

SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018



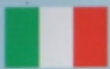
Welcome to
SOMERTON

Royal Capital of Ancient Wessex

Twinned with



Sille-le-Guillaume



Licciana Nardi

Somerton



Town Council

working with the community



Introduction from the Chairman

Once again, It has been a very busy year for the council.

This could not have happened without the continuing hard work from all the members of staff and the dedicated work from the councillors.

I am very proud of them all and it is an honour for me to be their Chairman.

Our continuing aim is to make Somerton an even better place for the residents of all ages to live in.

As you can see from the report below, we are trying to do all we can to make this happen.

Dean

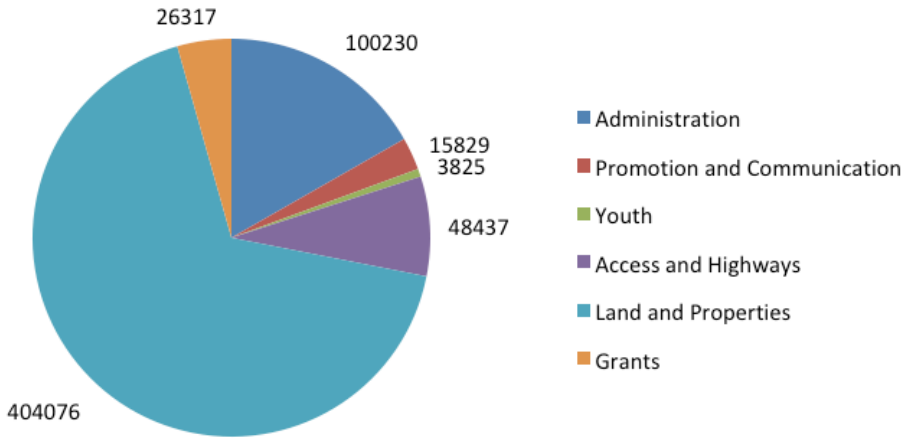
Somerton Town Council

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2017/18 Review of the Year

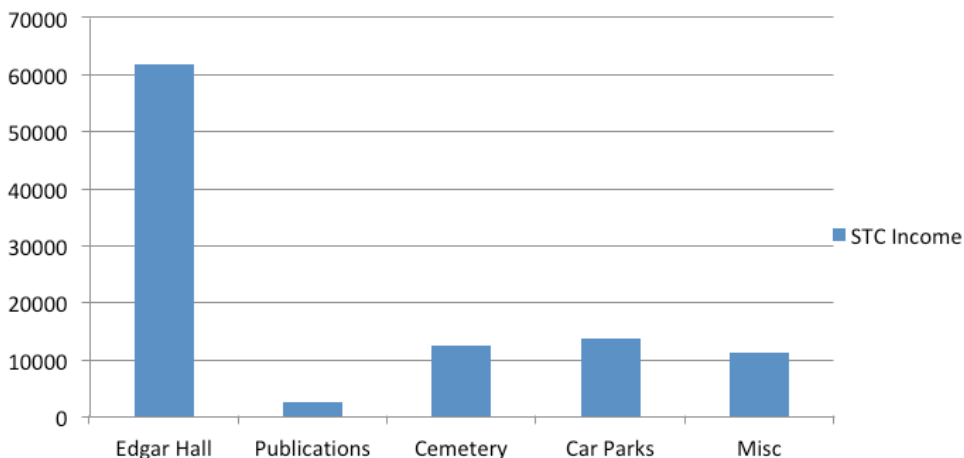
STC Expenditure by Committee



The above details the expenditure by committee in. A full breakdown of the years accounts is available on the Town Council website www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk, as is the budget for 2018/19

Further analysis of the expenditure is shown at the beginning of each departmental or committee report, and defines the areas of responsibility for that committee.

STC income (excluding precept income)



The above show the income the Town Council received totalling £102K in addition to the £329K precept (council tax).

Administration objectives 2017/18

Disaster recovery plan / Operating Manual for the office .

The manual is complete and will provide stability for the council in the event of operating problems or change of key personnel.

Debtors Control

The average debt has dropped from £10330 to £7636, with old debt (over 90 days) dropping by 89%.

Electronic media, including electronic notice board

A large grant was secured which will allow two electronic notice boards to be sited in Somerton. Several suppliers have been consulted with the chosen supplier ready to install when the order is placed. The boards will supply much of the essential council information including minutes and agendas and other community information.

