

Meet the Councillors

CENTRAL WARD



Cllr Lisa Bird
124 Chiltern Road
Dunstable LU6 1ET
01582 478078



Cllr Greg George c/o Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF greg.george@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Sid Abbott
3 The Paddocks
Friars Walk, Dunstable
LU6 3FQA
01582 947345
sid abbott@dunstable.gov.u



Cllr John Gurney 45 Brandreth Avenue Dunstable LU5 4JP

john.gurney@dunstable.gov.uk



ICKNIELD WARD

NORTHFIELDS WARD

Cllr Kenson Gurney
122 Luton Road
Dunstable
LU5 4JW
01582 405741



Cllr Gloria Martin
70 Crabtree Way
Dunstable
LU6 1UR
01582 666910

Clir Lee Roberts 8 Norcott Close, Dunstable LU5 4AH 07702 163770

MANSHEAD WARD



Cllr Wendy Bater
97 Great Northern Road
Dunstable LU5 4BW
01582 757834
wendy.baker@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Mark Cant c/o Dunstable Town Council, Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF mark.cant@dunstable.gov.uk



Clir Philip Crawley 36 Norcott Close Dunstable LU5 4AH 01582 515980 philip.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Matthew Brennan 75 Westfield Road Dunstable LU6 1DN 01582 555957 matthew.brennan@dunstable.gov



Cllr Alan Corkhill 36 Suncote Avenue Dunstable LU6 1BW 01582 253797 alan.corkhill@dunstable.gov.uk



Cilr Gladys Sanders c/o Dunstable Town Council, Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF 07760501120 gladys.sanders@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Johnson Tamara
112 High Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LN
07903 925875
johnson tamara@dunstable.gov.uk

WATLING WARD



Cllr Pamela Ghent
1 Fox Dells
Dunstable
LU6 3LD
01582 703036
pamela.ghent@dunstable.gov



Cllr Peter Hollick
1 Carlisle Close
Dunstable
LU6 3PH
01582 665133
eter.hollick@dunstable.gov



Cllr Liz Jones 82 Jeansway Dunstable LU5 4PP 01582 472044



Clir Cameron Restall
3 Fox Dells
Dunstable
LU6 3LD
01582 527798
cameron.restall@dunstable.gov.uk

Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

Finance and General Purposes

Councillors Sid Abbott (Town Mayor)

Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor) Peter Hollick (Chairman)

Philip Crawley (Vice-Chairman)

Wendy Bater
Matthew Brennan
Mark Cant
Alan Corkhill
John Gurney
Kenson Gurney
Gloria Martin
Cameron Restall

Lee Roberts
Johnson Tamara

Community Services

Councillors Sid Abbott (Town Mayor)

Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor)

Gloria Martin (Chairman)
Gladys Sanders (Vice-Chairman)

Wendy Bater

Lisa Bird

Greg George

Pamela Ghent

John Gurney

Peter Hollick

Cameron Restall

Lee Roberts

Grounds and Environmental

Councillors Sid Abbott (Town Mayor)

Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor & Chairman)

Lisa Bird (Vice-Chairman)

Matthew Brennan

Mark Cant

Alan Corkhill

Philip Crawley

Greg George

Pamela Ghent

Kenson Gurney

Gladys Sanders Johnson Tamara

Dunstable Town Council

Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF Tel. 01582 513000

Email info@dunstable.gov.uk Web www.dunstable.gov.uk Opening Hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

@dunstabletc@dunstabletown@prioryhouse

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@dunstableevents@creaseypark@bennettssplash

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Welcome





Mayor's Welcome

Councillor Sid Abbott

'Happy New Year' to you all. I sincerely hope you have a healthy and successful 2020 in everything you are aspiring to achieve.

The Mayoress and I have been extremely proud and honoured to represent the town at events over the last two months. We have enjoyed the experience immensely and have met wonderful people doing great things for Dunstable.

There were many highlights including the musical production of Troy by The Square Drama Group. We thoroughly enjoyed the entertaining cast and the production by Christopher Burret. The Remembrance Parade and Service to honour service personnel who lost their lives for our great country in World Wars and later conflicts - was a very moving ceremony. I would like to thank everyone who took part in the parade of the armed and civilian services and those community groups who layed their wreaths at the War Memorial in Priory Gardens. Finally, the Christmas Torchlight Procession in The Square, where local school children sang seasonal carols and songs as well as enjoying the lightshow finale was one of the most successful the Council has ever organised.

