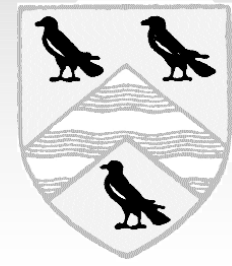


Cromer Town Council www.cromertown.org **ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8**

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April 2008



Rev up for Jag fest

Jaguar car fans will cruise to Cromer on Saturday 24 May to celebrate one of the world's greatest car designers – Cromer's Malcolm Sayer. Designer of the iconic C and D types which swept all before them at Le Mans in the 1950s, Malcolm Sayer was born in St Mary's Road in 1916. A Blue Plaque will be unveiled during the day, which includes classic Jags in North Lodge Park and the Runton Road car park.

On their bikes

Cromer Mayor Phil Harris (right) and Cllr Hilary Thompson will be pedalling 500-odd miles to Cromer's German twin town Nidda in September to mark the 10th anniversary of the link.



And off your bikes

There will be 11 new bicycle stands around Cromer, including the Library, North Lodge, Merchants' Place and the car parks, thanks to a £20,000 grant from Norfolk County Council.

All lit up for summer

The second phase of the church flood-lighting scheme, illuminating the seaward Tucker Street side, is due to be completed by the end of March.

WI Hall lease to CTC

The Town Council is due to sign a two-year lease on the Garden Street WI Hall at £8,000 a year. "We're hoping to set up a charitable status body to run it which may affect the rent," said Town Clerk Julie Chance.

Travellers' Site

Following representations from the public, the Town Council asked NNDC to reconsider the proposed site at Holt Road. NNDC felt consultation had been carried out correctly and did not warrant repeating.

New Year Fireworks

This year's display raised £4,754, half for local 'good causes', which has included £1,000 towards new central heating for the Seaview Play Group.

Welcome at meetings

All Town Council meetings are open to the public, with time set aside for public participation. All are held at 7pm in the North Lodge council chamber, and agendas advertised on Town Council notice boards around Cromer.

North Lodge now open for business

THE dust sheets are coming off North Lodge as the two-year refurbishment of the building draws to a close and the building takes its place again at the centre of the community.

Purchased from NNDC by the Town Council on behalf of Cromer in spring 2006 for £300,000, the £150,000 refurbishment programme has seen the basement gutted and tanked, and the Council Chamber and ground floor offices brought into the 21st century.

"The majority of the work is due to be completed by 31 March, although the DDA requirements for access will take longer," says Town Clerk Julie Chance.

Inside the building, new carpets have

been laid, the Registrar's office is ready for re-occupation, and the revamped Council Chamber is perfect for weddings and other ceremonies.

"We have lots of weddings already booked for this year and next, and after the Wedding Fayre at North Lodge from 13-14 September expect more."

Book now is the message! Weddings currently cost £150 to Cromer residents (£200 otherwise) plus Registrar fees. Please contact Julie Chance or Deputy Town Clerk Janet Warner on 512254 or email cromer.town@tiscali.co.uk

■ The purchase and refurbishment of North Lodge has been funded by a 30 year fixed interest (4.2%) Public Works Loan for £450,000, repaid by rent from the first floor North Lodge offices and an £8,000 increase in the precept 2006-7.



Weddings (etc) at North Lodge

Celebrate your special ceremony in North Lodge with its fine sea views and gardens providing the perfect setting. Licensed for marriages, renewal of vows, civil partnerships and baby-naming ceremonies. Please contact 01263 512254 or email cromer.town@tiscali.co.uk



'No car park' pledge on North Lodge Park

FOLLOWING the exhibitions on 3 and 4 April last year of NNDC's alternative proposals for developing North Lodge Park, the 5 April Parish Poll called by Friends of North Lodge Park overwhelmingly voted 94% against any car park in North Lodge Park.

At its first meeting on 14 May 2007, the new Town Council adopted a policy of "no car park in North Lodge Park".

On 2 October 2007, a meeting of the Town Council on North Lodge Park agreed facilities should be provided for all ages, including a picnic area; additional seating; bandstand; and a new skateboard area.



