

# Somerton Town Council Annual Report



## Introduction from the Chairman



Once again, It has been a very busy year for the council. This could not 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 a honour for me to be there Chairman. Are 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 trying to do all we can to make this happen.

Dean  
Chairman Somerton Town Council.

## Meet the Team Councillors and Clerks

**Councillor Tim Bown** (Vice Chair of Planning Committee)

**Committee Member:** Planning and Land and Properties

**Phone Number:** 01458 272 680

**Email Address:** [tim.bown@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tim.bown@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk)



I was born in Cornwall and lived in Perranporth until the age of 18. I went to school in Truro. After 40 years working for Clarks Shoes I retired in 2014. I moved to Somerton in 1976. My interests in Somerton over that time include Somerton Twinning Association of which I was a founder committee member in 1986. Since then I have been secretary, chairman and now treasurer. I was a governor at Monteclefe School for 16 years and I am now chairman of Somerton Educational Trust which is based at King Ina Academy. I am married to Jenny who many Somerton parents will know through King Ina

Academy. Between 1994 and 2007 I was a Somerton Parish councillor (Somerton Town councillor since 2000). I joined the Town Council again in May 2015 and I am currently a member of both the Planning Committee and Land & Property Committee.

I would like to concentrate my term as a councillor on improving facilities and services for all Somerton residents and ensuring that Somerton is not “sold short” by planners and developers, particularly with regard to recent housing applications.

**Councillor Pat Colyer** (Chair of Promotions and Communications Committee)

**Committee Member:** Promotions and Communications

**Phone Number:** 01458 272219

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I was born in Freshford near Bath in 1946, and attended Frome Grammar School before studying Business Economics at the University of Aston in Birmingham. I worked in the Sales and Economic Research Department of Averys, the weighing machine manufacturer, for 6 years before returning home to Somerset with my family in 1974. We lived in Barrington, where my three children attended the village junior school before moving to the school in Huish Episcopi. I was a Parish Councillor and treasurer of the school PTA in the village for some years.

During the following years, I owned a business providing insurance for thatched properties and Listed Buildings. Based in Ilminster, the business employed 7 people and had a nationwide client base. In 2009, I sold the firm to a Taunton based insurance specialist, ensuring continuity of the business and employment for the staff.

Following the sale of my business, I moved to Somerton, with my partner Rob Mather, We both enjoy life in the vibrant community we have found here. Rob is involved in the church and Neighbourhood Watch and I have had the opportunity to learn to play bridge and re-discover my interest in art and tapestry.

I joined the Council in 2012 and, as a new-comer, this has given me the opportunity to meet people in all parts of the community which has made me feel at home here. I am pleased that my past professional skills have found an outlet in the Financial Governance and HR Working Groups on the Council.

I am now Chair of the Promotions and Communications Committee, which is working towards improving communications throughout our expanding and varied town. We organise events and encourages community involvement and participation in many areas of town life. As a new person to the town myself, I couldn't carry out this role without the support, knowledge and enthusiasm of my fellow Committee members. I am very pleased to have an opportunity to make a contribution to Somerton which we have now made our home. I hope this can continue in the exciting times ahead.

**Councillor Alex Farmer**

**Committee Member:** Accessibilities and Highways

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**Councillor Mo Fletcher**

**Committee Member:** Planning, Promotions and Communications & Land and Properties

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I was a teacher for 30 years before taking early retirement to care for my husband, Alan Churcher, in 1997. We moved to Somerton then to be near family. Sadly Alan died and I became involved in the community whilst caring for our granddaughters Rachel and Samantha during my daughter-in-law's nursing training.

I became a Guider and joined Somerton Drama Society. I was also a volunteer toe-nail cutter for Age Concern doing domiciliary visits.

I also helped at Monteclefe School listening to children read and teaching maths.

Then I met and married Billy Fletcher and became involved in the Somerton Twinning Association, the Somerton Arts Festival and the Allotment Association. I am still actively involved in most of these groups and on several committees.

New ventures are co-leading Somerton Health Walks and helping to run a Friendship Club at Somerton Sports Club. I helped the Town Council as a volunteer as an editor of The Viaduct and Somerton News.

