LITTER PICK SUCCESS FOR THE SECOND TIME

For the second time this year the Council recently undertook a litter pick working with Heysham High School. The pick was held during school hours as part of its education topic about environmental issues and the damage caused from discarded litter.

Staff members and students at Heysham High School are so serious about the subject that they have formed a “Litter Action Group”. The group is open to all and currently has members attending from the School Council as well as students from several year groups in the school. The meeting are usually held during the student’s lunch time and by using this time, shows their commitment and dedication to the project.

The lead teacher and Head of Year seven, Mr Gareth Finney said:

“Heysham High School was delighted with the recent litter pick in the community and the pupils enjoyed the experience.

Heysham High School is involved in a number of community initiatives and very much value the litter picks, it is important the school plays a role and is seen to promote healthy living and healthy streets! We look forward to the next planned litter pick in March 2014”.

Towards the spring the Council will commence with its litter picks working with the Schools and Community Groups. Conversely, local residents and organisations are urged to undertake their own litter picks.

If this is something you would like to carry out, we may be able to help with equipment and volunteers or if you have any ideas for the Council to consider in relation to litter picking, please feel free to contact the Council by emailing the Clerk’s assistant Abigail Fawcett abigail@morecambe.gov.uk or calling 01524 422929

JANUARY - FEBRUARY MEETINGS

JANUARY
Monday 6th – Finance and Management Committee – 7pm, Morecambe Parish Church War Memorial Café (adjacent to Morecambe Police Station)
Tuesday 7th – Festivals and Events Sub-Committee – 7pm, Morecambe Parish Church War Memorial Café (adjacent to Morecambe Police Station)
Thursday 16th - Full Council - 7pm, Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road, Morecambe

FEBRUARY
Monday 17th - Allotments and Environment Committee – 7pm, Morecambe Parish Church War Memorial Café (adjacent to Morecambe Police Station)
REVIEW OF STRATEGIC VISION

The Council is reviewing its Strategic Vision as part of its budgetary process for 2014-15.

To view the full current Strategic Vision visit the Council’s website or request a copy by email from the Clerk.

The current five priority areas for the Town Council are:

• Improving the environment and appearance of the town including litter and dog fouling issues together with the problem of the appearance of empty shops

• Improving the economy of the town including tourism and festivals

• Community Safety

• Youth Engagement

• Community Engagement which should include being a strong voice for the town

In submitting your views please remember that the Town Council is a Parish Council with a current budget of £175,000 from 2014-15 onwards. This income is collected through a Council Tax levy on the residents of Morecambe.

As a Parish Council, the Council has very limited statutory powers unlike the City and County Councils.

For details of the powers available to Parish and Town Councils please visit the Council’s website “Your Council” section

The Council would be interested to hear your views on its future strategy and these should be submitted to the Clerk no later than Friday 10th January, 2014 by emailing the Clerk at clerk@morecambe.gov.uk

MORECAMBE WAR MEMORIAL

At its meeting on 21st November, the Council decided to enter into negotiations with Lancaster City Council regarding the Town Council taking responsibility for the management of the Morecambe War Memorial and surrounding Memorial Gardens, and to liaise with the British Legion, Burma Star Association and similar Groups regarding possible schemes for the upgrading of the War Memorial and surrounding Gardens.

Parish Council traditionally are responsible for war memorials in their area and the Council believe that it can add greater value to the town and community by managing this important landmark within the town.

Future additions will contain an update on these negotiations.
LIGHTS COULD ADD TRADITION WITH A MODERN TWIST TO PROMENADE

Following a request from members of the Council and a positive response from the general public the Council resolved to look at the possibility of having a series of lights strings from Happy Mount Park down to the Battery Hotel, in total covering a 2.5 km stretch. Below is an example of the positive responses:

“I write to give my support to the proposal of re-illuminating the Promenade at Morecambe. Morecambe needs something, anything, to help restore it to its former glory and this would be a step in the right direction. Illuminations could complement the excellent work done at the West End gardens and the Tern Project and, if done with taste and imagination could almost be viewed as an "art installation". I am sure there are ways in which the Council could explore "green" lighting as a draw and a possible hook for external funding and collaboration with local businesses.”

