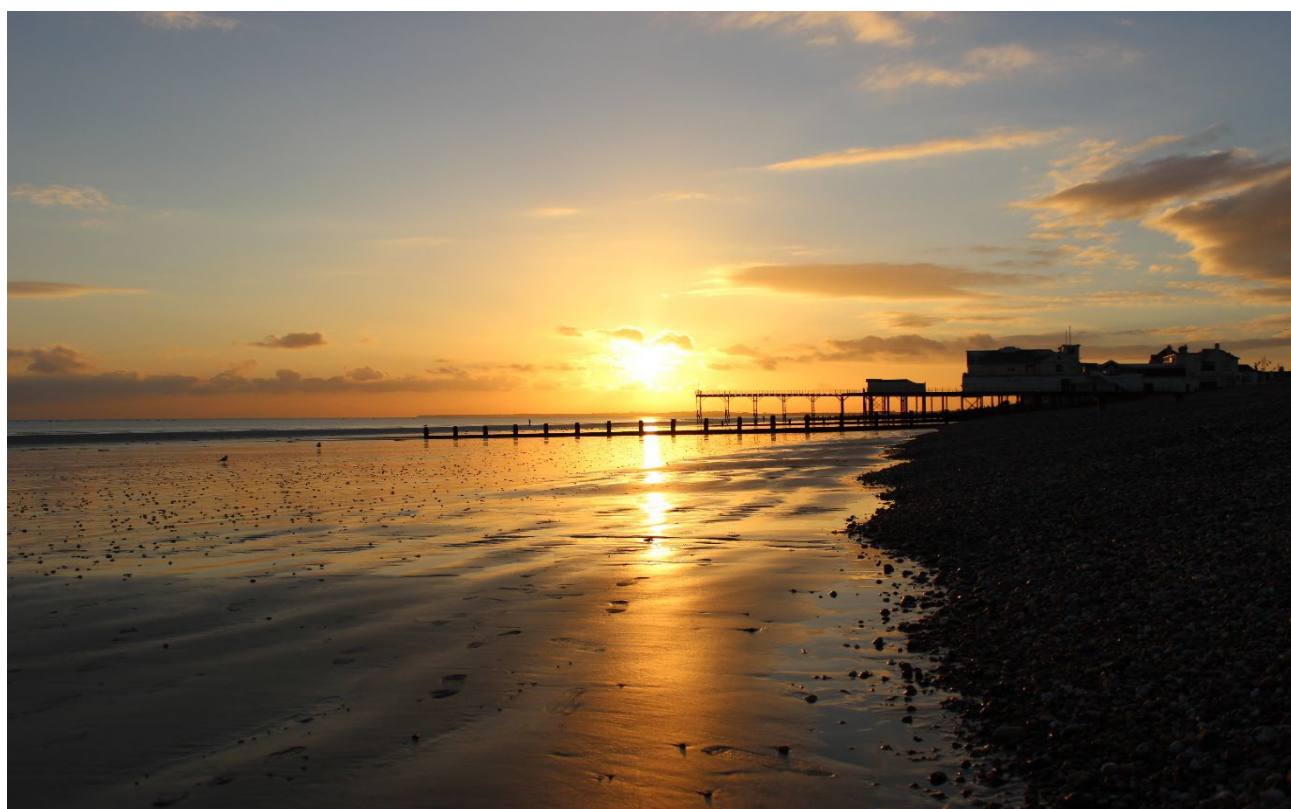




# **BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION PACK MAY 2025**





## BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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### Welcome

Thank you for your interest in our position of Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with Bognor Regis Town Council. Please see below a brief introduction to the Town Council.

Bognor Regis Town Council is the parish council serving the central area of the seaside resort of Bognor Regis in West Sussex, as defined by the five electoral wards of Hatherleigh, Hotham, Marine, Orchard and Pevensy.

The council is based in the Town Hall in Clarence Road, a 1929 Listed Building. The 16 elected members meet every eight weeks, and in between times in various committees which discuss and resolve matters requiring more detailed consideration.

The council elects a Mayor each year who chairs full meetings of the council and undertakes many civic duties, as the town's first citizen.