Recruitment of new Councillors

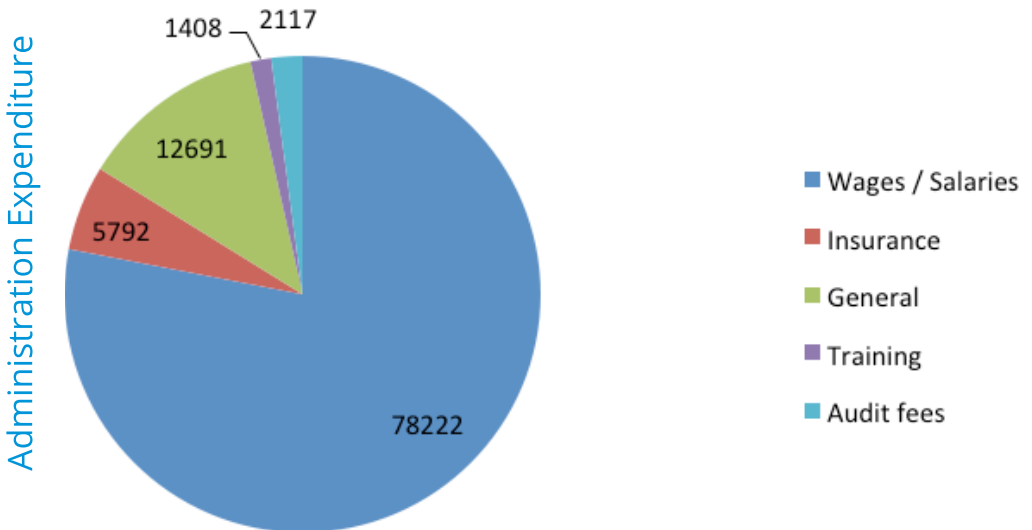
We welcome Fred Bassett, Laura Briggs, Emily Janus, Peter Richardson. May 2019 will see elections for Town and Parish Councils, we are keen to hear from anybody that may be interested.

Online banking

The introduction of online banking has reduced the number of cheques per month from around 40 to 1 in the last four months! Office work practices and efficiency has improved, Bank charges are reduced as are postage costs.

Creation of a Three and Ten Year financial plan

The creation of the plan has been invaluable to aid the general business planning for the council.



Access and Highways objectives 2017/18

- *Completion of STC Car Park Strategy*

Signage and line marking have been completed in all of the car parks along with the installation of an electric charging point. The Half Moon works remain uncompleted due to other commitments and will be worked on in 18/19.

- *Priority System by the Railway Bridge, Behind Berry*

Now fully installed and reviewed.

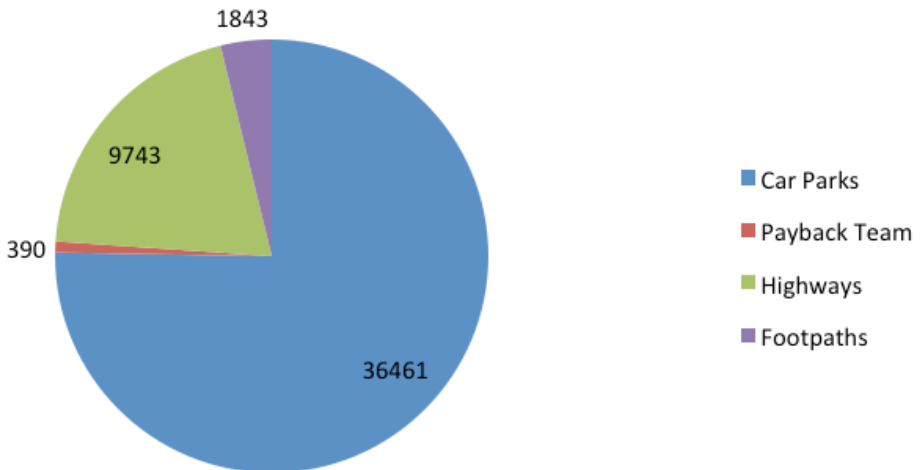
- *In-depth survey to be completed for possible One Way System for West Street*

This project is progressing within the expected timescales, including a large scale consultation during 17/18.

- *Pavement works Market Square*

All works now completed which has significantly improved this part of the Somerton conservation area.

Access and Highways expenditure



Land and Properties objectives 2017/18

- *Cemetery New Road / Burial Area*

The road was completed with further works in the burial area planned for 18/19.

