

Town Clerk's Report October – November 2021 For Information**Remembrance Events 2021**

Throughout the month there has been a significant amount of work across the BTC team to co-ordinate the Children and Family Remembrance Parade and Service on Saturday 13th November and the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service on 14th November. This has involved event planning and changes to the format used in previous years due to safety concerns and Covid-19 along with work on logistics, security, documentation, marketing and responding to enquiries.

On 11th November to mark Armistice Day, the BTC Mayor laid a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the residents of Bridgend and Deputy Mayor Cllr Tim Wood laid a wreath for those who served on HMS Urge. A wreath was also laid to mark the 100th Anniversary of the unveiling of the War Memorial and The Last Post was played by RBL Secretary Alistair Mcfetrich.

It has been a very busy period and I would like to thank all those involved at BTC, Rev Rachel Wheeler, the BTC Military Advisor John Harris, RBL Secretary Alistair Mcfetrich, the BCBC Town Centre Manager and BCBC Highways Department and partners such as South Wales Police and Bridgend Fire Station.

Christmas

Once again, the exterior of Carnegie House will be transformed into a Christmas Elf HQ. Families will be invited to take part in a Bridgend Reindeer Trail around the town centre and will be able to use picture clues on a map available from town centre shops to find all of Santa's 8 reindeers and Rudolf. The illustrated boards and vinyl's will be installed on Wednesday 24th November in readiness for launch on 27th November. Reindeer Trail booklets will be distributed to the shops and English and Welsh copies will be available at the indoor market.

The public will also be encouraged to post selfies with the reindeer to the Carnegie House Facebook page with the hashtag #bridgendreinderrtrail for a chance to win a goodie bag. The competition will run from 27th November – 18th December. When you see it advertised on the Town Council social media channels, please help promote it within your networks.

On Saturday 11th December residents in the wards of Morfa, Oldcastle and Newcastle will be treated to extra festive cheer from the Bridgend Brass Band Bus with Santa and traditional Christmas music from the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band. The route for the bus is as follows:

NEWCASTLE WARD 2-3pm

- Start at Halo Leisure – Band meeting at 1.45pm
- Park Court Road
- Parkfields Road
- Park Street
- Heol Y Nant
- ST Illtyd's Road
- Cefn Glas Road to Merlin Crescent (out of ward area so purely a transit route to next ward area)
- Heol Y Frenhinnes

MORFA WARD 3-4pm

- Quarella Road
- Wildmill (Santa will get off the bus and be driven around Wildmill by an open top car)
- Minerva Street
- Waunscil Avenue

OLDCASTLE WARD 4-5pm

- Wyndham Crescent
- Ewenny Road (bus will turn at Ewenny Roundabout)
- Grove Road
- Merthyr Mawr Road
- Bowham Avenue
- Back onto Merthyr Mawr Road
- Return to Halo Leisure

In the event of inclement weather, if the bus is unable to travel on Saturday 11th, we have made provision for the event to take place at the same times on Saturday 12th December.

The Community Engagement Team have been liaising with the BCBC Town Centre Manager regarding Christmas activities this year. BCBC will be helping to promote local businesses via digital apps and a Christmas website where traders can post offers, vouchers, discount codes and more.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, there will not be a large public event for the Christmas light switch in Bridgend town centre this year. Instead the Christmas lights switch-on will be filmed and broadcast via social media. The filming is being co-ordinated by BCBC as part of their digital Christmas campaign but will include the BTC Mayor, Cllr Steven Blestoe, being filmed next to the Christmas tree and providing a Christmas message to local residents.

For your information, as BCBC have been advised not to encourage a large gathering in one area, they have instead arranged a walk-through trail of Christmas-themed zones throughout the town centre to provide Christmas entertainment in a safe and controlled environment. The Christmas zones will feature live music from local choirs and bands, a snowstorm, a Santa selfie sleigh, street entertainment and the chance to meet Santa's reindeers. Access to this event will be free of charge but in order to control numbers, access will be limited, and the public must pre-book tickets ahead of the event. Full details will be released on how to obtain tickets later this month.

New Town Council Website

A remote meeting was held with the appointed contractor on 25th October to start the new website project. BTC staff provided further information about the Town Council, discussed the project as a whole and the processes for each stage. A password protected digital vault has been created to upload BTC content and images. The website build will start in mid-January and the new website should be ready to launch in Spring 2022.

BTC Newsletter - 3rd Edition

The next Town Council newsletter has been prepared and is ready to be sent to print tomorrow. The newsletter includes a piece on Remembrance events for 2021 and photographs, a section dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the War Memorial and information about Christmas activities for 2021.

Town Hall Project

As discussed at last month's meeting, the initial Cost Plan submitted was beyond Council's budget and therefore a priority of work has been developed so that work can be phased over several financial years.

Unfortunately, there has been a delay receiving the revised Cost Plan from the Quantity Surveyor and it is anticipated that this will now be available on Thursday 18th November. A Working Group meeting will be called to review the revised Cost Plan and an Extra ordinary full Council meeting will be required in a couple

of weeks to agree the budget for the works so that the tender for a contractor can be finalised and advertised. The timescales for completion will become clearer after this point.

Planning for the 2022/23 Budget

Many of the Town Council committees have met this month to projects for next financial year and prepare a budget request for the Town Council precept discussion in December.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the next Finance Committee meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday 30th November will need to be pushed back to Tuesday 7th December and an additional Personnel Committee meeting will be required to discuss a staffing matter and staff training budget for 2022/23.

Upcoming meetings:

Date TBC	Extraordinary Full Council (Town Hall Project)
Friday 3 rd December	Personnel Committee
Monday 6 th December	Planning Committee
Tuesday 7 th December	Finance Committee
Monday 13 th December	Full Council meeting (PRECEPT)

Leanne Edwards
Town Clerk