It was a proud moment when I was asked if would agree to be co opted onto the Town Council. I accepted. I am a gopher rather than a leader and very determined once I get involved in a task. I believe in fair play and helping people to succeed.

**Councillor Pete Frayne** (Chair of Land and Properties)

**Committee Member:** Planning & Land and Properties

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I arrived in Somerton in 1963 at the age of 17 from my town of Manchester and I have loved the town ever since. I have raised 5 children in the town and now have 5 beautiful grandchildren who love coming to visit the local

In 1989 my wife Terry and I first took on the Somerton Hotel where we were publicans for the next 20+ years. We have many a fond memory from our time in the pub and have many lifelong friends in the local community.

During our time in the pub we organised several different charity events to raise money for good causes including the local Yeovil Hospital. We were overwhelmed with the support from our customers getting involved with truck pulls, three-legged races and design your own pram races. More fantastic memories stem from the many years we were fortunate enough to host the Somerton Arts Festival.

Nowadays I am happily retired and enjoying making use of my time as a member of Somerton town council. As councillor, I am chairman of the L&P (Land and Properties) committee which covers the cemetery and play & recreation areas. I am also a member of the planning committee. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity and hope to continue giving back to the local community that gave my family so much support over the years. I look forward to being part of the promising future plans for Somerton.

**Councillor Jo Gale** (Vice Chair of Promotions and Communications)

**Committee Member:** Promotions and Communication & Accessibilities and Highways

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**Councillor Judith Hurley**

**Committee Member:** Planning, Promotions and Communication & Accessibilities and Highways

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**Councillor David Harrison** (Chair of Planning)

**Committee Member:** Planning & Land and Properties

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I have lived in Somerton since 2004. I have been interested in local government for over 20 years and have served as a District Councillor. I have been on Somerton Council from 2007-11 and again since 2014.

I was born into a Yorkshire & European Wool Textile family but chose a different career. I was first in Somerset in the early 1960s then went to University. I was in the Oil Industry for 15 years to 1984 when I became a specialist

offshore financial consultant initially mainly in the Middle East and latterly in Switzerland but with a home base in UK. Pam and I married in 1979 and we have 2 grown up children and three NZ based grandsons.

I retired from my main occupation in 2004 but worked locally part time in market research, at Stourhead, in Education and with a local business. More recently I have been involved with Somerton U3A ( Treasurer) Somerton Probus ( Secretary) , Political campaigning ( Treasurer) St Michaels Church, and have hobbies outside home such as horse racing, walking - and Geology, which is roughly where I started!

I have been proud to serve on Somerton Town Council, including having stayed on board with the Council in the difficult period of 2009-11. I supported Edgar Hall at every stage and am still a Member of the " Friends". Currently my main interest is planning in which I have had a special interest for many years - but nearly every week find I am learning something new.

**Councillor Brian Raybould**

**Committee Member:** Accessibilities and Highways

**Phone Number:** 07976506787

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I live in Waverley and have lived in Somerton for 53 years. From the age of 16 I trained to be a HGV Mechanic and have been employed and self employed in this trade until my retirement.

I am married to my wife Vanessa and this year we celebrated a our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. I have two Sons and five Grandchildren all of whom attend or have attended King Ina Academy before attending Huish Episcopi

Academy.

In my profession I was responsible for keeping up to date with all training and carried this out throughout my career with continuous professional development including regular legislation changes, HR and new skills relating to HGV maintenance to The Ministry of Transport Standards and I have continually present HGV for testing for 50 years.

**Councillor Fiona Richardson** (Vice Chair Land and Properties)

**Committee Member:** Planning, Land and Properties & Accessibilities and Highways

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I have lived in Somerton since September 1998, initially working at B&Q in Yeovil as a store manager and subsequently thirteen years with MENCAP.

I joined Somerton Town Council in May 2014 after retiring in 2013. Born in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, I spent all my early life there before marrying my husband Peter and travelling with him during his time in the Armed Forces. Hobbies include gardening and reading.