The council's functions can be broadly divided into two main areas; firstly, providing local services for residents and visitors that improve the quality of life, such as floral displays, events, allotments and improved street-care services. Secondly, it tries to champion the town's corner to other statutory providers, for example the District and County Councils and Sussex Police. It does this by commenting on planning applications, consultations or perhaps taking other authorities to task on matters of concern.

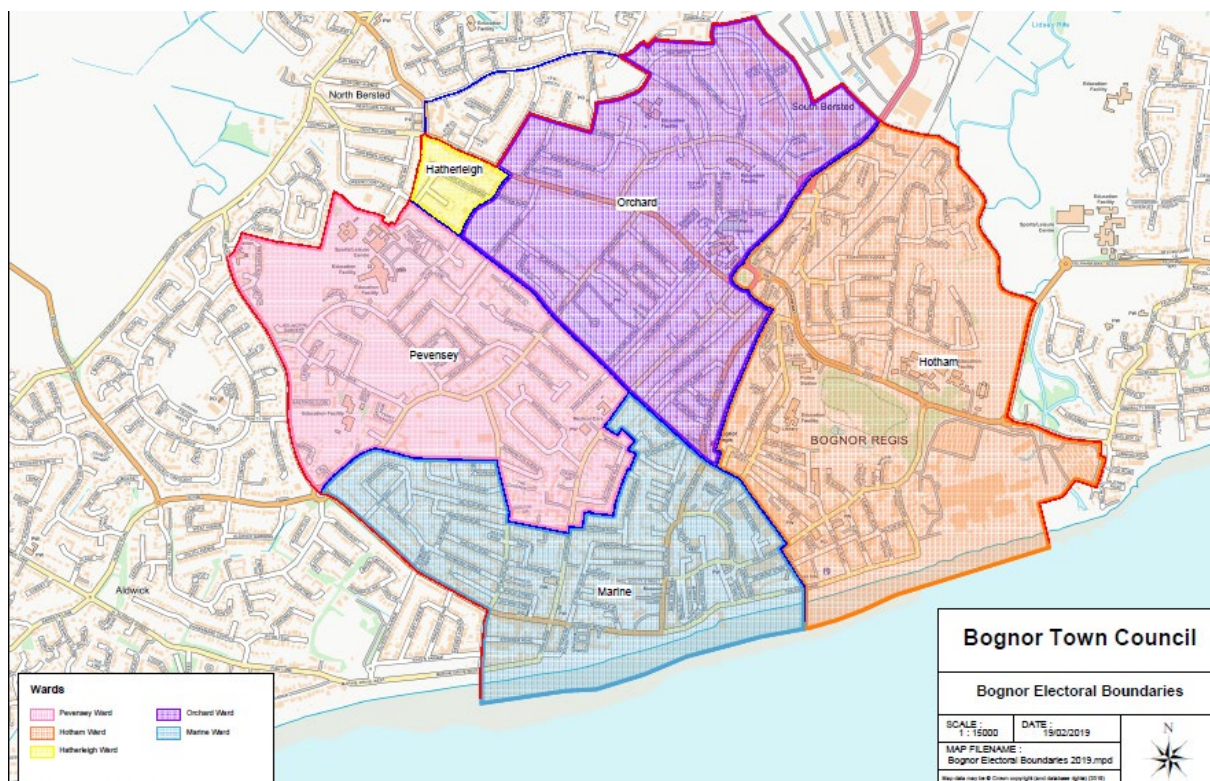
The Town Council has recently developed and adopted a Corporate Strategy which sets out its main priorities and what the Council intends to achieve and deliver for the community. Five main priorities have been identified, which are:

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1. Build on the heritage and history of Bognor Regis in promoting business, cultural, and artistic activities and events to make Bognor Regis a great place to live, work, study and visit. Using our resources, coupled with partners, to develop artistic and cultural activities and events to create economic benefits.
2. Work with partners to manage environmental impacts on Bognor Regis to make the Town as sustainable as possible.

3. Work to enable residents and community groups to live well and enjoy and take pride in our Town.
4. Work to remove barriers to enterprise within the Town.
5. Ensure that Bognor Regis is a great place to grow up in, with support for parents and young people.