Seven new Councillors elected for 2007-2011

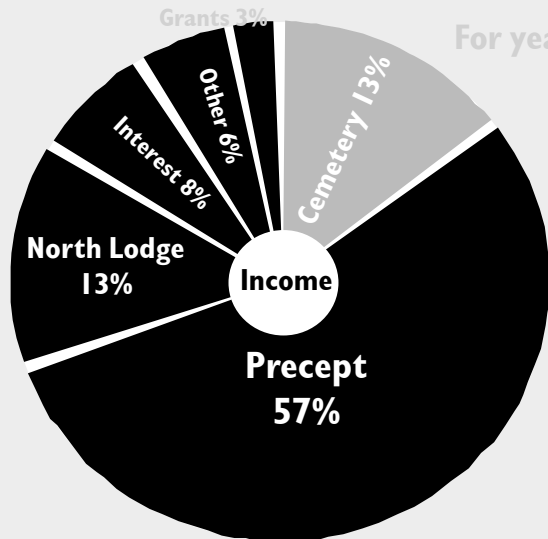
Cromer Town Council has seven new Councillors, five elected in May 2007, two elected in October to fill vacancies in the Cromer Town ward. From left: Robert Read, Jean Amis, Mary Northway, Gwen Smith, John

Edwards, Deputy Mayor Yvonne Nolan, Colin Vanlint, Tony Nash, Hilary Thompson, Beverley Edwards, Vera Woodcock MBE, Keith Johnson. Not pictured: Duncan and Sophie Abel, Mayor Phil Harris, John Lee.

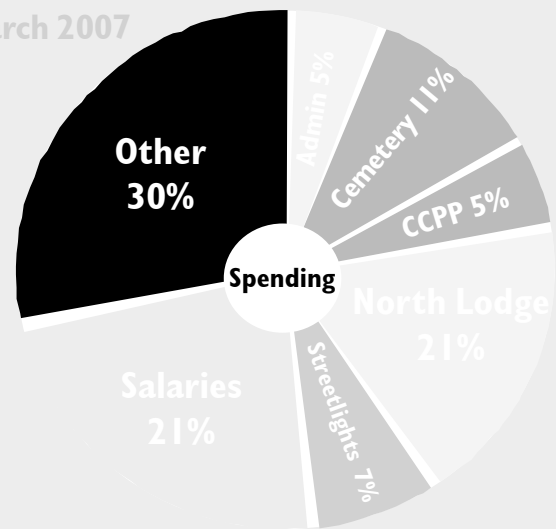


CROMER TOWN COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For year ended 31 March 2007



Income for the year 2006-7 was £183,947 (up from £179,034 in 2005-6). Cromer Town Council's main source of revenue is the precept – the sum of money NNDC raises on its behalf from Cromer householders as part of their Council Tax. In the year 2006-7 the precept was £107,500, for the year ending 31 March 2008 £119,000. For the year 1 April 2008-31 March 2009, the precept will be £122,000, an increase of 2.5%.



Expenditure for 2006-7 was £163,981. Salaries and admin costs (£41,317) accounted for 26% of expenditure, compared to 39% in 2005-6. The 'Other' figure (£50,635) includes £35,500 on the North Lodge refurbishment (eg £19,000 loan interest repayments). Expenditure on street lights, repairs and replacements fell from £21,073 (13%) in 2005-6 to £11,106 in 2006-7. Other refurbishment costs at North Lodge rose to £34,962 (21%) compared to £8,741 in 2005-6.

A local council... for local people

As the 'first tier' of local government, before the District and County councils, Cromer Town Council is the 'closest' to local people, with roughly one Town Councillor per 300 local electors.

The 16 members of CTC, elected every four years, receive no pay or expenses other than occasional travel costs. Members, who can be co-opted, elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor every May at the Annual CTC Meeting.

The full Town Council meets every six weeks at 7pm on Monday evenings, although much of CTC's work is carried out by five Committees:

- **Works and General Purposes** – looks after CTC property, eg cemeteries, street lights, benches etc. Quarterly.