I care deeply about Somerton and the surrounding countryside and enjoy life in our beautiful town. I am on the Access and Highways Committee, Land and Property Committee and the Youth Committee. I have also taken up the organisation of the annual "Clean up Somerton" which takes place in April each year. Having been on the town council for two years, I have gained much experience to enable me to better serve the community. I am passionate to keep our town a safe, vibrant and thriving place, ensuring, as far as possible, the needs of all residents are met.

I am proud to be associated with Somerton and hope that I will be able to fully serve the community many years to come. I am fortunate to be supported by my husband who gives his time freely to help me in some of my council duties. I am honoured to be a member of the truly great team that makes up Somerton Town Council.

**Councillor Dave Smith**

**Committee Member:** Promotions and Communication

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Accessibilities and Highways)  
; and Highways & Promotions and Communication

**Phone Number:** 01458 273058

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Born 1949, Burton on Trent (Age 66)

I graduated in Chemical Engineering from Manchester University in 1970 and spent the next 30 years in production management in the Brewing Industry, predominantly with Allied Lyons in the UK, but also with Daniel Thwaites in Blackburn and with Banks (Barbados) Breweries.

I hold a Masters degree in Brewing & Biochemistry (Edinburgh 1972), Diploma in Management Studies (Derby 1975) and a Masters degree in Business Administration (Cranfield 1984).

I moved to Somerset in 1990 and since retiring in 2000, I have enjoyed travelling, photography, gardening, and generally keeping fit with walking and swimming.

Since returning from Barbados in 2000, I served on the Somerton Summer Festival Committee for 10 years including the role of treasurer for 5 years and vice-chair for 2 years. I served as a councillor on Somerton Town Council from May 2007 until October 2009. During that time, I chaired the Footpath Committee and the Publications Committee.

I am currently a Committee Member of Somerton Tourism Partnership, a volunteer in the Local Information Centre, treasurer (and odd-job man!) of the Friends of the Parish Rooms and treasurer of the Charity Trustee Management Committee of LSMI. I also serve as the Parish Paths Liaison Officer for Somerton, Kingsdon and Kingweston.

My current role on STC is chair of the Accessibility & Highways Committee, editor of Somerton News and member of the Promotions & Communication Committee and I represent the council on MTIG.

**Councillor Dean Ruddle** (Chair of Full Council)

**Committee Member:** Ex Officio

**Phone Number:** 07976556054

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**Councillor Timothy Walrond** (Vice Chair of Full Council)

**Committee Member:** Ex Officio

**Phone Number:** 07872127667

**Email Address:** timothy.walrond@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk



**Councillor Clive Wilson** (Vice Chair of Accessibility and Highways)

**Committee Member:** Accessibility and Highways

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I have lived in Somerton with my family for nearly 45 years. Now retired, I was employed in the Aviation World, starting with a five year apprenticeship and finishing with all aspects of Aircraft Repair & Overhaul. I was very fortunate to travel the world in connection with my work, making many long lasting friends on the way.

Over the years having lived in Somerton, I have personally been affected by local planning issues.

So I have a big interest with 'Planning' generally in and around our town. Being an old and pretty town, we must endeavour to preserve its genuine character at all costs.

My personal interests are many and varied, but our Springer Spaniel and my old Mini Cooper takes up most of my free time.

I have been a Somerton Town Councillor for nearly five years, and have recently stepped down as Chairman of the Access & Highways Committee after two years.

In that time the Access & Highways Committee have completed many enhancements, these include:-

Paving around the Buttercross and surrounding pavements have now been totally refurbished.

Resurfacing of the Market Square car-park.

