Funding was put forward in the budget for the Cavalcade event for next year, so all being well, we will once again see the parade down Sun Street. Some extra funding was made available to increase the festive lighting around Foxes Parade and the entry into Sun Street.

*APRIL 2011*

## **Inside this issue:**

Policy & Resources	2
Leisure & Community	2
Development & Environment	2
Annual Town Meeting Agenda	3
Contact Details	4
Finances	4

**Presented by**  
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Play facilities: Due to a successful funding bid, through the District Council, enhancements are to be made to the children's play area on Larsens playing fields.

Another funding bid was successful from the Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund, to install a toddlers' play area in Ninefields. Consultations are

proceeding at the moment.

So as we approach a new municipal year we must look to the future and work together for the betterment of Waltham Abbey. The town has so much to offer and if we all work together we can make Waltham Abbey a town to be proud of.

## Policy & Resources Committee - Chair, Cllr Antony Watts

The primary function of this committee is the finances of the Council. This year, the Committee has seen some difficult decisions being made, due to the current economic climate. At every meeting the committee received a budget monitoring report, to ensure sound financial management.

The budget along with the precept demand was discussed by this committee in December/January, and both the internal and external audits have been completed. There was a budget of £6,000 to allocate for grant aid applica-

tions, with a number of local organisations receiving a cheque.

This committee also saw the introduction of the new Five Year Strategic Plan, and the adoption of several new policies including Anti-Fraud & Corruption, and a whistle blowing policy.

Due to a serious incident that occurred during a function at the Cornmill Suite, this committee also decided upon moving the actual bar within the bar area. This has created another useable room as well as securing the health and safety of employees.

## Leisure & Community Committee - Chair, Cllr Pat Brooks

This Committee has had a busy year, managing the Councils recreation sites, events, and tourism to name a few of the functions of this committee.

New developments, such as the skate/bike park, and the proposed golf driving range, have been considered by this committee this year. Management outside areas have also been undertaken, with the committee being delighted to access funding to enable enhanced play facilities at Larsens, and Ninefields.

The allotment sites have been well-maintained this year, with new water tanks installed at Caper-shotts and Longfields allotments. The committee are also delighted to hear that the Tennis Club have received a grant to improve the surface of all

the courts on Larsens.

Town Council events have been successful this year, including the Town Show, the overnight stopover for the Monte Carlo Rally, and several cinema screenings at the Town Hall. The Town Crier quarterly newsletter has been issued and delivered to every household in the parish. Close links are maintained with other organisations within the town, including the Town Partnership and the Neighbourhood Action Panel and the various Residents Associations.

It is envisaged that The Olympic Games will play a considerable part in next years work for this committee.

## Development & Environment Committee - Chair, Cllr Syd Stavrou

It has been another busy year for this committee. The Planning Sub-Committee has considered approximately 250 planning applications this year.

Other matters discussed by this committee include highways matters, such as temporary road closures, and street lights. The committee are also pleased to report that an application for Community Initiative Fund (Highways) was successful and that we are awaiting the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign in the very near future. Also, we are awaiting the installation of a pedestrian

barrier on Market Place to prevent people rushing through the Welsh Harp archway into incoming traffic. Councillors have been actively lobbying for the installation of traffic calming measures around the town.

Other matters considered are street cleaning and public transport issues, including bus services. This committee may have several important issues to consider in the following year.

# WALTHAM ABBEY



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

### THE TOWN HALL

16th May 2011 – 7.30pm

### AGENDA

1. **Welcome:** The Mayor
2. **Introductions:** Introduction of Members
3. **Apologies for Absence:**
4. **Approval of Annual Town Meeting Minutes – 20th May 2010**
5. **Annual Report 2010/11:** Presentation by Cllr Stuart Pryde, Leader of Council
6. **Presentation of Grant Awards**
8. **Public Question Time:** Members of the public are invited to ask questions  
specific to the town.
9. **Close:**

**Cllr R Gadsby**

**Town Mayor**

**1st April 2011**

# COUNCILLORS

## **Waltham Abbey Town Council**

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### **Town Clerk**

**Mrs Kathryn Richmond**

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Cllr Ann Mitchell, 19 Takeley Close, Waltham Abbey EN9 1QH  
Cllr Stuart Pryde, 49 Amesbury, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3LH  
Cllr Syd Stavrou, Pine Lodge Riding Centre, Springfield Farm, Lippitts Hill,  
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Cllr Antony Watts, 9 Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3AN  
Cllr Liz Webster, Scatterbushes, Fernhall Lane, Waltham Abbey EN9 3TJ

**Finances - Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer**