



THE MAYORAL YEAR



Photo © Karen Whittaker

What an amazing time I have had since May 2019 when I was sworn in as Mayor of Romsey.

I have had the opportunity to meet so many people who make up the community of Romsey and through this, I have been made aware of how much good work is being done by volunteers in the town and surrounding areas to help and support those who may not be as fortunate as they are. The best thing is that everyone is happy to put on events and functions to raise funds and I have been to some wonderful events, concerts in Romsey Abbey put on by local choirs and orchestras as well as those from further afield. We are so lucky to have the Abbey to be able to hold such concerts, it is a beautiful building and I hope it will be around for a further 900 years. I do wonder how many people realise what a lot of musical talent there is in Romsey – more than I was fully aware of and it has been a joy to listen to them.

The mayoral year starts in the early summer. In July there is the Mayor's picnic with the

opportunity to crown our beautiful carnival queen and her entourage; the bed race and the carnival; the Beggars Fair, a day when Romsey is filled with music in all corners; the food market in September – I did munch my way round that! Then we came to the autumn and the Remembrance Day parade – I was proud to represent the town and lay a wreath in memory of those who lost their lives in wars and conflicts. We then had the winter carnival, the lantern parade and then the carol services – what a great time I had at Christmas, not only attending carol services but also meeting the residents of the local care homes and then the carols in the Market Place.

The year is still continuing and I am still attending many events and functions. It is wonderful that the people of Romsey want to have their Mayor to so many functions which I have great pleasure in attending. It is an honour to be Mayor of Romsey.

Cllr Janet Burnage
Romsey Town Mayor

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Romsey Town Council hold Committee meetings throughout the year in the Town Hall beginning at 7:30pm. There are four Committees that meet along with Full Council meetings. These are:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- The Committee has delegated authority of the Full Council to submit comments on Planning Schedules.
- Authority to deal with specific planning matters may be delegated by decision of Full Council.
- The Committee meets at least every three weeks in order to meet the decision deadlines of the Test Valley Borough Council.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- To support and advise in the monitoring of the financial performance of the Council and in particular to recommend necessary action to ensure that budgets are met and that adequate financial control measures are in place
- Reappraise the aims and objectives of the Council with a view to delivering efficient and effective services, relevant to its function.
- Ensure the Council's policies and procedures match up with Council's aims and objectives.
- Receive and review budget proposals from other Town Council Committees for incorporation in overall budget proposals to Council.
- Deal with all aspects of staffing to include Headcount, Job Descriptions, staff training and staff assessment.
- Work closely with the Chief Officer regularly to review the affordability and effectiveness of the staff
- Review Town Hall Letting Activity – Actual/Projected
- Review and maintain risk assessment for finance and staffing matters
- All Committees of the Council, have on their Agendas, to consider their budgetary requirements for the next financial year and to submit them by the deadline set by the Chief Officer for the submission of budgetary proposals.

TOWN AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

- Recommends proposals to Council to promote the Town of Romsey to increase tourism and bring increased business to the Town.
- The Committee manages town assets i.e. street lights, benches, statues
- The Committee is responsible for Christmas tree, Christmas lights and Light Switch-on Event
- It will take advantage of the Archives and Town Hall assets in this endeavour.

- Its remit will include such activities as use of current and planned open spaces in the Town for street markets, etc.
- The Committee receives overview of Town Centre issues/events from the Town Centre Manager
- The Committee will deal with all aspects of the Town Hall building to maintain, refurbish and invest in the building asset as necessary and promote the building as a commercial and community asset. It has the power to spend within budget.

ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- The Committee, made up of eight tenants and two councillors, deals with all aspects, including finance, of the administration of the Allotments Site in Southampton Road which is leased from Broadlands. The Committee is ultimately responsible to the Town Council and meets as required by the members.

FULL COUNCIL

- All minutes from Committee meetings are reviewed and discussed every two months.

Members of the public get the opportunity to ask questions of Councillors.

Who can attend a Committee meeting?