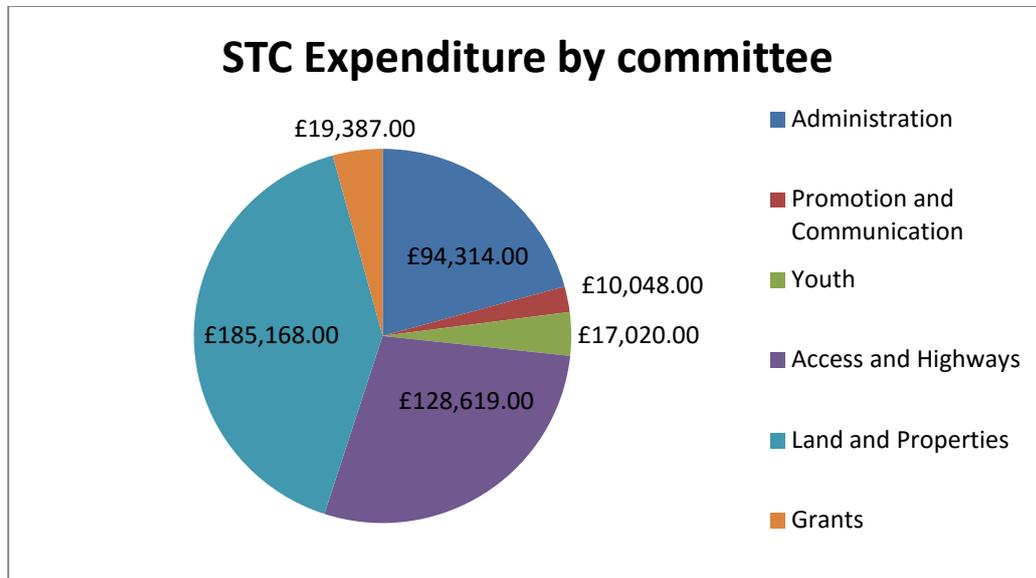
Construction of the new Yarlington car park.

Replacement of the diseased Ash Tree in the Market Square.

The introduction of the Mechanical Path Sweeper on a regular basis that endeavours to keep the town clean.

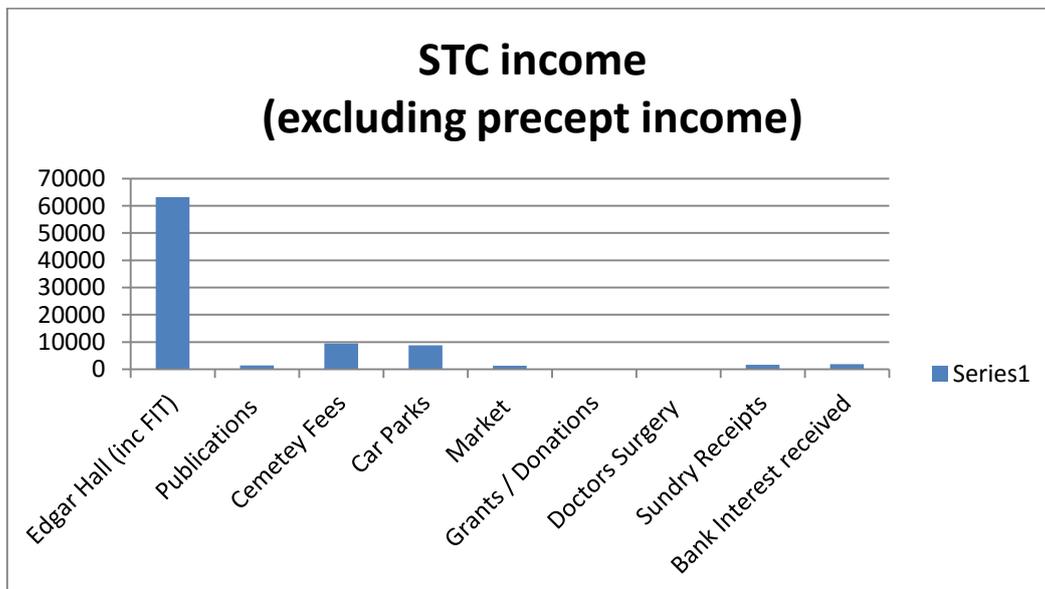
# 2015/16 Review of the Year

Financial Report 2015/16



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](http://www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk), as is the budget for 2016/17

