



# Ware Town Council Annual Report 2013/14



## A Message from the Mayor, Cllr Rosalie Standley

My year as Mayor has certainly been a very busy and enjoyable time. In June I was delighted to visit our German twin town Wülfrath to renew the Pledge of Friendship. Later this year we will host a delegation from Cormeilles-en-Parisis to renew the Pledge of Friendship with our French twin town. My year as Mayor will end with the Civic Dinner on 10<sup>th</sup> May and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. I would like to thank the Town Council staff for their assistance, particularly Catherine Sidey our new apprentice who manages my diary, ensuring I am in the right place at the right time.



Recognition and thanks must go to Rosalyn Montgomery, our Events Organiser and the Ware Festival Committee for their hard work and innovative ideas. They organise so many successful events during Ware Festival month which make our Town so special.

Now that the sun has shown its face, the Priory Park is beginning to blossom. I would like to thank our team of groundsmen for working so very hard throughout all seasons to keep the park looking interesting and colourful. The beauty of our Town is all around us and the Ware in Bloom volunteers play an important role supplying the magnificent floral displays. Let us all hope that we will strike GOLD in 2014 when the judging takes place.

The Ware Town Council Planning Committee meets regularly to consider local planning applications. We cannot grant or reject applications but are happy to listen to the views of our community and take on board their concerns when making our recommendations to East Herts District Council. Ware Town, District and County Councillors supported the residents of Cozens Road when their homes were under threat. The residents of Scotts Road and Gilpin Road were also fighting inappropriate development. Recommendations for refusal were accordingly made by our Planning Committee at Town level and were upheld by the Development Management Committee at East Herts Council.

With the publication of the Draft District Plan by East Herts District Council there will be many challenges ahead and I urge all residents to take part in the consultation and respond by making their comments known. Every household should have received a hard copy of the document and this consultation period will end on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014. The land to the North and East of Ware identified as a broad location for development falls within the boundaries of Wareside Parish Council and East Herts Council will be drafting a Development Plan Document for this area. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are working with Action For Market Towns to feed into this process and to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

Following a recent consultation and positive public response regarding the re-development of Tudor Square we are moving forward with this project and have submitted a planning application .

The Christchurch by election was called on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 due to the sad loss of George Powell, a well respected and popular councillor. I would like to welcome Councillor Henry Pipe, our newly elected Town Councillor who is already making a valuable contribution to the Town Council.

Ware Town Council and the British Legion are working together to refurbish the War Memorial in readiness for its re-dedication on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 at 2.30pm.

The Southern Maltings in Kibes Lane are currently being marketed for sale by East Herts District Council. Saving these historical Maltings for community use is a high priority topic with local residents. Ware

Town Council has applied to East Herts District Council to register this property as a Community Asset and a decision is awaited. In the interim, Ware Town Council hosted a public meeting, at which the Southern Maltings Community Steering Group was formed.

Finally, I would like to thank our Town Clerk, the Town, District, and County Councillors for their continued support throughout the year. Our Committees meet on a regular basis and their time, commitment and dedication is a valuable asset to our Town.

### Support to Local Organisations in 2013/14

Each year the Town Council awards grants to support local organisations. In 2013/14 the grants awarded were:

Town Watch	£55.80	Radio battery
Hertfordshire Police	£150.00	Crime prevention equipment
East Herts Community Safety Partnership	£700.00	Diversions activities
Town Watch	£200.00	Towards cost of gazebo
Ware & District Photographic Society	£372.00	Towards cost of Annual Exhibition
Ware Society	£55.00	Planning fee for Gazebo interpretation board
Ware Football Club	£318.00	Towards cost of defibrillator
Ware Society	£800.00	Cleaning of Bluecoat Boy
Courtyard Arts	£450.00	Work with Artifacts art group in Ware
St John Hertford Division	£359.94	Roll up incident signs
<b>Total awarded 2013/14</b>	<b>£3,460.74</b>	

The Town Council supports the following organisations with annual grants:-

Ware Museum General Grant	£5,000	Ware Museum Tourist Information Point	£2,100
Ware Town Partnership Dickensian Evening	£1,050	Ware Town Partnership Ware in Bloom	£1,050

Additional one-off grants awarded during the year were:

- Ware Football Club grant of £2,500 was paid direct from New Homes Bonus allocation.
- Ware Bowling Club a grant of £2,500 was awarded for a new mower with £539.26 coming from the grants budget and the remaining £1,960.74 from the new Homes Bonus allocation.

### Report on the Accounts for 2013/14 and the Budget for 2014/15

We continue to live in challenging times which have affected the Priory Charity's income from functions and conferences. You will see from the accompanying accounts summary that the income received from these was below budget. The Council has recently recruited a Sales and Marketing Manager to address this.