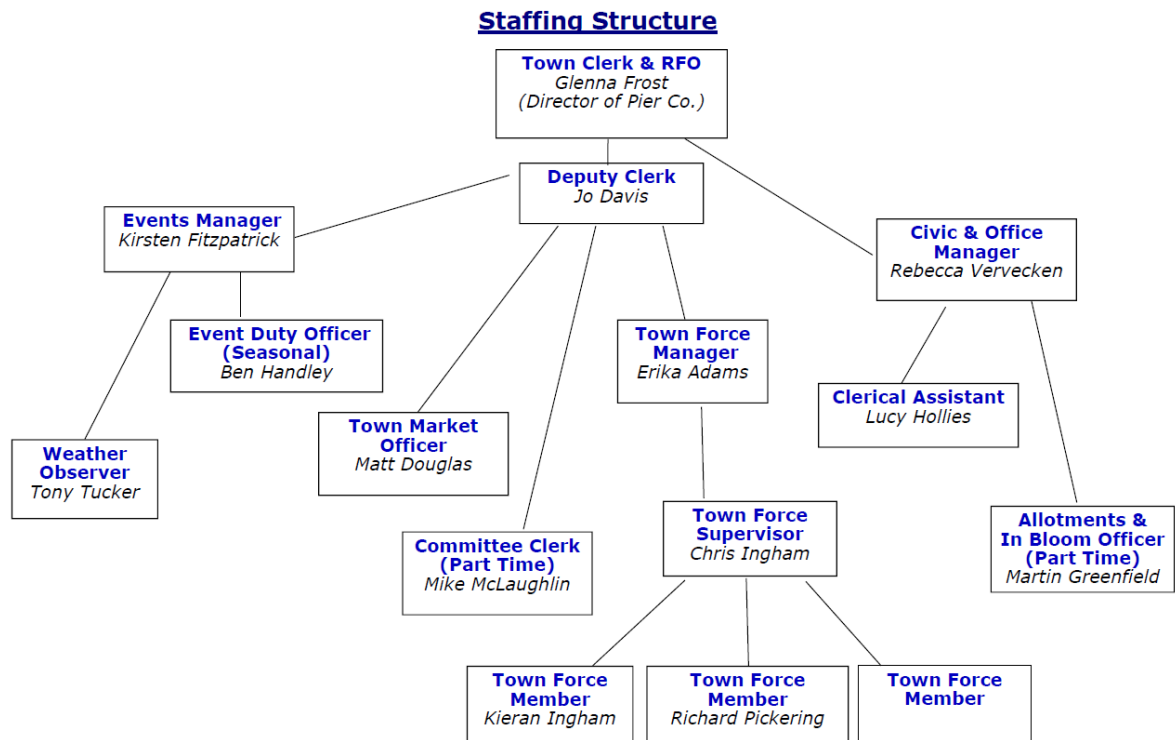
## BOGNOR REGIS WARD BOUNDARIES



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## BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

The staff team is made up of 11 full time, 3 part time and 1 seasonal post



## TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS

The Town Council owns 145 plots across two sites in Bognor Regis:

- Gravits Lane
- Sandringham Way

Both sites are fully fenced and secured by locked gates and have piped water supply (turned off over winter months). Our plots range in size from 24 sq.m. to 308 sq.m.



Each year awards are given for the Best Plot on each site, Best use of Plot, and Most Improved Plots on each site at the Annual General Meeting of Allotment Holders.



## **BOGNOR REGIS IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP**



Founded in 1992, Bognor Regis in Bloom is a volunteer, community-led initiative under the care of Bognor Regis Town Council, which aims to:

- Promote the annual Bognor Regis in Bloom competition and oversee the Town's entry into the South & South East in Bloom/Britain in Bloom competition
- Liaise with Bognor Regis Town Council and Arun District Council on planting projects

- Organise planting displays at national events to promote Bognor Regis
- Promote and encourage community involvement in horticultural and environmental activities in Bognor Regis
- Take on projects to enhance and benefit the community

Gaining many awards in both the South & South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions since 2002, the team strives to make Bognor Regis a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

In addition, the annual Bognor Regis in Bloom Awards recognises and celebrates the hard work and effort made by residents, businesses and community groups to enhance the Town.