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



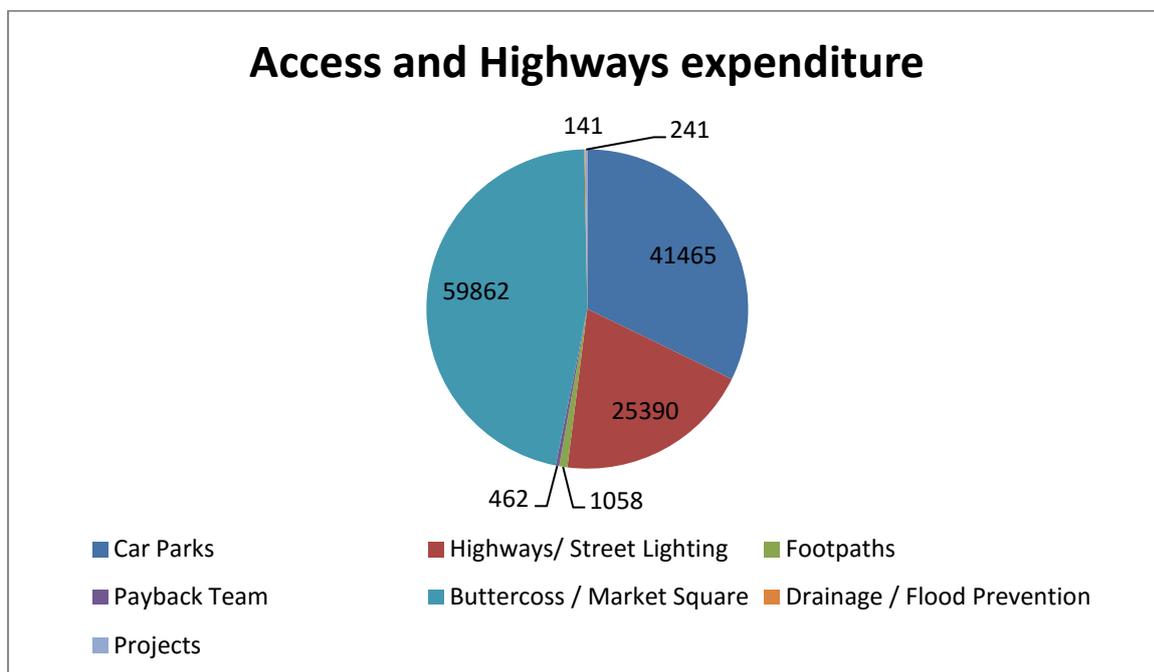
The above show the income the Town Council received totalling £88K in addition to the £295K precept (council tax), a further grant from the District Council of £24K was received, this grant will be phased.

## General

Somerton Town Council have been awarded Foundation Level in the Local Council Awards scheme and are one of the first Councils in Somerset to achieve this award. It is our intention to submit an application for the Quality level in July 2017, followed by Gold level in July 2017. The achievement of this award is credit to the work of the Clerks office and councillors working together for the benefit of the community of Somerton.

It is hard to believe that it is only a year since the elections and the formation of a new council. The new Councillors have received a thorough induction and have settled into the role, the Town Council was praised for its commitment to training as part of the Council Award scheme.

## Access and Highways



A busy year for the Access and Highways committee

The paving work around the Buttercross has significantly improved this area of Somerton and we are grateful to the generous bequest from Mrs Cooper which has allowed this work to be completed. Following previous work around the war memorial and completion of the resurfacing of the Market Square car park with the introduction of a new tree this area of Somerton is significantly enhanced

