

The Clock Tower Restoration and Reparation project is 'live' and progressing



UPDATE; We are pleased to report the formal appointment of Conservation Architects Dittrich Hudson Vasetti (DHVA) who will oversee the progression of this project, and some of you, may have met representatives at the Faddle Fair in August, where members of the public were given opportunity to feedback with comments and suggestions.

There have been a number of focussed discussions, and site meetings, with DHVA and we are now at the early stages of scoping a Programme of Works. These early stages also include engagement with the UK's leading Clock Restorers, and in the interim, good news, without any compromise to the main clock restoration work, plans are afoot for the existing clock to be reactivated again soon! So watch this space and listen for the bells again.

What we've been up to over the last 4 years...



Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

THE CORONATION CEREMONY for His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey. The Coronation will see people across the UK and the Commonwealth come together to celebrate. The local Coronation programme is still being finalised and will include a drama event at Coleford Baptist Church on Sunday the 7th.

Full schedule to be published as soon as possible on our Social Media platforms and around the town.

The Town Council have also committed to the presentation of commemorative coins, to all the primary school and pre-school children, within the parish of Coleford and the laying of a commemorative stone at the clock tower.



Other News ...

• Coleford Area Walking Festival May 13th - 21st

Booking details and for the above available soon at the Tourist Information Centre

• Coleford Town Council's Full Events Programme also to follow soon!

• **Environment;** CTC is keen to improve the plight of pollinators in the parish by giving out some free wildflower seed to the first 1000 residents who sign up for the initiative by emailing the office. More details will be on the website in March. For more information on this initiative in another area of the UK go to: <https://climateactionnow.uk/bee-squares/>



Have Your Say

Coleford Town Council would love to know what you think. If you have any issues or concerns about the town or the area in which you live please contact us or drop into Coleford Town Council offices next time you are in the town.

Contact us at:

Coleford Town Council
Lords Hill Walk, Lords Hill, Coleford
Gloucestershire GL16 8BD
Telephone: 01594 832103
Email: ctcoffice@colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk
Web: colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk



COLEFORD TOWN COUNCIL



Community Newsreel

SPRING 2023

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 6

The chance to have your voice heard is on offer to the people of Coleford!

Make your vote count!

Elections explained and how to get involved

ELECTION
X
SPECIAL

LOCAL ELECTIONS for Town and Parish Councils are due to be held, **May 2023**, and Coleford Town Council is urging local people to find out more! Surveys reveal that while many people want a say in how their area is run, many do not know how to do this.

Why is it important to vote in local elections?

DID YOU KNOW that your local Councillors are either responsible for, take an active part in, or are consulted on nearly everything happening in your area that affects you and your family?

Town Councils are responsible for many things like bus shelters, litter bins, community centres, parks, public clocks and footpaths, to name but a few. They are also consulted on planning applications, highway improvements, street signs, grant funding and projects that affect where you live and what facilities your community has or receives.

Voting in Parish and Town Council Elections takes little time but will have a daily impact on you for the next four years. Elected Councillors remain in office for a four-year term and their decisions will affect the future of your community. You need to be sure that you have voted for the right people to look after your community

Your Council needs YOU and YOUR VOTE X

Now is the time to ensure that your name is on the Electoral Register so that you can support your community and vote. Copies of the Electoral Register are kept at Post Offices, Libraries and by Town and Parish Clerks, so a quick check to make sure your name is there would take no time at all. It's your right to vote, so don't miss out.

Chris Haine, Town Clerk says "Parish and Town Councils depend on local people taking an interest in what happens in their community. Whatever their background, local people standing as Councillors can bring a wealth of knowledge and community understanding into the team".

Nomination forms are available now and can be obtained from your Town Clerk or your District Council's website.

Help your Local Town Council meet your needs by supporting them and remembering to, VOTE.



Changes to voter requirements at polling stations

HOW TO VOTE

THE BIGGEST CHANGE from previous elections is that from May 2023, all electors will need to show photo identification when voting at the polling station.

Valid forms of I.D: • Passport • Driving Licence • Blue Badge • Bus passes etc. **Out of date I.D is acceptable provided the photo is still a likeness to the person.**

If a voter doesn't have the appropriate ID, they will be able to ask for a **Voter Authority Certificate**. They will need to apply for this before the election and will need to verify their identity with their date of birth and National Insurance number as well as providing a photo. Applications can be made online or using a paper form. The Electoral Registration Officer will need to check each application to make sure the person is registered at the address given, that the personal details match, and that the photo is acceptable i.e. a full-face photo has been uploaded. A certificate will then be posted to the voter.

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station

<https://www.colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk>

Help your local Town Council meet your needs by supporting them and remembering to VOTE

A Larger print version available from the Town Council Offices, and also on our social media platforms



Coleford Town Council offices and chamber are at Lords Hill Walk

What is a Town Council?

A **TOWN COUNCIL** is the collective voice of its community. Town Councils are the tier of local Government closest to the people and provide communities with a democratic voice and structure to take community action, striving to improve quality of life in the Parish. Town Councils can represent larger and smaller populations and will often fulfil many functions from providing leisure facilities, to supporting local organisations and Tourist Information Centres.

Funded solely through the Council Tax, their annual budgets can be anything from up to £5,000,000. Town Council budgets are a tiny part of the whole Council Tax; they do not receive any Government funding or business rates.

Whatever the makeup of your Council, it is the representation of people's hopes and concerns, ensuring that local services provided are efficient and effective.



