



The Town Council Lechlade-on-Thames

The Memorial Hall, Oak Street, Lechlade-on-Thames,
Gloucestershire GL7 3YP

Telephone: 01367 252338

e-mail: clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk

Office opening hours:

Monday – Friday 9.15am to 12.15pm

Lechlade Town Council Annual Report 2008/2009

Managing the Town Council involves many activities, most of which are unseen. It includes the maintenance of our facilities (playgrounds, grass cutting, tree maintenance, notice boards and the cemetery) and we maintain close links with many departments at County and District and other organisations both locally and farther afield. Daily we speak on the phone, answer emails and meet local people to discuss the wide and varied day to day concerns from the Lechlade community.

The activities above would not be possible without the active support of all the Councillors (who are all volunteers and receive no payment), the Clerk and her team. Particular thanks go to Bob Dover who as Deputy Chairman has provided valued and wise counsel to many of us. Bob has been on the Council for longer than most can remember and has made significant contributions to both the Council and Trustees over this time.

During the year we have welcomed new Cllrs Christine Eatwell, Paul Adey and Andrew Pritchard and thanked old Cllrs Mike Cawsey, Peter Whistler and Richard Lambert for all their hard work during their time on the Council.

We are very fortunate indeed to have appointed Mrs Ginette James as Town Clerk from September 2008. Her previous appointments were with Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC). We also record our thanks to Peter Godfrey who retired from the post last year. This year we recognised Neville Ashford's contribution of 25 years as our Handyman. Thank you also to Linda Kent who continues to support our increasing office workload.

The Town Council recognises the balances and challenges of economic development while sustaining our natural and built heritage. We need to sustain and enhance our Town to the benefit of all who live here and I am pleased to lead our Council in these tasks.

**Nigel Jones, Chairman Lechlade Town Council,
22 April 2009**

Emergency Plan – Chairman Cllr Sue Coakley

We have established an Emergency Plan which is to respond to flooding or other emergencies including the provision of immediate and essential support until police, fire, ambulance and welfare services are available. We are very grateful for the positive response given by the Lechlade Lions, the Women's Institute and individuals who have committed themselves to the Plan.

We continue our discussions with the Environment Agency and Cotswold District Council to develop a sustainable solution to flooding in Downington and put in place safeguards to respond to flooding at St Johns.

Planning – Chairman Cllr Tony Roberts

This is an important topic for the Council. Whilst responsibility for planning issues is with the CDC, we are asked to comment on all applications. The committee meet fortnightly to discuss and comment on applications. High profile issues are discussed at full Council and our comments sent to Cotswold District Council.

Highways – Chairman Cllr Jaime Maskell

We continue to press for improvements to our local highways but these are not quick solutions. Gloucestershire Highways have met with us on a number of occasions and we did secure essential repairs to the Market Place.

For several years we have enjoyed the magnificent flower arrangements in the large tubs in the Market Place. We express our sincere thanks to Mrs Barbara McNaught who has prepared and tended the magnificent displays.

Communications – Chairman Cllr Sharon Wilson

Our updated website has proved to be a significant success over the year with a high level of 'hits'. We plan further developments to the site and enhance links with other sites. Clubs, Societies and Business are able to promote themselves for which there is no charge. You may also advertise your forthcoming events..

Christmas Lights – Chairman Cllr Christine Eatwell

This continues to be one of the main events of the year and brings delight to the young and not-so-young as a start to the Christmas period. The success depends on a very active committee which raises funds through the year for the event. The Town Council funds the erection and dismantling of the lights. For safety reasons we have to rely on the local electricity company for this work.

Play and Recreation – Chairman Cllr Sharon Wilson

The committee has made significant progress in this area. The memorial play area has been dismantled for safety reasons and Vennymoor has been repaired. For the current year, the Council has decided to provide a new play area. This follows positive feedback from consultation with parents and young people. We have applied for funding through Gloucestershire County Council and have been successful, along with our own seed funding, we are confident of success. There will be an open evening in May to view the proposed play space plans.

Cemetery – Chairman (Vacant position)

The Local Plan allocated land for the extension of the cemetery. The Council is in the process of acquiring this land which will secure the long term viability of the Cemetery for years to come. This is to be funded from a public sector loan. We are preparing a planning application for the site.

Allotments – Chairman Cllr Tony Roberts

We are investigating possible allotment sites following requests from residents. This is in addition to the private vegetable plots at Rough Grounds Farm. We have identified potential sites and are discussing options with landowners.

Cycleway and Footpaths – Chairman Cllr Sue Coakley

The feasibility of a cycleway from Lechlade to Fairford along the old railway track is being investigated. This is in partnership with a number of other organisations. We continue to keep a close watch on footpaths under the scrutiny of Cllr Jim Sullivan.

Income and Expenditure 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009

Income	2008/09	2007/08
Precept	57,621.00	54,515.00
Cemetery	2,230.00	1,005.00
Agency Services 1. Trustees	7,720.12	0.00
Agency Services 2. Grass Cutting (1)	0.00	1,080.00
Bank Account Interest	1,070.09	1,954.72
Contributions and Donations	3,280.90	2,702.00
Dividend	349.53	313.12
Hall & Recreation Committee	765.60	6,125.26
Heritage Trust (2)	0.00	10,496.00
Christmas Lights Committee	1,652.14	1,087.76
WI	0.00	200.00
Electric refund	80.90	0.00
VAT (3)	0.00	5,972.96
Additional income	1,159.90	0.0
Total of Income	75,930.18	85,451.82

Notes for income 2008/09:

- 1 Contribution from GCC to be claimed in April 2009 (£1,080.00)
- 2 Heritage Trust income for Bridge feasibility study
- 3 VAT will be claimed in April 2009 (£4,813.38)

Expenditure	2008/09	2007/08
General Administration		
Wages and salaries	36,504.20	36,257.38
Agency Services 1. Trustees	7,392.32	7000.00
Accommodation charge	807.65	0.00
Administration	4331.69	3723.62
Insurance	5,587.73	5,493.97
Equipment, repairs and recreational maintenance	14,796.24	1,660.39
Website	747.00	807.73
Contributions to Town	1,052.93	1,106.58
Audit	485.00	460.00
Bank Account Charges	295.80	0.00
Running Costs		
Cemetery	2,176.83	918.36
Trustees	1,103.72	10,907.70
Grass cutting	2,640.00	1,200.00
Christmas Lights Committee	6,038.43	6,906.17
Subscriptions	473.80	464.05
Newsletter	184.00	201.00
Grants to local organisations	100.00	700.00
Tree Pruning	0.00	399.50
VAT	4,813.38	4,692.19
Less three cheques from 07/08 expenditure	696.10	0.0
Total of Expenditure	88,834.62	82,898.64
Opening Balances 01/04/08	70833.10	
+ income	75930.18	
- expenditure	88834.62	
Closing Balances 31/03/09	57928.66	

The above statement is prepared on the income and expenditure basis and is unaudited. 22nd April 2009.