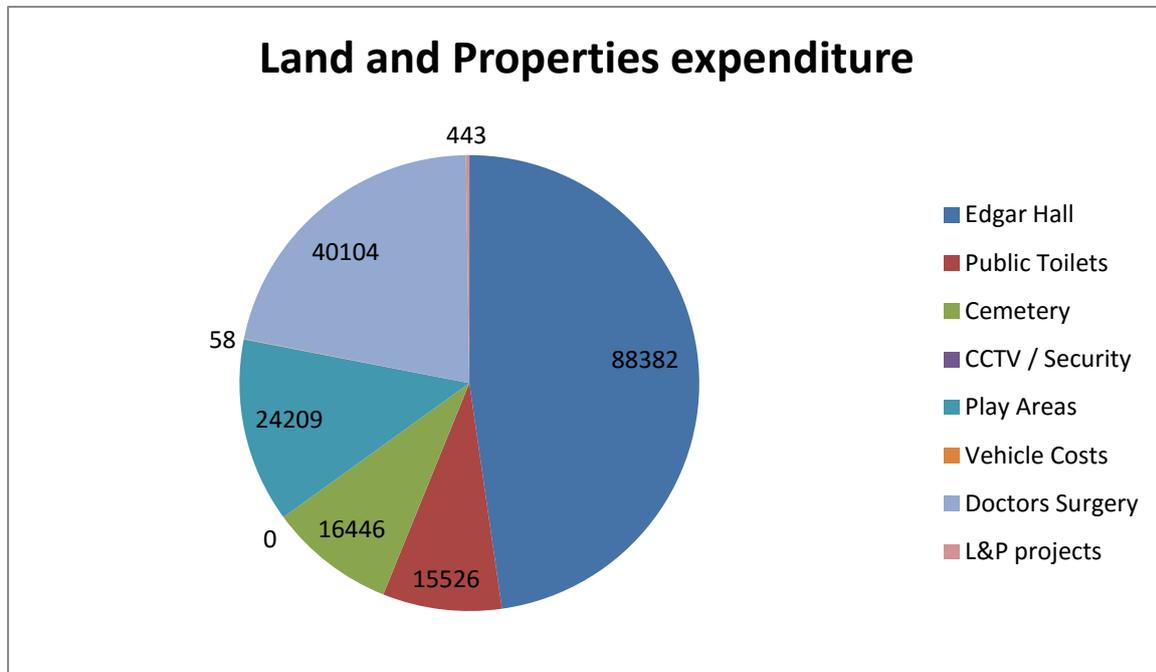
Work continues to complete the Car park Strategy with the Doctors Surgery site now entering the 'works phase' following the delay with the planning application as a result of the bat mitigation issues. This new car park will add a much need 44 spaces to add to the 14 spaces that have been added in to the new long stay car park adjacent to Paddock House car park.

The new Gateway signs that have been installed offer a welcome to visitors and have received much praise for the fresh look that they give to the entrance to the town.

A partnership campaign with the local Police to reduce pavement parking to improve pedestrian safety has been successful and is ongoing.

The Town Council have submitted plans to Somerset County Council to review the traffic flow in West Street following concerns about pedestrian safety and traffic flow around Somerton, the proposal has been accepted and will be consulted on by the County Council.

### Land and Properties



A busy year for Edgar Hall with sales revenues increasing by 24%, with many repeat bookings. In March 2016 Life Church made Edgar Hall their home. The addition of solar panels on the roof of the building paid for by grant funding has improved the environmental impact of the building and offers a welcome additional income of £4K pa via the feed in tariff. An open day is planned for June 17th with everybody welcome to attend to see the opportunities that the building represents.

Following feedback from members of the public the public toilets have been refurbished.

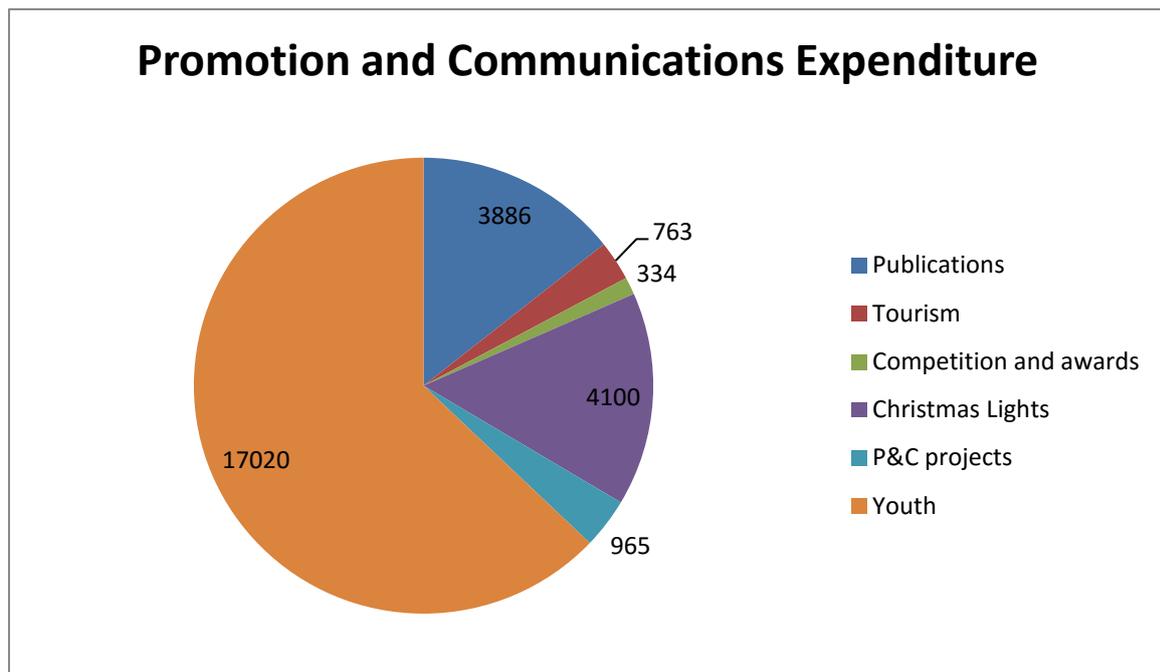
Work in the cemetery to add an additional garden of rest area and the completion of the skip screening project will be followed this year by renovations to the cemetery store and marking out the unallocated area for more burial plots.