We are fortunate to have many wonderful voluntary groups and organisations who work hard to make Dunstable a special place. We are looking forward to visiting many more of these groups and ask you to invite us to your community groups, businesses and schools by contacting the Council's Democratic Services Manager to arrange a visit (sharon.long@dunstable.gov.uk).

I am delighted to welcome, on behalf of the Council, the Reverend Rachel Phillips who is the new Team Rector of the Dunstable Team Ministry with responsibility for the Priory Church of St Peter's. I look forward to working with her in the coming months.

I have received tremendous support in raising funds for my chosen charities which are Autism Bedfordshire, Signposts, Alzheimer's and Minds2Gether. I have several events coming up which include a Quiz Night in February, my Civic Service in March and the Mayoral Dinner which takes place in April. We hope you can come to them. Details of all my fundraising events will appear on the Council's website (www.dunstable.gov.uk) and social media accounts.

Following the town's outstanding successes in the Anglia in Bloom Awards in 2019, Dunstable has been selected to represent the region in the prestigious Britain in Bloom Awards 2020. This tremendous accolade has been achieved due to the hard work put in by all stakeholders involved in making our gardens and open spaces beautiful in all areas of Dunstable.

Dunstable Town Council will be adopting a revised Corporate Plan in February. The Plan will include a commitment for the Council to work towards becoming carbon neutral over the next few years. We, as a responsible Council, are aware climate change is a major global issue and I am keen to see the Council doing everything it can to play its part in improving the environment for local people. The Council will be developing an action plan that builds upon environmental improvements already made in areas such as increasing recycling rates and reducing CO2 emissions.

Working with my fellow councillors, many of them in their first year, I have seen their enthusiasm in engaging with their wards to tackle local concerns. I believe we all do it because we love our town and we want to be involved and contribute towards preserving and enhancing all that is good about Dunstable, creating opportunities for everyone who live and work here.

Finally, please make a note of the events calendar given in this edition of Talk of the Town. A tremendous amount of effort goes into planning our free events programme, which I believe is the best in Bedfordshire. After the record attendances of 2019, I hope even more people enjoy our events in 2020 and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Councillor Sid Abbott

Town Mayor of Dunstable



David Ashlee

Town Clerk & Chief Executive

Welcome to the New Year edition of Talk of the Town and can I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very prosperous 2020.

I hope you all enjoyed Christmas and that you were able to take advantage of the town centre Christmas programme made possible by the Town Council and the Dunstable Joint Committee. At the time of writing, I am looking forward to seeing the free Ferris Wheel on the Square and for those of you that were there, this year's light show at the end of the Christmas Carols and Torchlight procession, I think, was our best ever. Santa will again be visiting Priory House and Garden's, so I hope you were able to enjoy all that Priory House had to offer this Christmas.

2020 will be a very busy year for the Council. For the first time ever, Dunstable has been entered into the Britain in Bloom competition, so the Council in partnership with Dunstable in Bloom will be pulling out all the stops to ensure that Dunstable's entry is as good as it can be.

In addition, we are all waiting in anticipation to get our final grant award from Historic England for the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme. If successful, this project will see the Council invest both in Priory House and retail units on Middle Row and High Street South. The four-year programme will also result in a range of community and cultural activities being developed and delivered with a wide range of partners in the town.

I am very pleased that our newly refurbished Jacobean Room in Priory House is becoming more popular and the Council's wedding service we are now providing at Priory House is featured later in this edition of Talk of the Town.

This edition features the Town Council's events diary for 2020. The Town Council is very proud of its events programme and this year's calendar features everyone's favourites including, 'Priory Pictures', 'Dunstable Live' and 'Proms in the Park'. Not many towns the size of Dunstable can enjoy as many fantastic events as the Town Council provides so please keep the events calendar in a handy place and make sure you make a note of all our events in your diaries.

Also make a note of our Valentine's Evening celebration planned for Creasey Park Community Football Centre in February. Be sure to book your tickets early as this is sure to be a popular event.

Our ever-growing Craft, Farmers and Themed Markets are also featured in this edition. Held in Middle Row, these twice-monthly markets are becoming more and more popular as more traders are attracted to Dunstable, so please make a note of the dates and see what's on offer.

I think 2020 is going to be a very good year for Dunstable and I look forward to the launch of the HSHAZ scheme in April and also the completion of the highway's improvement works that will be continued by Central Bedfordshire Council.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talk of the Town and please feel free to comment on any of the Council's services using the comment form at the back of this edition or by visiting our website www.dunstable.gov.uk or following us on Twitter and Facebook. Happy reading!

