



Telscombe Town Council Annual Report 2007/2008



Message From the Mayor - Councillor James Page

Dear Resident

This has been the first year of a new administration for Telscombe and for some of us our first year of being a Councillor. I would like to thank the previous administration for all their years of service and hard work for the town. I see it as important to remember that we are elected by you the residents to serve you and that has been our prime aim in the first year of office and will continue to be for future years.

As a resident of the area all my life I am very aware of the attractive and diverse nature of our town from the historic downland village of “old” Telscombe to the desirable residential areas of Telscombe Cliffs and East Saltdean. This diversity makes it an attractive area in which to live and work and the Town Council is committed to help maintain and promote all that is best about the town.

The Tye has been a major issue for the Council during 2007- 2008. By resolute action including taking professional legal advice, the Council has minimised the financial impact on the Town of the costs associated with the removal of the bunding from the Tye. Satisfactorily resolving issues associated with the Tye will be a priority for this administration. The Town Council is committed to protecting this unique area of open space for the perpetual enjoyment of residents and visitors. Financial provision has been set aside in the Council’s budget to help ensure that Council decisions associated with the Tye are properly informed and underpinned by quality professional advice.

There cannot be many towns on the edge of major cities with such an abundance of green space. In addition to the Tye the Town can boast Chatsworth Park with its mature semi rural landscape and two well equipped and popular play spaces. In addition the Robert Kingan play space in East Saltdean is well used by residents and visitors. The Town Council is committed to maintain these valuable community facilities for the enjoyment of existing and future residents. The Council has commenced a long term financial strategy to help ensure that the town’s playgrounds and play equipment continue to be attractive and stimulating facilities.

The Town Council will continue to put forward residents’ views in respect of local strategic developments that although not located in the town, will impact on its environment. These include the proposed new waste water treatment works in Peacehaven and the ongoing work to improve the A259. The Town Council is fortunate in having two County and two District Councillors who can represent the views of residents across all tiers of local government.

To help improve communications with residents the Council have made financial provision for the production of a regular civic newsletter to be delivered free to all homes in the Town. Councillors will be available for residents to contact at new drop-in surgeries to be held in the Civic Centre on Saturday mornings. An upgraded interactive website is also planned to help provide residents with details of local events and provide links to a range of services. Successful events for residents will continue to be promoted by the Town Council with plans for a further Fireworks event on the Tye and continued free entertainment evenings new monthly bingo evenings are also planned. The Council is committed to improving its own facilities and services and engaging with partners to enhance the local environment. The recent completion of a new accessible reception counter is designed to improve the range of information provided at the Civic Centre in respect of all 3 local government tiers and local statutory and voluntary organisations. The reception refurbishment was undertaken by myself, the Deputy Mayor and a volunteer resident, Mr R McKellar.

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed being your Mayor this year. I would also like to thank all those who have been involved in setting the course for the new administration. I particularly want to thank my wife Mandy for all her help and support, Councillor Brenda Sawyers for her hard work as Deputy Mayor, together with all Councillors and Council staff for their commitment and hard work during my first year of office.

Councillor James Page
Mayor

June 2008



GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Town Council is committed to supporting local voluntary and charitable organisations across a wide range of activities. These organisations provide valuable services and support to local residents and help enhance the whole community of Telscombe. The Council has given grants to the following during 2007-2008:-

The Lewes and District Citizens Advice Bureau

Peacehaven and District Rainbows and Brownie Guides

Telscombe Parish Hall

Friends of Telscombe Tye

Meridian Coast and Downs Mature Citizens Forum

Telscombe Residents Association

Vitalise (holidays for the disabled people)

Girl guiding in the UK

Newhaven Cricket Club

Telscombe Village Club

The Rotary Club

Peacehaven and Telscombe Good Companions Club

Meridian Athletic Football Club

Ambulance Responders Scheme

Peacehaven and Telscombe Bowls Club

Guest House story telling group

FINANCE

The Town Council's financial strategy is to continue investment in maintaining its public property and facilities future investment in technology is planned to improve communications with residents and local partners. The Council is aware of its responsibility to maintaining a prudent cost conscious approach to expenditure. The accounts for the year 2007/08 are set out below:-