Work on the playground areas has been completed following the introduction of a new playground inspection regime, it is important that the areas are fun and safe.

The Town Council working with the Recreation Ground Trust are working towards installing six new temporary changing rooms to improve the facilities at this award winning facility.

Work continues with the Recreation Ground feasibility study on the development of the Recreation ground on the current site or on a new site, there will be a widespread public consultation later in 2016 at a date to be determined by the Trustees and the project group.

## Promotion and Communication



The newly formed promotion and communication committee have introduced the Community Awards which recognise the contribution of Somerton resident to the community via a public nomination.

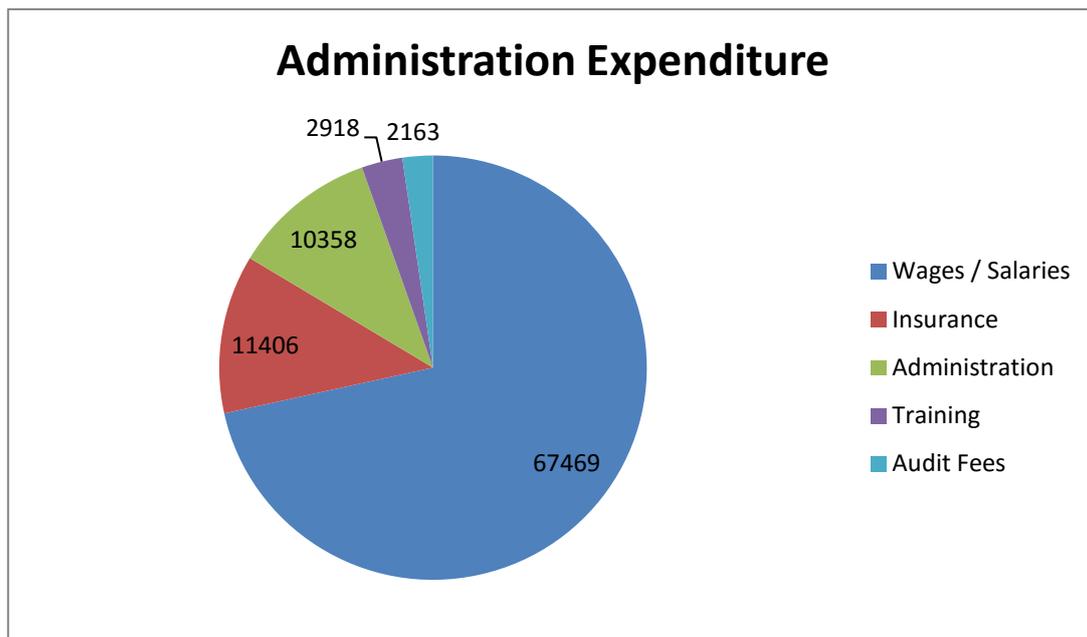
The new Street Market is now operational and will add to the vibrancy and atmosphere of the area adjacent to the Buttercross on the first Friday of each month.

The town council have worked with Citizens advice to bring a new and innovative outreach to Somerton meeting every Thursday between 10am and 12pm.