David Ashlee



Dunstable's

Dunstable Chosen as 2020 Britain in Bloom Finalist

Dunstable in Bloom and Dunstable Town Council are delighted to announce that the town has been chosen to represent the Anglia region in the 2020 Britain in Bloom competition in the Large Town category.

The town has been chosen in recognition of its Anglia in Bloom Gold Medal achievements and award-winning projects over the last 10 years and it is a real honour to represent the region at a national level.

The Chairman of Dunstable in Bloom, Hugh Garrod, says: 'Our community has worked hard over the last 10 years and being chosen is a recognition of all the voluntary hard work that goes into making our town a great place to live in and visit'.

The Chairman of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, Cllr Liz Jones says: 'We are delighted that Dunstable has been chosen in 2020 and the Council will continue to work hard with the local community to help make Dunstable a better place that we can all be very proud of '.

The 2020 local theme will be 'Wildflowers and Pollinating Plants' and the campaign will be launched on Thursday 6 February with a tree and shrub planting event and the unveiling of a new Dunstable in Bloom notice board in Grove House Gardens. Dunstable in Bloom will be planting shrubs and perennials which are good for pollinating insects and help them thrive.

The 2020 RHS Britain in Bloom theme is 'Grow Social' to encourage people and communities to make connections through plants; reaching beyond 'the garden gate' to bring people together. Information packs and grants will be available from the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) in January.



Dunstable in Bloom is also supporting and encouraging community groups and schools to participate in a number of Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) campaigns to Green Great Britain, including 'It's Your Neighbourhood', 'Wild About Gardens', 'Campaign for School Gardening' and 'National Gardening Week' from 27 April to 3 May 2020

Dunstable in Bloom will also be running a 'Best Front Garden' competition again in 2020 and there will be nine different categories to choose from. Details are available on the Dunstable in Bloom website.

So let's all make this a bloomin' marvellous Britain in Bloom year for our town. There are lots of ways to get involved; come along to the launch, tell us about your projects, plant up your gardens and baskets, encourage your community, share plants with neighbours, get involved in a local litter pick event. The opportunities are endless.

For more information on Dunstable in Bloom please visit dunstableinbloom.wordpress.com. You will also find a link to the RHS campaigns on the website or you can take a look direct at the RHS web pages www.rhs.org.uk. Follow the Dunstable in Bloom campaign on Facebook www.facebook.com/dunstableinbloom/ and share your gardening and environmental projects and stories with us.









Dunstable Town Council 2020 Events Programme





EVENT AND VENUE

Celebrating St. George **Priory Gardens**

> Around the World **Priory Gardens**

Classic Motor Rally **Priory Gardens**

Dunstable Live Grove House Gardens

Sunday Band Concerts Grove House Gardens

> **Priory Pictures** Priory Gardens

Party in the Park Grove House Gardens

Priory Proms in the Park **Priory Gardens**

Dunstable Fireworks Display Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Christmas Carols & Torchlight Procession The Square **DATE AND TIMES**

Saturday 25 April 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Saturday 9 May

Saturday 13 June 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Saturday 20 June 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm

2.30 pm to 4.15 pm

Saturday 4 July & Saturday 15 August

Saturday 25 July 12 noon to 8.00 pm

Saturday 12 September From 6.00 pm

Gates open at 5.00 pm

Friday 27 November

Looking to grow your business in 2020?

Events Sponsorship could be the way to go!

We have exciting opportunities for event sponsorship for 2020. For information please email gina.thanky@dunstable.gov.uk

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

28 June, 12 & 19 July, 2, 9 & 23 August

Film times TBC

Thursday 5 November

From 7.00 pm

For all event enquiries, please contact Gina Thanky on 01582 891407 or email gina.thanky@dunstable.gov.uk





canapés while your photographs are being taken or let us transform the room for you and your guests to enjoy one of our wonderful Afternoon Teas.



Please give us a call at Priory House on 01582 891420 for more information, to check availability or to arrange a visit





DUNSTABLE



What does Dunstable Town Council do for you?

The Town Council offers a range of facilities and activities for young people, from chill out space to sports and play places.

Grove Corner Young People's Centre offers a safe space for you to hang out with friends or meet new people. With free pool and football tables, a sound system you can Bluetooth your music to plus 6 computers with free Wi-Fi and office suite. Coming soon upgraded media system and gaming capabilities! Follow us on our Facebook or website for new session times and activities. Friday evenings 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm is Junior session for 10 to 13-year-olds. Straight after this we hold a session for those age 12+ until 9.00 pm! Why not come and check it out?