## **TOWN CRIER FOR BOGNOR REGIS**

Mrs Jane Smith was appointed to the honorary role of Town Crier for Bognor Regis in July 2017, with 2025 marking her 8<sup>th</sup> year in the role. Jane's inaugural appearance was at the Town Council organised 'A Drive Through Time' event held in West Park on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017, and since this, she has attended hundreds of events in Bognor Regis and across the country (even going international) following a personal invitation to attend an event at the Lord Byron College in Italy!

As a member of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers, Jane has amassed many awards over the years, through her participation in Town Crier events, held across the UK, including multiple awards for 'Best Dressed' and 'Best Hometown Ambassador'. The 'Best Dressed' awards are particularly pleasing for Jane who as a full-time seamstress, was originally tasked with making the livery for the Town Crier, before she decided to go for the position herself!

Not only an award-winning Town Crier, Jane has had the honour of having her Proclamations chosen as the official Proclamations to be read by Town Crier's across the land for many national and international special events and occasions, including Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in the summer of 2022, for the Commonwealth Day 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Charter Signing in 2023 and most recently this year, she was chosen unanimously by a panel of independent judges to be the 'Principal Town Crier' for the VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations, following her writing of the official Proclamation.





Principal Town Crier Mrs Jane Smith from Bognor Regis has written the VE Day proclamation - judged by three independent judges anonymously who all agreed on her submission.

Jane attends all events organised by Bognor Regis Town Council and has so far hosted two 'Town Crier Competitions' in the Town, which have proved extremely popular with visiting Town Crier's, and a real spectacle for visitors and passers-by who have enjoyed the sea of colour and eye-catching appeal of the best Town Crier's in the land proclaiming loudly and proudly on the beautiful seafront bandstand.



The Town Council's website contains a page dedicated to the Town Crier, including information on booking her for an event, terms and conditions of booking and is regularly updated with events, achievements and news related to her activities. Jane also has her own Town Crier Facebook page.



## BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS

Bognor Regis Town Council run a series of events throughout the year, as well as actively promoting the town via all areas of social and written media.

As well as running our own events we also offer Town Force time and equipment to support other local events.

Below is an example of some of regular events, held by Bognor Regis Town Council.

**Book Day, Hotham Park** - An Alice in Wonderland themed day of free children's activity.





**Proms in the Park** - Rousing evening of free entertainment in Hotham Park.



**Music in the Park, Hotham Park** - Sunday afternoon concerts live on the bandstand.

**A Drive Through Time, West Park** - A Day of classic and vintage motor vehicles at West Park includes craft and charity fair, food stalls, live music, kidzone and live broadcast of the Silverstone F1 on a big screen.

**'Fun Week' Hampshire Avenue Play Days** - An entire week of free children's activities on the recreation ground.

**Funshine Days** - Three days a week throughout the month of August, of fun activities and workshops for families, located on the seafront and Hotham Park bandstands.

**Christmas Lights Switch-On** - Entertainment and switching on of the Town's festive illuminations for the Christmas season.



## THE PICTUREDROME CINEMA BUILDING IN BOGNOR REGIS - A BRIEF HISTORY



In 2010 the Bognor Regis Town Council supported by the strong views of the local community agreed to save the cinema from being converted into flats by purchasing The Bognor Pier Company Ltd. and its asset the freehold of the Picturedrome Cinema building for £445k.

The Council saw the cinema as an important historic asset and one which provided a considerable amenity for the Town.

The Company is owned by the Town Council with its Councillors as 100% shareholders and the Town Clerk as Director of the Company.

The building began as The Assembly Rooms in 1886. In 1887 David Devant (magician) brought the first animatography to the Picturedrome <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/horse-fire-engine-1908> and in 1919 the District Council approved plans to convert the hall to a cinema.

Significant investment into the building has been made by the Town Council with extensive refurbishment works undertaken externally including provision of an extension to the building to accommodate an additional screen. The Council's tenant Picturedrome Electric Theatre Company Ltd. runs the Picturedrome cinema from the building and are also investing heavily in refurbishment of the building internally.