Thanks to help with marketing from Friends of Ware Lido and last summer's excellent weather, income from the Lido increased significantly, substantially reducing its net running costs for the year to just over £30,000.

The net effect of these and other factors is that we have a forecast surplus of £13,912 for the year compared to an expected surplus of £14,620, which, in the circumstances is a very good result.

For 2014/2015, the Council is mindful of the effect that the current period of austerity is having on peoples' finances and have worked hard to keep the increase in the Town Council precept to a *de minimis* level (the Band D precept this year is £77.98 (£77.46 2013/14)) an increase of just 52p or 0.67%; this equates to a council tax bill of £1.50 per week.

Within this budget the Town Council will continue to provide the services that residents have come to expect such as the maintenance of the Priory and its grounds, the Cemetery, the Lido, Ware Festival, Rock in the Priory, Community Cinema and the payment of the Town's CCTV running costs contribution.

	Forecast Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure		
	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15	2014/15
	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>As Trustee of the Priory Building</b>									
Priory Building	159,670	211,339	-51,669	162,711	223,398	-60,687	196,260	238,627	-42,367
Priory Grounds, incl Public Conveniences	1,050	80,559	-79,509	900	67,040	-66,140	900	76,982	-76,082
Priory Lido	49,582	80,888	-31,306	31,015	77,560	-46,545	41,850	85,831	-43,981
Fletcher's Lea	33,700	78,219	-44,519	42,044	76,482	-34,438	36,000	83,677	-47,677
Audit Fee		10,050	-10,050		7,000	-7,000		7,000	-7,000
Miscellaneous income and costs	4,008	1,175	2,833	2,000	340	1,660	2,000	1,872	128
Loan payment Fletcher's Lea		93,280	-93,280		93,280	-93,280		93,280	-93,280
<b>Total for Priory Charity</b>	<b>248,010</b>	<b>555,510</b>	<b>-307,500</b>	<b>238,670</b>	<b>545,100</b>	<b>-306,430</b>	<b>277,010</b>	<b>587,269</b>	<b>-310,259</b>

	Forecast Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure		
	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15	2014/15
	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Ware Town Council Services</b>									
Allotments	5,200	7,600	-2,400	5,000	7,192	-2,192	5,200	7,425	-2,225
Closed Churchyard, War Memorial & Clock		3,642	-3,642		4,670	-4,670		2,728	-2,728
Cemetery	63,000	71,507	-8,507	55,000	78,812	-23,812	65,000	66,922	-1,922
Tourism, Leisure & Amenities	66,770	128,110	-61,340	65,870	119,160	-53,290	40,550	83,600	-43,050
Town Twinning	707	2,049	-1,342		1,500	-1,500		2,000	-2,000
Town Centre CCTV		10,600	-10,600		10,600	-10,600		17,467	-17,467
Ware Festival	7,322	13,815	-6,493	4,700	12,850	-8,150	5,100	12,763	-7,663
Administration	1,655	173,790	-172,135	1,900	168,554	-166,654	1,550	177,772	-176,222
New Homes Bonus	25,977	7,000	18,977	23,024	0	23,024	28,477	28,477	0
Neighbourhood Plan		5,000	-5,000		5,000	-5,000			0
Subsidy to Priory Charity as above	248,010	555,510	-307,500	238,670	545,100	-306,430	277,010	587,269	-310,259
Precept Income	531,847		531,847	531,847		531,847	542,513		542,513
Grant from East Herts Council	42,047		42,047	42,047		42,047	21,023		21,023
<b>Total for Ware Town Council</b>	<b>992,535</b>	<b>978,623</b>	<b>13,912</b>	<b>968,058</b>	<b>953,438</b>	<b>14,620</b>	<b>986,423</b>	<b>986,423</b>	<b>0</b>

## Council Services

Ware Town Council provides:

- Management of Ware Cemetery
- Management of two Allotment Sites
- Maintenance of the War Memorial, Church Clock and Churchyards at St. Mary's Church.
- Litter bins and public seats.
- Ware Festival, Rock in the Priory, free band concerts, Town Tours, Winter Talks
- Support and encouragement of Town Twinning with Wülfrath, Germany and Cormeilles-en-Parisis, France
- Support for Ware Youth Town Council
- as the Trustee of the Priory Charity, management of the Priory, Fletcher's Lea, Children's Play Area, Skatepark, Lido (heated open air swimming pool), Public Conveniences and Priory Grounds
- Grants to local organisations
- The Town Council is the first tier of Local Government and represents views and opinions of the people of Ware

## How To Contact Your Councillors

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