- **Planning and Environment** – meets monthly to make recommendations on planning applications to NNDC, who make the decisions. It also considers transport and highways matters, and licensing applications.

- **Community Economic Development** – quarterly committee to plan the future development of Cromer.

- **Publicity** – promotes Cromer through leaflets, websites, Bloom, Christmas Lights, New Year Fireworks, and supports Carnival, Twinning, Folk on the Pier etc. Includes representatives from Chamber of Trade, RNLI, VEO, Guest House/Hoteliers Association.

- **Strategy** – looks after staff, North Lodge, audit, insurance, and reviews policies of the council.

All meetings are held at 7pm in the North Lodge council chamber, and all are welcome to attend.

Hanging baskets out, sustainable plants in

CROMER hanging baskets will soon be history, making way for sustainable planting which could see palm trees on the prom and town centre.

Last October the Cromer in Bloom Committee, funded by the Town Council, opted to switch from hanging baskets to more economic, longer-lasting planting.

"We've got nothing against hanging baskets," said Bloom chairman Jim Bond, "when they're good they're fine, but when they're bad they are awful."

As good gardeners know, hanging baskets are labour intensive and need a lot of water. "You have to water them twice a day in hot weather – a waste of time and water, especially when there are better, more sustainable, lasting alternatives," says Jim.

For there are sound financial reasons to switch to more sustainable planting. "In the past, we might have spent £1,000 a season on bedding plants, but when they're ripped out there's nothing left and you start again from scratch.

"I'd rather spend £1,000 on palm trees, yuccas or grasses which last and

Sustainable: but there'll still be plenty of colour in Cromer



'They are not justifiable in financial, environmental, or labour terms' – Jim Bond

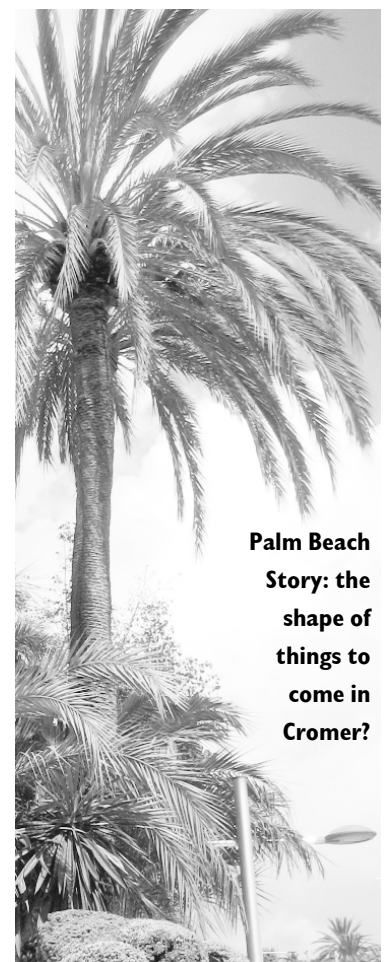
grow – even on bulbs in the ground which will be there the following years, and can be added to rather than replaced at great expense every year."

The move doesn't mean there's going to be no more colourful plants in Cromer. "For example, rather than plant petunias on the triangular patch opposite Morrison's garage – which is mud most of the year – there could plants all year round with a bed of colour from spring, perhaps even a concentration of winter pansies.

"Imagine how that could look with 3-4 metre high palms and bold splashes of lasting exotic colour, rather than heavily-watered petunias for a couple of months and mud most of the year."

The aim is to build up more significant, lasting planting, making more visual impact with larger plants which get bigger every year, rather than bedding plants which die and need replacing.

"It's only what people do in their own gardens," adds Jim. "You don't chuck everything out twice a year at great cost, but build up over time."



Palm Beach Story: the shape of things to come in Cromer?

Annual Town Meeting 17 April

This year's Cromer Town Council Annual Meeting will be held at the Parish Hall, Church Street, on Thursday 17 April. During the day there will be displays and exhibitions from local groups. The evening session will begin at 7pm and include questions to Councillors, presentations on the work of the Town Council, Cromer Past Present Future and the Poppyland Partnership, and the presentation of this year's Cromer Honours.