

## **ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA TOWN COUNCIL POLICY OBJECTIVES - 2015/16**

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council recognises the unique features of the Town and strives to maintain and improve it as an attractive place in which to live, work and visit. It is our aim to work hard for our thriving, lively and lovely Town.

Specifically we want:

**to ensure that all expenditure of this Council is consistent with the objectives in this Policy.**

We will do this:

- through rigorously examining all applications for grants and funding;
- by maintaining a good working relationship between the Internal Auditor and the Responsible Financial Officer; and
- by scrutinising all expenditure and income.

**1. To develop collaborative working arrangements with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Warwick District Council (WDC), especially in relation to Town Centre development and planning in particularly deprived neighbourhoods.**

We will do this:

- by working with the Town Centre Development Manager to ensure the views of this Council are heard;
- by considering plans for specific wards;
- through working with BID Leamington, the Royal Leamington Spa Chamber of Trade, and other organisations such as the Leamington Society,
- by maintaining the special character of Leamington Town Centre as a place for residence, employment, tourism and recreation;
- by striving for a “level playing field” between Leamington Town Centre and nearby retail parks to help ensure the protection of the retail offer of the Town Centre; and
- by taking pride in Leamington’s parks and open spaces through working with WDC and voluntary organisations

**2. To respond to WDC’s Local Plan consultations with detailed proposals for how we want to see Leamington develop.**

We will do this:

- by highlighting the need for good quality new housing in the Local Authority, privately owned and affordable sectors;
- by encouraging WDC to use brownfield sites for development thereby reducing the pressure on greenfield and greenbelt sites within Warwick District;
- by emphasising the necessity for new housing to reflect the needs of all;
- by emphasising the need for employment opportunities for all our community;
- by working with WDC to develop a policy on all types of HIMO;
- by having due regard for the conservation area including working with WDC and Conservation Societies to encourage economically viable re-use of significant redundant buildings;
- by acknowledging the history of the Town;
- by promotion of all modes of transport including pedestrian, car, bus, train and cycle;
- by promoting social cohesion; and

- by actively promoting community safety through a rigorous monitoring of the night-time economy, discouraging sexual entertainment venues in the Town, and working with other parties to reduce anti-social behaviour.

### **3. To support and develop all aspects of civic life.**

We will do this:

- through the offices of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor;
- by motivating and managing our small staff complement with best management practice and financial procedures;
- by engaging with the event management officers of WDC in planning events in Leamington, including officially acknowledging significant historical anniversaries;
- by supporting and promoting community initiative and voluntary action through our Culture and Community Committee;
- through our support of music and the arts;
- through our support of the Blue Plaque Scheme; and
- by promoting cultural links and understanding through our Twin Town agreements and friendship links.

### **4. To promote equality for all, and particularly in the more socially deprived wards in the Town.**

We will do this:

- by working with WDC to ensure a sufficient supply across the Town of differently sized, good quality affordable housing;
- by working with WDC and WCC to ensure sufficient awareness of existing services such as one-stop shops, employment and training clubs and courses;
- by continued support of Warwick District Citizens Advice Bureau and other third sector organisations;
- by promoting and encouraging community involvement in the cultural diversity of the Town;
- by supporting Warwick District Shopmobility Ltd, and advising on its long term financial viability; and
- by encouraging the growth of business in Leamington.

### **5. To maintain positive ecological action.**

We will do this:

- by encouraging and supporting pedestrians, users of public transport and cyclists;
- by seeking practical and economical alternatives to short car journeys,
- by aspiring for smooth traffic flow within the Town;
- through our support of the Transition Town movement and Fair Trade;
- by keeping our Town green and clean;
- through our street tree planting programme;
- through our support for gardens and open space projects in Leamington Spa; and
- through our active support of Allotment Societies and those wishing to establish new allotment sites.

**6. To raise awareness of the role of the Town Council.**

We will do this:

- by regularly updating our newsletter, website and social media presence, using them to publicise mayoral activities, and to promote projects, events and services we support or fund;
- by engaging with residents and other interested parties through direct contact and social media to ascertain their views;
- by maintaining a link with local press;
- by ensuring that our role as a funding partner is acknowledged by principal authorities in their publicity; and
- by working with WDC, Shakespeare England and Leamington BID to promote the Town to visitors.

*(Approved by the Policy and Resources Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015)*