



## **Budleigh Salterton Town Council**

Town Clerk: Mrs Alice Gater-Wildgust

Council Offices, Station Road

Budleigh Salterton

Devon, EX9 6RJ

T: 01395 442245

E: [office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk)

# *Gala on the Green*

**23.5.26**

## *Your questions answered*

**Thank you to all those who came to meet Town Council members at the above event**

**The following questions were submitted. As promised, a response to each question is provided below.**

### *Why wait to be heard?*

**We are ready to hear from you all year round – simply get in touch [office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk)**

**If you are interested in a particular issue, you may find the information you need in the minutes of the Town Council or its committees, which provide a detailed record of discussions, decisions, and actions taken. All meeting dates are published on the Budleigh Salterton Town Council (BSTC) website and on the public noticeboard located on Station Road or simply join a meeting and hear all about it first hand.**



## **Budleigh Salterton Town Council**

Town Clerk: Mrs Alice Gater-Wildgust  
Council Offices, Station Road  
Budleigh Salterton  
Devon, EX9 6RJ  
T: 01395 442245

E: [office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## **Why have the benches by Steamer Steps been removed?**

East Devon District Council owns and manages all public benches within Budleigh Salterton. It is recognised that two benches have been removed in recent times.

One of these benches is scheduled to be replaced shortly. The second was a memorial bench that had reached the end of its serviceable life. Having become unstable, it was removed on safety grounds. Memorial benches are funded by individuals and were previously provided with a ten-year guarantee for a fixed fee. At the end of this period, family members are contacted and given the opportunity to fund a replacement bench if required. In this instance, it was decided not to proceed with a replacement.

Residents may also have noticed that the benches along the seafront have recently undergone refurbishment, including sanding and staining works. Budleigh Salterton Town Council resolved last year to fund this work as a one-off project and, with the agreement of East Devon District Council, the refurbishment programme has now been completed.

It is hoped that these improvements will help enhance the appearance, comfort and enjoyment of the seafront for residents and visitors alike for years to come.

## **Could the Green become a meeting place with a coffee stand and more cover and benches?**

Thank you for your suggestion regarding the Green. New ideas for enhancing the Green and encouraging greater community use are always welcome. The Town Council is pleased to hear residents' views on how this important public space might be improved and enjoyed by a wider range of people. However, East Devon District Council have control of the Green and would have final say on the development of this area.

Any organisation or business wishing to operate a coffee stand or similar venture on the Green would be required to obtain the appropriate licence and permissions. Applications for such activities would need to be made through East Devon District Council's licensing process and not something BSTC has power over.

With regard to additional benches, any such proposals would need careful consideration. A recent audit of benches within the town revealed just how many are already in place, with more than 200 benches across Budleigh Salterton and over 100 on the seafront alone. While additional seating can undoubtedly enhance public spaces and encourage people to spend more time enjoying them, it is important to recognise the ongoing commitment that each new bench represents including not only the initial costs of purchasing and installing benches, but also the long-term costs associated with inspection, maintenance, repair and eventual replacement. As with all public amenities, these costs



## **Budleigh Salterton Town Council**

Town Clerk: Mrs Alice Gater-Wildgust  
Council Offices, Station Road  
Budleigh Salterton  
Devon, EX9 6RJ  
T: 01395 442245

E: [office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk)

must be balanced against other demands on council budgets and the resources available for maintaining existing community facilities and infrastructure.

### **What is happening with the speed sign on the entrance to East Budleigh?**

We are advised that the speed monitor is currently with Devon County Council for repair. As the device is located in East Budleigh, within Bicton Parish, responsibility for this monitor does not fall under the oversight of BSTC.

Residents seeking further information on the monitor's return may wish to contact East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council directly. Alternatively, Devon County Council may be able to provide an update on the repair works and any anticipated timescales for reinstatement.

We hope the speed monitor can be returned to service as soon as possible.