Creasey Park BMX track is a fantastic FREE recreational track. The track layout has 3 berms, doubles, rollers, rhythm section, so come down and give it a go. The track is open everyday from 10.00 am until dusk, subject to bookings. The track is accessible via Frenchs Avenue, Dunstable. For maximum enjoyment please ensure you adhere to all track rules and regulations that can be found trackside and on our website www.dunstable.gov.uk

Grove Skate Park Are you into skateboarding? Have you tried out our Skate Park? If not, why not? Located off Court Drive, behind Go Bowling, this state-of-the-art facility was designed by skaters for skaters! The park is open 7 days a week, it's FREE to use and even has floodlights on until 10.00 pm.



Dunstable Town Council and Committee Meetings

Copies of the agenda for all meetings are available for inspection three days beforehand at Grove House, Priory House (Tourist Information Centre) and Dunstable Library or via the Council's website www.dunstable.gov.uk

All meetings commence at 7.00 pm and are held at Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable unless otherwise stated, and all are open to the public. Members of the public are welcome to ask questions about matters being considered at the meetings. Advance notice is required by the previous working day and further information is available from the Council's Head of Finance and Support Services lucy.salim@dunstable.gov.uk

Forthcoming meeting dates are listed below. The full calendar of meetings for 2020 can be found on the Council's website www.dunstable.gov.uk

20/01/2020	Finance and General Purposes Committee
28/01/2020	Plans Sub-Committee
03/02/2020	COUNCIL
18/02/2020	Plans Sub-Committee
02/03/2020	Community Services Committee
09/03/2020	Grounds and Environmental Services Committee
10/03/2020	Plans Sub-Committee

16/03/2020	Finance and General Purposes Committee
30/03/2020	Town Meeting
31/03/2020	Plans Sub-Committee
16/04/2020	Personnel Sub-Committee
21/04/2020	Plans Sub-Committee
27/04/2020	COUNCIL















Services Dunstable Town Council Provides For You

Main Council Reception 01582 513000 For more information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Grounds and Environmental Services

Cemetery Management

Maintenance of grounds, grave preparation, burial and memorial arrangements Dunstable Cemetery, West Street, Dunstable LU6 1PD 01582 891428 | cemetery@dunstable.gov.uk

Parks and Open Spaces

Maintenance of grounds, sport pitches and skate park, litter picking, dog bins, grass cutting Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Allotments

Plot lettings and maintenance of sites 01582 891426 | allotments@dunstable.gov.uk

Maintenance, inspections and cleansing Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Centre Maintenance

Maintenance of raised beds, grassed areas and floral displays 01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Maintenance of Priory & Grove House Gardens

Grounds maintenance, litter picking, dog bins 01582 891413 | john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Ranger & Town Centre Ranger

Cleaning up the public places in Dunstable Freephone 0800 013 0350

Grove Skate Park

01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Bennett's Splash & Splashside Café

01582 891433 | lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk

Mayoral and Democratic Services

Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Mayor's Charity Events, Civic Services, Democratic Representation 01582 891404 | sharon.long@dunstable.gov.uk

Community Services

Town Centre Management

Economic regeneration, Christmas lights, Ashton Square public toilets and twice-monthly themed markets 01582 891436 | annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk

Events Programme including:

Dunstable Live, Fireworks, Party in the Park, Proms in the Park 01582 891407 | gina.thanky@dunstable.gov.uk | events@dunstable.gov.uk

Heritage Centre, TIC, functions, tea rooms and gift shop Priory House Heritage Centre, 33 High St South, Dunstable LU6 3RZ 01582 891420 | prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Grove Corner Young People's Centre 76a High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF 01582 891434 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Older People's Support Service

Good Companions day care, CPCFC Lunch Club 01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Artificial/grass pitches, function room, licensed bar, BMX track Creasev Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB 01582 891433 or 07712 861618 | cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

Peter Newton Pavilion (Managed by Beds FA) Century House, Skimpot Road, Dunstable LU5 4JU | 01582 565111

Downside Community Centre

Licensed to the Seventh Day Adventist Church Suffolk Road, Downside Estate, Dunstable | 01582 666403

For any queries relating to Council Tax, Housing Benefits, Refuse or Highways please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000 or email customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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Feedback Form

We would appreciate your comments on the services we provide.

Please enter your comments in the area to the right and return your slip to Grove House.

Return your comment slip to:

Dunstable Town Council, Grove House, 76 High St North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1NF

Your comments:
Please enter your details so that we may respond to your comments:
Name:
Name:
Address:

protection act 1998 guarantees that the information you have provided will only be used for the correct purposes. If you do

not want to receive any additional information from Dunstable Town Council please tick this box.