

COUNCIL MEETING – 20 JULY 2004

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR MRS BRYANT - COMMUNICATIONS

Press Office/Public Relations

We have increased coverage in our press office. Becky Brown, our temporary Public Relations Officer, now works daily between 10am and 2pm.

The full time post of Media and Public Relations Officer has been advertised and the interviews take place at the end of this month. When this post is filled we aim to review the Media Protocol including the circulation of press releases. In the meantime these are posted for all to see and download on the Council's web site.

In the Spotlight – our Media coverage

We have issued a number of press releases during May/June and July on a variety of subjects including:

- 4 new sites designated as Local Nature Reserves to celebrate Local Nature Reserve week (July 14-25). These are South Taunton Streams, Netherclay Community Woodland in Bishops Hull, Hurstone at Waterrow and Swains Pond in Wellington.
- In addition, we have been working with Big Green World to run nature workshops for children and students during Nature Reserve Week. Today students have visited the Children's Wood and Hankridge Riverside Local Nature Reserve.
- Glowing hands – children in local schools have had a great time learning about hand washing with the aid of 'glow boxes' (UV light chambers) and glitter gel that shows up as 'bacteria' on their hands. They can actually see how much gel they remove when they've washed.
- Paul Street Car Park – the work to install safety fencing has now been completed.
- Clean air – announcement of public meeting to consult with the public on ideas to help improve air quality in Henlade and East Reach.
- National Child Safety Week and our involvement in ensuring that children employed in businesses within the Deane are over 13 years old and have a suitable and safe environment in which to work.
- Last, but not least in this list, our achievement in gaining the Investor In People Award. Well done.

Internal Communications

In 2003 a staff survey highlighted weaknesses with internal communications and one solution suggested by a number of staff was a staff newsletter. Staff were invited to volunteer to be on the editorial team and the first issue of the newsletter, *Fizzooh*, went out in June. My congratulations to the editorial team who have done an excellent job with the first issue of what will be a monthly newsletter. It will be evaluated in January.

Deane Dispatch

The summer 2004 edition of Deane Dispatch has been produced and distributed to all households.

Weekly Bulletin

I would thank everyone for the increased volume of articles for this publication. To make it easier to send your contributions we have set up a dedicated email address: weeklybulletin@tauntondeane.gov.uk , so please keep them coming in.

Councillor Gwyneth Bryant