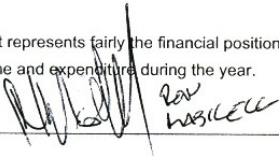
Telscombe Town Council-31.3.2008

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2008

<u>31st March 2007</u>		<u>31st March 2008</u>	
	Current Assets		
1,281	Debtors	1,246	
3,526	Vat Refunds	3,723	
30	Prepayments	0	
3,525	Combined Bank Accounts	3,840	
0	Petty Cash	51	
79,000	Treasury Reserve 2	65,000	
75,500	Treasury Reserve 1	99,500	
35	Petty Cash	0	
<u>162,897</u>		<u>173,360</u>	
<u>162,897</u>	Total Assets	<u>173,360</u>	
	Current Liabilities		
7,957	Creditors	39,382	
33,225	Accruals	0	
<u>41,182</u>		<u>39,382</u>	39,382
<u>121,715</u>	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>133,977</u>	<u>133,977</u>
	Represented By		
110,615	General Fund	58,977	
2,000	Newsletter	2,000	
6,000	Park Refurbishment	12,000	
3,100	Civic Centre Maintenance	5,000	
0	Information Technology	10,000	
0	Telscombe Tye	40,000	
0	Minute Binding	1,000	
0	Cameras and Security	5,000	
<u>121,715</u>		<u>133,977</u>	

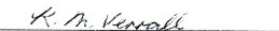
The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2008 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

Signed :
Chairman

 *Row HASSELL*

Date 15 July 2008

Signed :
Responsible
Financial Officer

 *K. M. Kennell*

Date 15 July 2008

FINANCE (Contd)

Telscombe Town Council-31.3.2008		
Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended : 31st March 2008		
31st March 2007		31st March 2008
	Income Summary	
219,316	Precept Received	244,624
7,713	Interest Received	10,160
<u>227,029</u>	Sub Total	<u>254,784</u>
	Operating Income	
3,433	General Administration	5,398
1,000	Telscombe Village Club	0
4,950	Amenities General	0
24,033	Civic Building	15,269
9,424	Planning and Highways	8,743
<u>269,869</u>	Total Income	<u>284,194</u>
	Running Costs	
105,000	General Administration	111,524
13,125	Grants	14,068
0	Section 137	200
1,410	Telscombe Village Club	1,558
4,783	Town Events	4,168
46,519	Parks, Open Spaces/Playgrounds	42,704
4,125	Amenities General	1,605
35,837	Civic Building	40,542
15,702	Civic Building Loan	15,279
36,822	Planning and Highways	40,284
0	Loans	0
<u>263,324</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>271,932</u>
	General Fund Analysis	
115,170	Opening Balance	110,615
269,869	Plus : Income for Year	284,194
<u>385,039</u>		<u>394,809</u>
263,324	Less : Expenditure for Year	271,932
<u>121,715</u>		<u>122,877</u>
11,100	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	63,900
<u>110,615</u>	Closing Balance	<u>58,977</u>

WHAT WE DO

The Town Council as the closest local authority to the residents of Telscombe is committed to making its services and information accessible to all residents. The Council acts as a contact and liaison point for information and services provided by the District, County Council and local voluntary organisations.

ROOM HIRE

The Civic Centre has a wide range of modern, attractive, affordable and flexible accommodation for hire. The centre can provide an ideal room for a small meeting or a large function such as an exhibition, reception or party. The Civic Centre has two well-equipped kitchens for self-catering events. Reduced hire charges are available for local community groups. Please contact the reception desk for booking information.



CIVIC CENTRE RECEPTION

The Town Council operates a reception and enquiries point between 9.30am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday at the Civic Centre. In addition to being able to book meeting and function rooms in the Civic Centre, enquiries staff will assist in answering queries and provide contact details in respect of services provided by the District and County Councils. A notice board, information table and display stand are available for local groups to display information in the reception area.



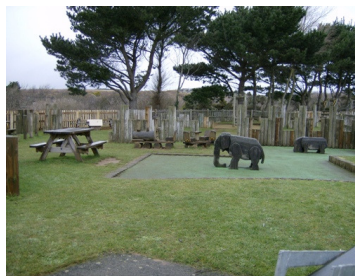
COUNCIL INFORMATION

The Town Council has five outside notice boards across the Town and in Telscombe Village. These are used to advertise forthcoming Council meetings and community events. In addition the Town Council publishes a quarterly newsletter called The Town Crier. This newsletter gives details of Council meetings local news and events. The Town Crier is distributed free to all Telscombe addresses. Plans are also underway for providing an improved interactive website for the Council to provide information and seek residents' views.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Town Council maintains three play spaces, two in Chatsworth Park and the Robert Kingan playground in East Saltdean. The Council also maintains Chatsworth Park as a natural open space in a residential area for recreation and relaxation.

