



We freeze your Council Tax again

The Government has reduced its grant to South Norfolk Council and it is no longer obliged to pass on a set amount to Town and Parish councils.

The District Council subsequently decided to reduce the Precept Support Grant awarded to Costessey Town Council from 2016. We were however able to agree a budget for the 2016/17 financial year without having to increase the Council Tax to individual households. This will remain at £110.41 per annum (£2.12 per week) for two adults living in a Band D property paying the full charge. Additional staffing required to run our services and government changes in National Insurance Contributions will have a major impact on the Town Council's expenditure, but with some careful budgeting, efficiency savings and contractual reviews, we have managed to achieve the freeze again this year.



Regular hirers of The Costessey Centre, Breckland Hall and the Owen Barnes Room including community groups, exercise classes, children's activities etc will not see an increase in their hall hire charges through to March 2017. Unfortunately we were unable to offer this to hirers of West Costessey Hall, as the charges were initially set low to encourage use, and as service contracts now become payable, there will be a small increase. Demand for hall hire has steadily grown, with gaps being filled by corporate hirers who pay higher rates compared to residents, and club activities that benefit the community. Football pitch hire fees also remain unchanged and our Multi Use Games Arena at Longwater Lane is free to use.



New Queen's Hills Town Council Ward will see an increase in volunteer Councillors from May 2019

Two phases of consultation took place between August and January. Phase One asked respondents to indicate a preference for the three options: a) no change b) a new ward of Queen's Hills, or c) a new parish as proposed in the petition signed by over 250 residents that was instigated by the Queen's Hills Residents Association and supported by Richard Bacon MP.

The Town Council responded as a statutory consultee and helped raise awareness of the debate with displays in its halls, summer newsletter, tweets and front page of its website. It also ensured the Library was utilised as a reference point. Less than 1% of the 10,607 residents eligible to vote responded and the Queens Hill's Residents Association stated 'no preference.'

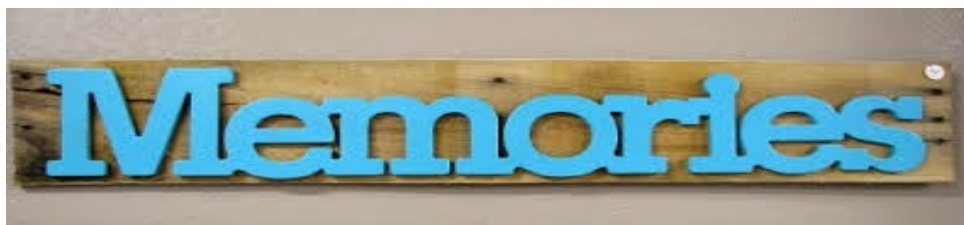
The Town Council's recommendation of a new ward within the existing Town Council structure was finally approved by the District Council on 21 January 2016, which recognised the need for it to have its own identity by naming the ward "Queen's Hills." This was a geographical name on the Ordnance Survey map adopted by the house developers for marketing purposes. The increased population in Costessey as a whole will mean that the Town Council can have up to nineteen volunteer Town Councillors from the next elections in 2019. There are now 6,512 dwellings in Costessey.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 8th November I was very proud and privileged to represent Costessey Town Council, and therefore the people of Costessey, at the Annual Remembrance Parade. The ceremony was organised by Stewart Blackburn, Chairman of the Costessey and District Branch of the Royal British Legion. Legion members and the Costessey detachment of Britannia Company of the Norfolk Army Cadet Force was joined by local members of Scouts, 16th Norwich Sea Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. We mustered at The Harte, watched by a considerable crowd of people, and proceeded to march along The Street to St Edmund's Church for the Service of Remembrance. It was a bright and sunny morning and it was wonderful to see so many people turning out for the event.

After the service we stood around the Memorial in the Chuchyard for the laying of the wreaths, the very moving reading of names and the laying of individual crosses for all those from Costessey who had lost their lives in the wars. A big thank you to all who helped to make this a special day. We must never forget the huge sacrifice that was made by those who fell, not just in the first and second world wars, but in more recent conflicts.

Cllr Patrick O'Connor,
Vice-Chairman, Costessey
Town Council.



Cllr Paul Cooper has been out and about collecting your memories and now has the ability to digitalise old photos, negatives and slides to add to our archive. Attendance at the monthly meeting of the Costessey Memories Club has grown and we've seen an increase in visitors to the Rymarz Gallery at The Costessey Centre. Paul is keen to ensure we gather more of your memories and has made himself available to meet up at The Costessey Centre, West Costessey Hall or the Costessey Library to digitalise yours at no charge, as long as you are willing to allow us to exhibit them. Paul adds them to the Facebook Page 'Views of Old Costessey & Surrounding Areas' He can be contacted by email on Cooperpaul607@gmail.com



The late Michael Hendry enjoying Cycle Speedway on Longwater Lane circa.1950



Costessey celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee with a procession through the streets.