The Council is currently researching other similar projects and looking at the design possibilities for the lights. Other projects include; the reinstatement of promenade lights on the coast of Torquay, Brixham and Paignton all of which opted for a modern approach with multi-coloured LED also Bristol Quay Side who instead went for a single coloured bulb which gives a more subtle appearance. In addition to this the Town Council is currently exploring the possibility of obtaining external funding to cover the estimated £150,000 capital cost to introduce the lights and supporting columns.

Several larger businesses have been approached for sponsorship but in order for the project to be implemented; funding would have to be gained from many individual organisations, business and other authorities.

If you are interested in sponsoring the lights or would like more information please contact the David Croxall, Clerk to the Council clerk@morecambe.gov.uk

Contact: David Croxall, Clerk to Morecambe Town Council. Email: clerk@morecambe.gov.uk, Tel: (01524) 422929
COUNCIL’S WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT DOG FOUL PROBLEMS

Earlier this year the Town Council set aside £1,000 in its budget to be utilised on a scheme working together with the City Council to launch a poster competition in the Schools of the Morecambe. The competition is to help raise awareness about the importance of dog owners cleaning up after their dog.

In January, 2014 each of the nine Primary Schools in Morecambe will be visited by officers from both the Town and City Council to launch the competition. This visit will feature a presentation from both Council’s to explain about the competition, update on what has been done so far and to collate ideas from the pupils on how they think the problem can be reduced. The winners will then be announced in March.

In total there will be three winners who will each have 33 signs printed with their design which will be displayed around the Town.

Aside from the competition both Council’s are working in partnership with the Police carrying out surveillance from ‘hot spots’ where regular offending is committed. This enables more fixed penalty notices to be issued which should act as a deterrent for the future.

If you have a problem in your area or would like to suggest your home to be utilised for the Council to carry out surveillance, please contact the Clerk (details below).

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Town Council has an annual budget of £10,000 for grants of up to £500. In a recent meeting Council resolved to allocate the majority of the remaining £5,612.00 to the following organisations:

- Morecambe Foyer £500.00
- CEEP Limited by Guarantee £500.00
- Families@Five £500.00
- 1st Morecambe and Heysham Boys Brigade £350.00
- Morecambe Road School £500.00
- World War 1 Poppy Organisation £500.00
- N-Compass North West £500.00
- Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club £500.00
- Lancaster and District Canoe Club £500.00
- Positives Futures North West £500.00
- Red Rose Community Projects £500.00
The Town Council recently resolved to explore the possibility of purchasing a bandstand to be installed in happy mount park, pending funding being granted from external funders. The design of which has not yet been determined as the Council are currently consulting with Local Bands, Music Groups and other Performing Arts Associations.

Up to now although a traditional bandstand would be more pleasing to the eye, it is suggested that this may not be the most practical option. Therefore a multi use stage may be more appropriate as the new design should take into account essentials such as; acoustics and the layout to which each group using the stand would require.

If your group would be interested in using a future bandstand or you wish to comment on the suggested project, please forward your views to the Clerk of the Council (details below)

Above picture: Could something similar to this be a new addition to Happy Mount Park?

The Town Council was formed in 2009 and is a Parish Council acting at the third tier of Local Government under the Lancashire County Council, and Lancaster City Council.

Generally the role of a Parish Council is to improve the quality of community life for their Parish and its inhabitants. Morecambe Town Council is not responsible for Benefits, Refuse, Collection, Highways, Street Cleaning and Street Lighting etc.

But it can:

- Give views, on behalf of its community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish.
- Undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents to add value to the work of the higher tier Councils.
- Work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish.
- Alert relevant Authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken.
- Help other tiers of local government to keep in touch with their local communities.
Finally

All the Councillors and staff of

Morecambe Town Council would like

to wish you a

And a Very

HAPPY NEW
YEAR