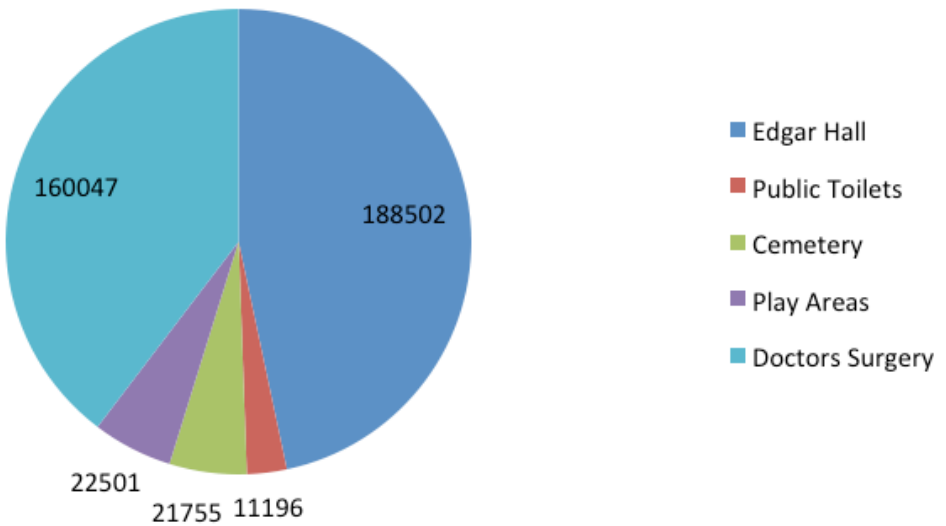
- *Edgar Hall Bar Improvement*

A new look bar with improved refrigeration system installed in early 2018.

- *Grounds maintenance contract specification*

New maintenance contracts have been issued in all areas following a robust process which included the use of contract finder for the first time.

Land And Properties Expenditure



Promotion and Communication objectives 2017/18

- *Community Tree Planting*

No further trees were planted this year

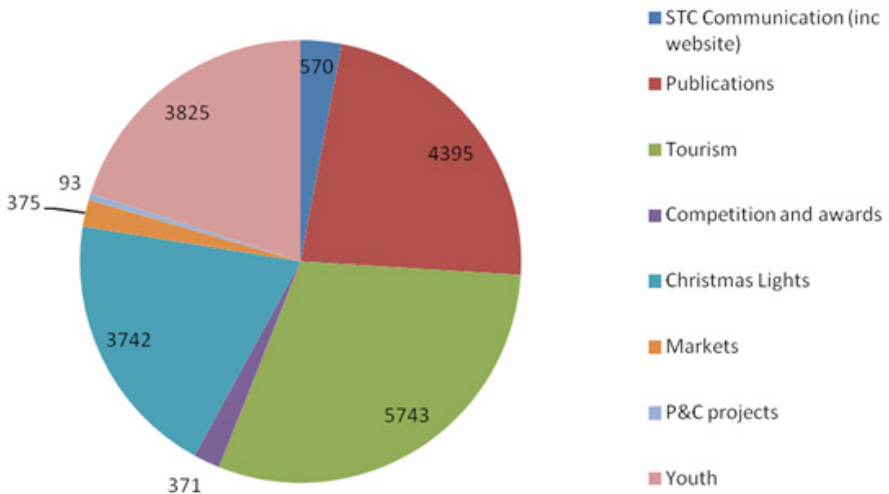
- *Encouraging more visitors to Somerton*

The Town Map was launched and is available across the South Somerset area. Advertisements have been placed in What's on Somerset and a subscription to Visit Somerset website.

- *Health Transport links*

Despite efforts by the town council and others the possible work with the Buttercross health centre and the demise of the Links Bus has left some of these without access to transport in a tricky situation.

Promotion and Communication Expenditure



Somerton Town Council Objectives 2018/19

Town Council

- Library Project

Administration

- Recruitment of new Councillors 2019 election
- Local Council Award Gold level
- Jude Raybould personal development (18CPD points)
- Photocopy contract
- Edgar Hall management (Events / Supervision / Process)
- Disaster Recovery phase 2

Access and Highways

- Completion of STC Car Park Strategy,
- Half Moon Car Park resurfaced with extra bays included.
- In-depth survey to be completed for possible one way system for West Street
- Pavement works Market Square and adjacent to Stationery House
- Unicorn bays white lining
- Tree works at Langport Road / Great Western Terrace

Land and Properties

- Cemetery Garden of Rest
- Grounds maintenance new contractor supervision
- Gassons Lane Play areas (Zip Wire / Adult exercise equipment)
- New chairs EH conference room
- EH external painting
- EH White lining car park
- EH Window decals / external signage
- Cow Square trough painting

Promotion and Communication

- Develop Electronic notice board
- Somerton News publication
- Youth Provision