The Queens beacon to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday was a fabulous success and enjoyed by all that attended

The 'Lights Brigade' supported by funding from the town council have completed the first year of a three year plan to upgrade the Christmas lights with much public support and positive feedback about how good Somerton looked during the festive period.

## The Clerks Office



The computerised SAGE accounting introduced last year is working well and providing more detailed information for the council to make decisions.

The Cemetery records are in the process of being computerised, with over 2000 entries this is a phased piece of work over the next few months.

A 40% (c £4000) saving on insurance renewal this year is testament to the councils drive to achieve value for money in all of its operations

## Planning Committee

The Planning Committee was set up in May 2015 as an additional committee. Previously planning cases had been considered as part of other Committee Meetings in particular Full Council. There are five "Planning Councillors" inclusive of the Chair and Vice Chair, but all Councillors are welcome to attend Planning Meetings if they so wish and to take part. The Committee provides comments on applications to the Local Planning Authority, South Somerset District Council. . The Committee confines its attention to " planning issues" only and makes no final decisions . Important cases are heard by the Area North committee of SSDC consisting of District Councillors and Planning Councillors attend to present Somerton's comments They also, with other Councillors, meet applicants and agents and attend meetings with developers..

The Planning Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month and also on the first Tuesday if the volume of case requires this. There have been significant cases in the First Year. Proposals for Wessex House redevelopment leading to an appeal ; Cartway Lane application; changes to Northfields with a new developer involved; Town Farm and Laurence Farm; proposals for housing and a supermarket on Etsome Terrace.

The Committee well aware of the need for the whole community to input on planning matters. Like the Council it must represent the interests of the whole community including younger and working people. The Committee is very willing to engage with anyone with a viewpoint.

# Somerton Town Council Objectives 2016/17

## Town Council

- Update the Town Plan
- Edgar Hall business development
- Recreation Ground feasibility study
- Completion of STC Car Park Strategy,
- Cemetery Works

## Administration

- Edgar Hall business development
- Recreation Ground feasibility study
- Achieve Local Council Award scheme Quality Council July 2016 / Gold award July 2017
- Disaster recovery plan / Operating Manual for the office / JR training on all functions to Clerk level.
- Office set up - review layout and hours

## Access and Highways

- Completion of STC Car Park Strategy,
  - Development of the Surgery Site
  - Half Moon Car Park resurfaced with extra bays included.
  - Introduction of pay and display parking in Paddock House car park
- Priority System by the Railway Bridge, Behind Berry
- In-depth survey to be completed for possible On-Way-System for West Street

## Land and Properties

- Edgar Hall business development
- Cemetery Shed Project
- Re-mapping areas in the main cemetery and additional roadway.
- Recreation Ground feasibility study (working with the Recreation Ground Trust)

## Promotion and Communication

- Tourism- Putting Somerton on the map
- Update the Town Plan
- Oak Tree Planting scheme
- Link Transport
- Promoting Citizens Advice in Somerton
- Improved Communication with the Community



## EDGAR HALL SOMERTON

Meetings • Conferences • Weddings • Events



### Edgar Hall Somerton - The Perfect Venue for Meetings, Receptions, Conferences, Seminars, Theatrical Productions and so much more!

Fully accessible, Edgar Hall offers:

- Excellent Parking Facilities
- A choice of the solid oak staircase or the glass elevator to the upper floor
- Extensive facilities, including disabled toilets
- Kitchen facilities
- All rooms are fully air-conditioned to suit your needs
- Equipment is also available; projector, screen and microphones.
- Incredible stage facility complete with lighting and sound systems



### Meeting Rooms and Capacity

Room	Capacity
Main Hall	500 people
Conference Room	50 people
Meeting Room	16 people
Green Room	8 people

\* There is a minimum hire duration of 2 hours.

### Booking

You can make your booking online by visiting [www.edgarhall.co.uk](http://www.edgarhall.co.uk)

If you have any questions about your booking please contact the Edgar Hall team on:

Office: 01458 273009  
Caretaker: 07770 998110  
Email: [admin@edgarhall.co.uk](mailto:admin@edgarhall.co.uk)

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