1983 2CV Rally at The Roundwell Pub, demolished to build the Medical Practice



Paul Cooper handing Headteacher Adrian La Chapelle a print of St Augustine's Chapel, Costessey built in 1809 and demolished in the 1920's



Sir Alfred Munnings

His adventures in
Costessey & Ringland

1908 - 1911

7 March 10:30am
at The Costessey Centre

Free Admission





Volunteer Town Councillors have run two successful events with proceeds from the £5.00 table hire going towards the costs of running the annual fete. You can book a table by calling Cllr Gary Blundell on 01603 741097. The event has now been expanded to cover two floors at The Costessey Centre, between 9:30am & 12 noon. Upcoming events are **Saturday 26 March & 30 April**



A Dementia Café was launched by the Alzheimer's Society with the support of Costessey Town Council for people with dementia and their carers. 85 per cent of people with dementia say they struggle with isolation, loneliness and depression. The Cafés provide a social opportunity to share experiences, have a drink and a chat with others in a similar situation. Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers are always on hand to provide information and support.

Fete and Fair with Firework Display



Volunteers took a break last year but the fete is back and will be bigger and better on **Bank Holiday Monday 30 May 2016, with an earlier start of 12 noon through to Fireworks at 9:45pm**. Capacity is for a hundred stalls and there's entertainment and a funfair. It's held at our Longwater Lane Recreation Ground and promises to be a fun filled day out. This year car parking is £2 per vehicle or free for disabled badge holders. Please be considerate if you park elsewhere.



We still need fete volunteers. Call Cllr Gary Blundell on 01603 741097 if you're able to help on the day or during the build up. Volunteers are provided with a lunch and we are seeking help with event support such as litter picking and car park management.



Sainsbury's Longwater are kindly providing refreshments for all future Cafés, with the East of England Co-op donating a years supply of tea bags.

Café open first Thursday of the month 10:30am to 12:30pm at The Costessey Centre (3 March & 7 April etc)



See our What's On Guide for more Cafés
www.costessey.org.uk

Farmland Road Planning Application

Following our meeting on Monday 1 February 2016 attended by 230 plus residents, our response to the Planning Authority for the application for outline Planning Permission to build 83 dwellings on the site was to **Recommend Refusal**. Full details of our response can be found on our website www.costessey.org.uk or are available from the Town Clerk.

Our concerns included the protection of the environment, landscape river & air quality, traffic, road safety, school provision, healthcare & other infrastructure pressures.

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting and submitted their responses to South Norfolk Council, especially the Friends of the Tud Valley who share our concerns.



Annual Give & Take Re-use event Tuesday 5 April 9am - 3pm Breckland Hall



We are working in partnership with South Norfolk Council for the fifth year to host another re-cycling event. Come along to donate your unwanted goods and textiles for re-use. We are asking residents to donate working or broken electrical items, re-usable furniture, clothes and textiles, knitting needles and wool, books and small batteries. A charitable donation is optional if you take something to re-use with proceeds to Alzheimer's Research & Nelson's Journey. Last year 952 electrical items were tested and re-used, 20 DIY items were removed for use in a 'Men's Shed' project and 3 large sacks of wool were donated to the Norfolk Knitters Charity. A Cafe will be run by volunteers from the Costessey Luncheon Club.

Friends of the Tud Valley

If you are interested in the landscape and wildlife of the River valley in Costessey come to our next meeting on **14 April at 7.30pm** at the Costessey Centre. For further details contact Pauline on 742491 or John on 746328



TOWN COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

John Amis 96, Olive Road 746665
Mark Bedford 32, Bottom Breck Close 749833
Stephen Burton 43, Sunny Close 510842
Gary Blundell 37, Kestrel Avenue 741097
Sharon Blundell 37, Kestrel Avenue 741097
Paul Cooper 47, Tower Close 747468
Tim East 7, St Walstans Close 743241
(Town Council Chairman)
Libby Glover 78, Middleton Crescent 748374
David Gunby 15A, Grove Avenue 280651
Sheila Hannant 88, Longwater Lane 743444
Louise Kneller 58, Redpoll Road 742035
Duncan Lister Holkham House, Townhouse Rd 948242
John Newby 6, Carr's Hill Close 746328
Patrick O'Connor 144, Gunton Lane 748339
(Town Council Vice-Chairman)
Reg Piesse 1, Longwater Lane 744233
Helen Prochera 23, Bawburgh Lane

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

New Costessey Ward

John Amis 96, Olive Road 746665
Vivienne Bell St Mary's, 8 Smithdale Road 743366

Old Costessey Ward

Sharon Blundell 37, Kestrel Avenue, Queen's Hills 741097
Andrew Pond 11, Folly Road, Wymondham 01953 607267

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR COSTESSEY

Tim East 7, St Walstans Close 743241



COUNCIL STAFF

Town Clerk - Hilary Elias
Deputy Clerk - Nigel Bailey
Clerk's Assistant - Margaret Vozza
Clerk's Assistant - Emma Savage
Clerk's Assistant - Debbie Bowles
Head Groundsman - Barry Barber
Groundsman/Handy Person - Steven Lester

*Published by
Hilary Elias, Town Clerk, Costessey Town Council*