Meetings are open to the public and the Council welcomes your attendance. Agendas setting out the issues to be discussed are available on our website www.romseytc.org.uk before the meeting. Although the meetings are held in public, a Committee may hold part of its meeting in private when confidential information is being discussed. Should the meeting move into private session, members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting for the duration of the private session.

Can I leave a meeting early?

You may only be interested in one of the items on the agenda and once this item has been dealt with you may leave the meeting. However, it is important to remember that the meeting is still taking place and we ask you to leave as quietly as possible.

If you require any further information regarding a Council meeting, please email the Chief Officer at chiefofficer@romseytc.org.uk

A list of your Councillors and their contact details, a complete list of Committee members and meeting dates, along with Agendas and Minutes can be viewed on our website www.romseytc.org.uk

TOWN CENTRE NEWS



Romsey is a very busy Hampshire Market Town and 2020 will be our busiest yet with an amazing range of events linked to the Test Valley Borough of Culture 2020 celebrations. We have the Romsey Festival of Youth Music, the Romsey Festival and it's spin off Storytelling Festival all coming up this year, plus we celebrate 900 years since the present Romsey Abbey was built. The Abbey is to have a new stained-glass window to recognise that Florence Nightingale was born 200 years ago this year, cause for more celebration.

We try to give details of all the major events on www.romseytc.org.uk where we have a Community Notice Board full of posters about regular and one-off events. We appreciate all the positive comments we receive about our website which is now our "go to site" for what's on in Romsey.

Romsey Town Council (RTC) has responsibility for Town Centre Management which is a very diverse role which includes being a partner in the running of the Tuesday, Friday and Saturday markets, running specialist markets such as our now bi-annual French Market, at least two Antique Markets as well as supporting a raft of other events. Did you know that almost all event related road closures in the Town are managed by the RTC volunteer marshal team? With the increasing workload the team has we are actively seeking more volunteers, details on our website.

Town Centres have always changed with the needs of the local community and Romsey is no exception. As the town sees greater use as a "social space" to meet friends we have seen a growth in cafes that will continue as will private investment in pubs and other properties that offer hospitality services to the general public both

in the town and surrounding area. Currently around £30 million of investment can be identified in the tourism sector in Test Valley, that is often within a few minutes drive of Romsey, for example at Paultons Park, Leisure Centres, Wineries, pubs and hotels, this investment brings new jobs and places for our community to enjoy. Within the Town Centre we are often asked "why can't we have a store" in many cases its because there is no suitable unit for them to move into, so it is right that we should be supporting the consultation on the Master-plan process that could see new retail space created and some existing space repurposed. Please get involved in the South of Romsey Town Centre (SoRTC) process, it is not just about us, it's about creating space that will be used by future generations. Romsey is built on a series of islands separated by waterways that we have little or no access to, that is just one aspect, SoRTC could bring us public open spaces around currently hidden waterways, places to meet friends and watch the world pass by.

We are sad to see long standing businesses close, often for valid reasons like the owner wishes to retire or to reinvent their business but this does open up opportunities for new businesses to come into the Town and we welcome that process, refreshing our Town Centre.

Romsey currently has one of the lowest retail vacancy rates in the South, that's because increasingly people are avoiding the busier centres and want to enjoy the small independent shops we have, be part of that revolution, pledge to shop local, if most local people moved just £5 of their weekly spend into Romsey that could generate almost £4.5 million into the local economy, funding local jobs and ensuring we remain a vibrant Market Town.

*Mark Edgerley, Romsey Town Centre Manager,
email: tcm@romseytc.org.uk*

GRANTS

Since the last Newsletter grants have been awarded to:

Romsey Choral Society £250

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation please visit our website www.romseytc.org.uk/grants where you can view application criteria and download the grant application form.

ROMSEY TOWN HALL



For more details of upcoming events in the Town Hall or around Romsey please visit www.romseytc.org.uk.

You can also view our online noticeboard giving details of events happening.

To hold your group/event at Romsey Town Hall, please contact our Events Manager at bookings@romseytc.org.uk or call 01794 512837

If you would like your group/event listed on our website please forward details/poster to faye.godwin@romseytc.org.uk

Romsey Town Hall is home to many regular events, some of which are