Coleford Town Council chamber

What are the roles of your town councillors?

COLEFORD TOWN COUNCILLORS are volunteers, who are elected members of local Government, they conduct their business within a legal framework and are responsible to all the residents in the Town. Councillors serve a four-year term (with possible extension).

Councillors are local leaders, community-minded people with a desire to participate in shaping the future of their parish/town. In order for all the residents in an area to have their views heard it is important that Councillors represent a diversity of thinking and backgrounds.

Councils have extensive powers and can lead on a range of issues. They can take climate action, encourage biodiversity, support residents in food and fuel poverty and help to create sustainable, happy communities with socially active young people and adequate provision for elderly people.

They influence and shape the long-term development policy for the parish; and as part of the planning process, Coleford's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), brought together from consultation, the way in which local people wished to shape their community, in general conformity with the

Forest of Dean District Council's (FODDC) Local Plan, and that was voted into law in October 2018. It is the key document which CTC applies, when they make comment to the FODDC as Local Planning Authority, or to the Planning Inspectorate at Appeal level. Councillors aim to improve the quality of life and the environment in their local area, whilst maintaining its distinctive character. All CTC's meetings are open to the public, and prospective candidates are encouraged to attend their Council meetings to give them a clearer picture of what Councils do and the role they might play on their Council.

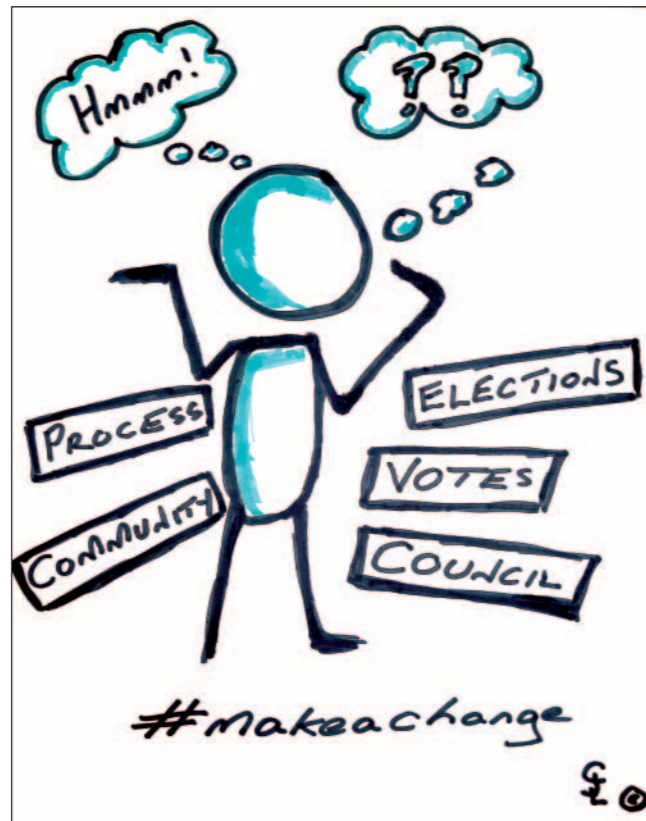
Coleford Town Council Committees

- Highways & Public Safety Committee
- Environment Committee
- Planning Committee
- Marketing & Regeneration Committee
- Clock Tower Restoration & Reparation Committee
- Finance & Asset Management Committee

How do I become a councillor?

While relatively easy, it is a strict process and, if not followed exactly, will result in disappointment and rejection for the wrong reasons. The rules are there to ensure that only those who are eligible to stand for Election in your community are considered and that those put forward have agreed to stand for election. Councillors are elected by the public and serve four-year terms.

Check your eligibility on the **Local District Council website** <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/> for the eligibility and disqualification criteria.



Time to make a difference...your vote will count on how your town is run and how we plan for the future.

LOCAL ELECTION TIMELINE

- MAR 20** NOMINATIONS OPEN
- APR 4** NOMINATIONS CLOSE
- APR 17** DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE
- APR 18** APPLICATIONS TO VOTE BY POST CLOSE 17.00
- APR 25** APPLICATIONS TO VOTE BY PROXY CLOSE 17.00
- APR 25** APPLICATIONS TO APPLY FOR VOTER AUTHORITY CERTIFICATE CLOSE 17.00
- MAY 4** ELECTION DAY - **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE PHOTO ID**
- MAY 9** NEWLY ELECTED & UNCONTESTED CANDIDATES TAKE OFFICE

THE ELECTION PROCEDURE

- STEP 1: CHECK FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS
- STEP 2: SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION
- STEP 3: NOMINATION ACCEPTED, OR NOT
- STEP 4: NOMINATION MADE PUBLIC
- STEP 5: START CAMPAIGNING
- STEP 6: POLLING DAY

USEFUL ELECTION CONTACTS

Forest of Dean District Council
Tel: (01594) 812638
E-mail: elections@fdean.gov.uk

Coleford Town Council
Tel: (01594) 832103
E-mail: ctcoffice@colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Finding your local Council:
<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>
www.yourvotematters.co.uk

Planning your Local Campaign:
<https://www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor/resources/council-toolkit-planning-your-local-campaign>

The Electoral Commission
Tel: 0333 103 1928
E-mail: infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

National Association of Local Councils
Tel: 020 7637 1865
E-mail: nalc@nalc.gov.uk

If you require any assistance or support in considering becoming a Councillor, or more general information about Elections, please take full opportunity of the Election Contact information
#makeachange : Become a Councillor