



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Chair & Clerk's report

1. Budget round will be starting in September

Councillors to consider the areas the committee has responsibility for and whether they have any projects they would like to progress in the new financial year. Please do come and talk to officers.

2. Bus stop at Critchmere Lane

We've been advised by a local resident that one of the safety glass panels in the bus stop has been smashed. It is a Council owned asset and Kalglass have been instructed to replace it at a cost of £280 + VAT.

3. Graffiti

We've been Contacted by local resident upset at the graffiti on the bus stop display outside the station and asking why nothing was done to remove it? It was the first time the office had been notified about it so Christian & Amelia went along the next day and were able to clean it off as the surface was plastic.

On the same subject, we have been contacted by another resident about graffiti on brickwork on buildings not owned by the council, such as the wall under the stairs up to Harpers Steak House, the wall on Lower Street. Christian has had a go using the same graffiti removal solution, but it is not successful on brick work. We do not propose to do anything further as this is the responsibility of the owner.

4. Grounds maintenance contract GMG2 – bin emptying and litter picking of Lion Green

Our contractor has just given us the three months required under the GMG2 contract to terminate it, finishing on 31 October 2025, instead of 31 March 2028. We are currently making enquiries of other waste management companies to see if they can take over the balance of the existing contract and, if so, to give us quotes to do so.

5. Permanent flags on lampposts in the town

A local resident (LR) contacted Haslemere Town Council in June 2025 regarding the continued display of Union Flags across the town. His initial email, dated 11 June, expressed appreciation for the flags displayed for VE Day commemorations and proposed their retention as a permanent feature to enhance community pride and identity.

Summary of Correspondence:

- **HTC Response (18 June):** HTC Administrator, clarified that the flags were to remain until after the VJ Day commemorations in August, with responsibility for them lying outside of HTC.
- **Follow-up by LR (18 June):** Expressed frustration at lack of clarity and requested definitive responsibility and contact for the flags.

- **Formal Response (18 June):** Town Clerk explained the temporary nature of the flags, joint arrangements with Haslemere Events, and restrictions from Surrey County Council on permanent fixtures to lampposts.
- **LR Proposal (18 June, later):** Suggested the town invest in permanent flags and explore alternative options with SCC, citing civic pride and visual appeal.
- **Town Clerk Response (19 June):** Confirmed no current budget or plan for permanent flags. Indicated that any proposal would require consideration by the CIL and Amenities Committee.
- **Update from Clerk (22 July):** Due to weather damage and safety concerns, the flags were removed early. LR was invited to submit a formal proposal to the Amenities Committee. Pippa Auger was named as the contact for the next meeting scheduled for 7 August 2025.