Telscombe Tye is an area of important environmental and historic open space in the Town Council's ownership. Much controversy has surrounded the area in recent years in respect of fencing, grazing and the installation and subsequent proposed removal of bunding. The establishment of a sustainable management plan to ensure the area is accessible and can be enjoyed by residents and visitors is a key prosperity of the Council.

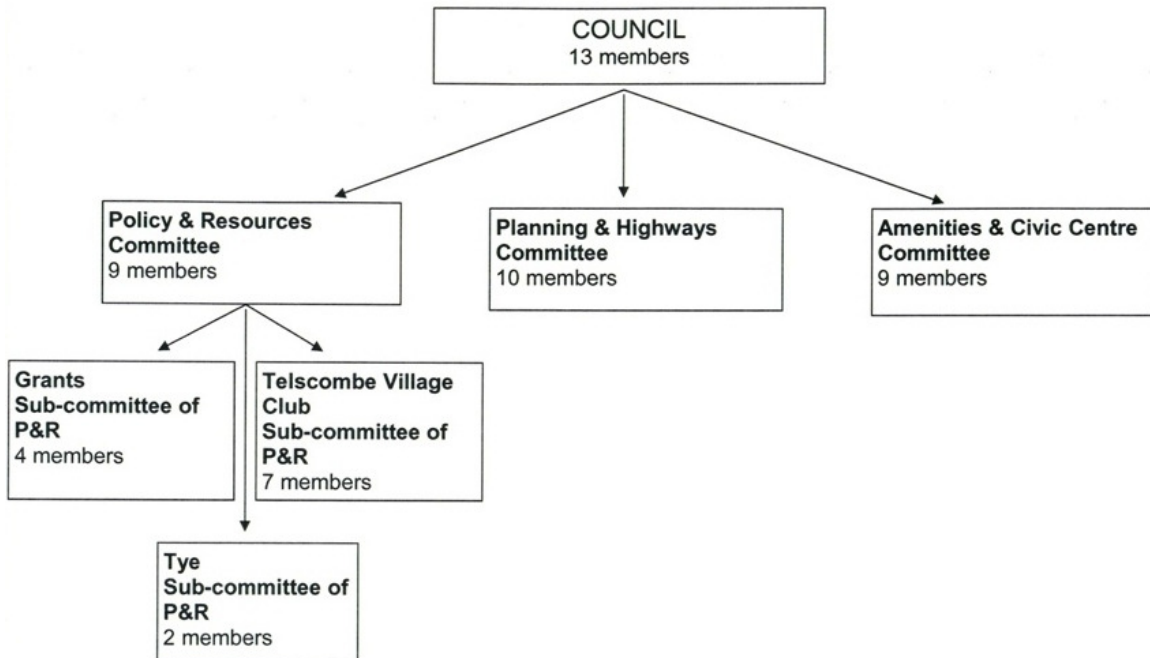


PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to giving financial support to local voluntary organisations the Town Council contributes funding for additional cutting of the grass verges in the Town. The County Council undertakes this work. The Council also contributes funding to the Police to help provide additional coverage from the local Police station. The Council holds and provides information from the District Council for local residents to access in respect of planning applications and decisions that relate to property in the area.

HOW THE COUNCIL WORKS

Town Councillors sit on a number of Committees and sub Committees that concentrate on specific areas of the Town Councils work. Meetings of the Town Council, Committees and sub Committees are open to the public. Prior to meetings a period of time is set aside for public question time. A diagram setting out the current Committees is set out below:-



DETAILS OF YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS ARE SET OUT BELOW

Councillors – Telscombe Cliffs Ward



Tim Armour
01273 302486



Ray Field
01273 582882



Phil Howson
01273 581612



John Livings
01273 583975



Ron Maskell
01273 585819



David Neighbour
01273 582509



James Page
01273 579380



Brenda Sawyers
01273 584785

Councillors – East Saltdean Ward



Tim Banning
01273 308369



Lynda Hallett
01273 583501



Job Harris
01273 583050



Marina Pepper
To be advised



Brian Page
01273 302220

Civic Centre Staff

Town Clerk – Martin Duckworth
Assistant Town Clerk – Mrs Stella Newman
Admin – John Baldwin
Caretaker – Gerry Barrett
Building Officer – Dennis Over

Contact The Town Clerk or Civic Centre staff on 01273 589777
Enquiries Office at the Civic Centre open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm
E-mail: enquiries@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk