

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 4 March 2014**

(7.30pm – 8.15pm)

Present:

Manny Roper – Mayor	Peter Gubbins
Martin Bailey	John Hann
Kris Castle	Andrew Kendall
Philip Chandler	Mike Lock
Clive Davis	Tony Lock
Bridget Dollard	Wes Read
David Dollard	David Recardo
Jon Gleeson	Darren Shutler
Dave Greene	Alan Smith

Also present:

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Georgina Burton	Chief Executive – South Somerset CAB

(Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor's Chaplain led those Members of the Council in attendance in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/417 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 February 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/418 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, Tristan Cobb, Tony Fife and Kaysar Hussain.

8/419 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Clive Davis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6 (South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau) by virtue of his appointment as the Town Council's representative on the Management Committee of the Organisation.

Bridget Dollard declared a similar interest in the same item by virtue of her appointment as the Town Council's representative on the Friends of the Organisation.

8/420 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements were attached to the Agenda.

8/421 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported that, in addition to the items of correspondence that had been circulated to Members by email since the last Town Council meeting, the following item had been received:

- Somerset Rambler Newsletter – February 2014

8/422 **SOUTH SOMERSET CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Georgina Burton, Chief Executive of South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the aims and objectives of the Organisation; its achievements over the past twelve months and its plans for the coming year - with particular reference to Yeovil Town. (A copy of the slides used during her presentation are attached as an appendix).

Georgina began by pointing out that 38% of the clients whom the Bureau helped had a disability or long-term sickness, and that most clients were given initial advice.

She drew attention to the kind of problems that people in Yeovil raised, which were mostly about benefits, tax and debt issues. In response, the Bureau gave advice on a range of topics - including credit options, switching power suppliers and debt recovery procedures.

Turning to the forthcoming year, Georgina indicated that one of the main priorities of the Organisation was to increase the number of volunteers. She added that those who came forward would receive training and support. Other important targets included raising the profile of the service and expanding ways by which it could be accessed.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the strong links that the Bureau had with the District Council's Benefits Unit and the work that was undertaken to assist those in need. This included the occasional referral of clients by the Unit who were looking for specialist advice.

It was suggested that the use of a daytime freephone number would be of benefit to potential clients wishing to make enquiries of the Bureau. Georgina acknowledged the merits of this suggestion, but added that there would be significant costs involved. As an alternative, the Bureau was considering the introduction of a message/call back service, which would enable advisers to discuss problems at a time convenient to their clients.

Reference was also made to the valuable signposting role undertaken by the Bureau.

The Mayor thanked Georgina for her interesting and informative presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/423 **YOUTH SERVICES**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 7 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the successful progress of the pilot projects, and the plans to extend them for a further six months using additional funds recently allocated by the County Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that further updates be awaited.

8/424 **SAFE PLACES SCHEME**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 8 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that an application be made by the Town Council to join the new scheme and, if successful, the Town House be designated a Safe Place location and appropriate training be arranged for the staff involved.

8/425 **FLOODING**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 9 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to an alternative fund set up and administered by the Somerset Community Foundation, which was raising money and awarding financial assistance via an emergency flood relief grants programme, details of which were outlined at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that, in accordance with S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 - General Power of Competence, a contribution of £1,000 be made to the Somerset Community Foundation towards the Somerset Flood Relief Fund;
- (3) that the costs involved be met from contingencies; and

- (4) that all neighbouring parish councils be made aware of the Town Council's decision and the ongoing direct help that this alternative fund is giving to those in need.

8/426 **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

The Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council presented the Minutes from the previous cycle of meetings, drawing attention to specific references to Council, any matters of particular interest and answering any questions.

Planning and Licensing Committee

3 February 2014
17 February 2014

8/427 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Minutes of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were attached to the Agenda and Members were given an opportunity to raise matters relating to them:

Yeovil Youth Council

27 January 2014

South Somerset Countryside Steering Group

13 February 2014

Members who represented the Town Council on outside bodies were given an opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

Reference was made to concerns being expressed by various residents of Rustywell Park regarding the current condition of a number of trees in close proximity to their dwellings.

Alan Smith - who represented the Town Council on the South Somerset Countryside Steering Group - undertook to raise these concerns with the Manager of Yeovil Country Park, on whose land the trees were situated.

8/428 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Grants – Motion 1/14

Peter Gubbins proposed the following motion:

"To help the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee make more informed decisions about grant applications, the following additional information must be provided by all future applicants:

- *any charges applied by the organisation, and details of any other income stream; and*

- *evidence that the organisation has applied to other grant funders - including other local authorities - in the past five years; the amount sought and the outcome of all such applications.*

In addition, a policy be adopted that grants can only be paid for a single year and a second application is not allowed for the same project/purpose within 3 years, unless the applicant has a Service Level Agreement with the Town Council. The Service Level Agreement to apply as a 1 year agreement only”.

The motion was seconded and, in accordance with Standing Order No 12, was referred without discussion to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for consideration.

8/429 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

Mayor

South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau

A presentation for Yeovil Town Council

Georgina Burton
Chief Executive Officer



Things to talk about...

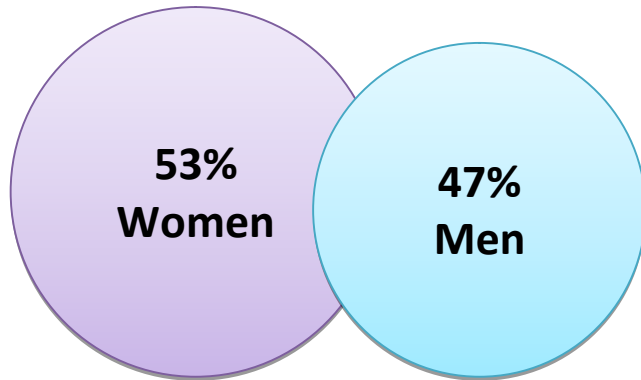
- South Somerset CAB – Aims and Principles
- Who we help in Yeovil
- How we help in Yeovil
- The kind of problems people in Yeovil ask us about
- Plans for 2014
- Any Questions

Our Aims and Principles

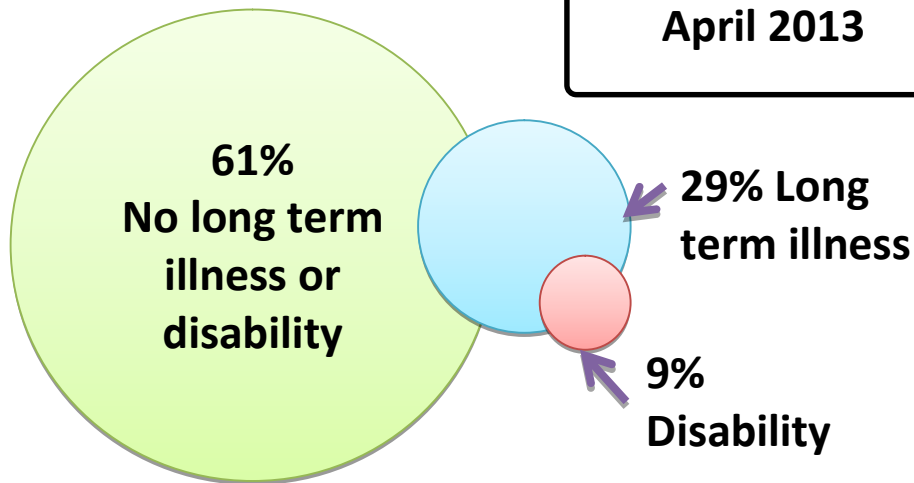
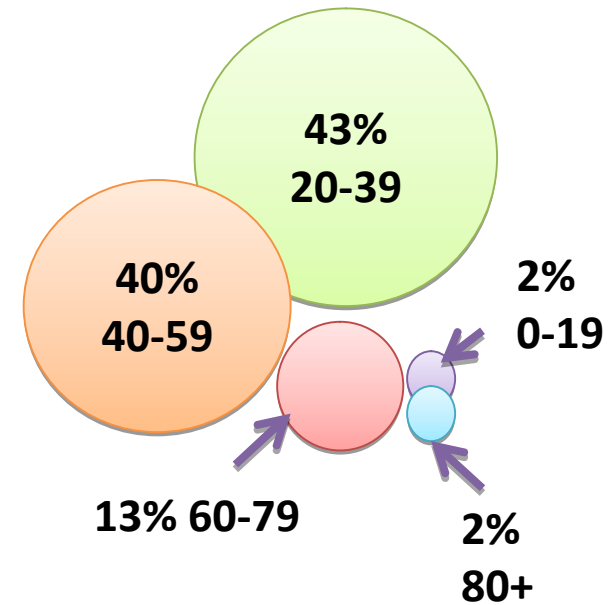
We aim to **provide the advice** people need for the problems they face and **improve the policies and practices** that affect people's lives.

We provide free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. We value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination.

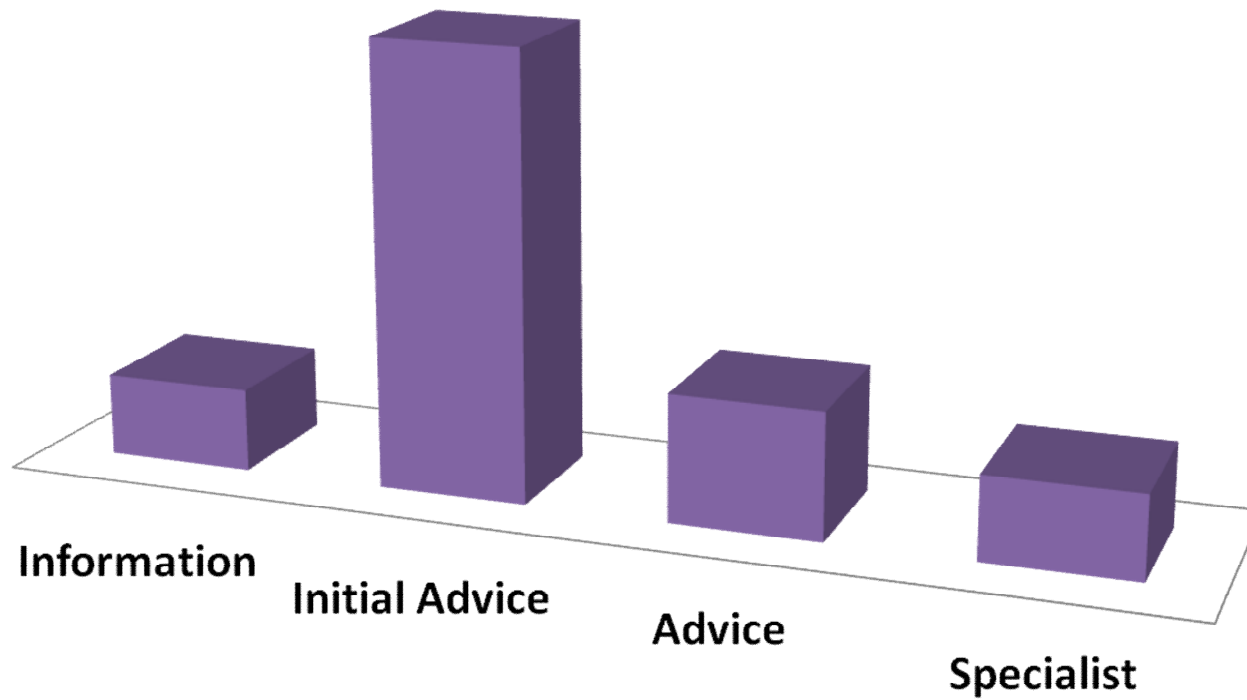
Who we help in Yeovil



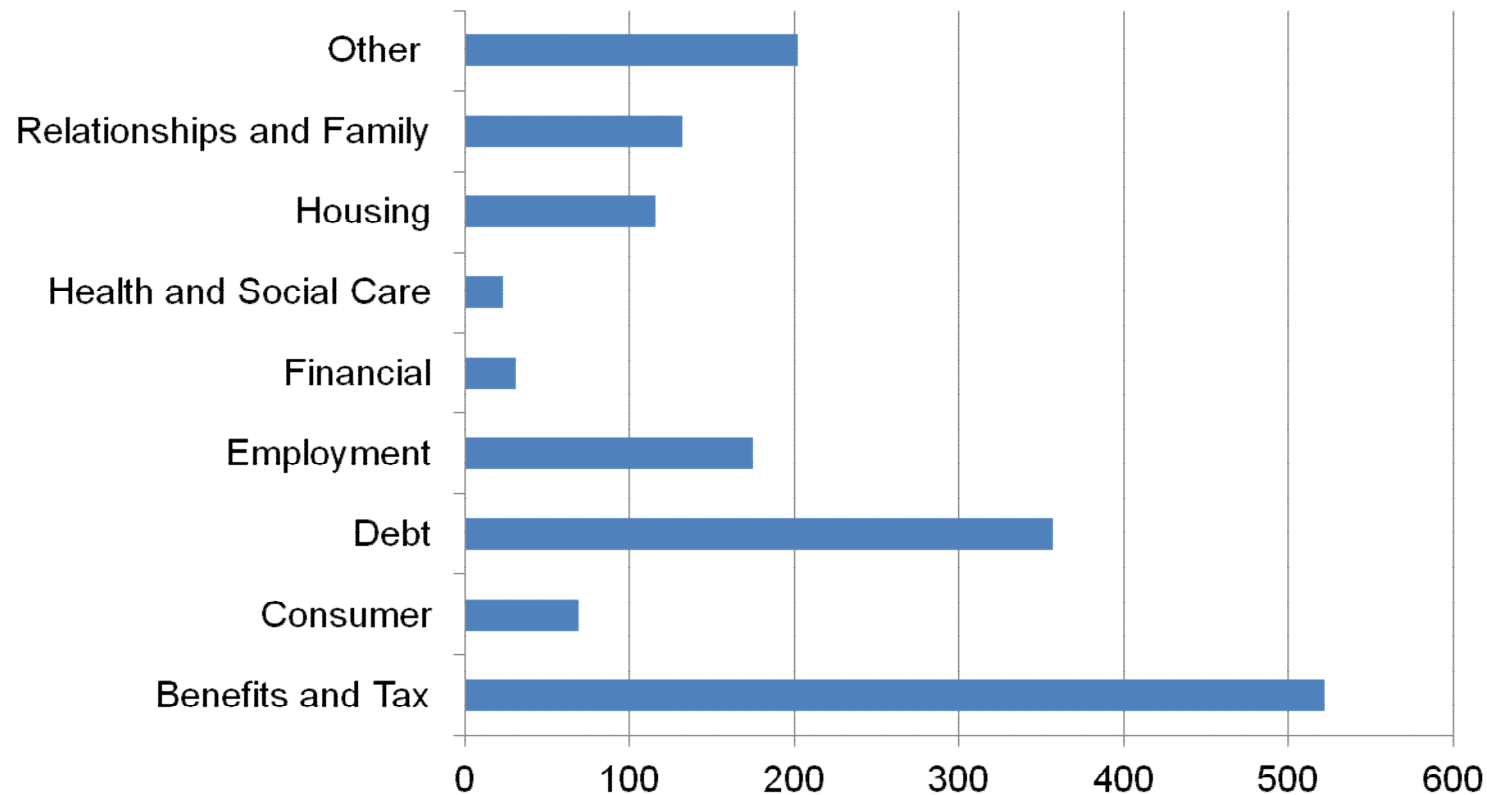
1272 clients
helped since
April 2013



How we help in Yeovil



The kind of problems people in Yeovil ask us about



Plans for 2014

- Provide (free, independent, confidential and impartial) advice to as many people as we can
- Do things that reduce the number and extent of people's problems
- Increase the number of volunteers that we have to do these things

Provide advice to as many people as we can

- Improve the 'ways in' to advice
 - Telephone service
 - Website and Email
 - Drop in services
- Make sure people know about the service
 - Raise profile
 - Improve communication

Do things that reduce the number and extent of people's problems

- Let people know in advance about things that might cause them problems
- Give people skills that help them avoid problems
- Talk to organisations about what they can do to minimise people's problems

Increase the number of Volunteers

- Make sure people know we need and use volunteers
- Make sure the volunteering opportunities we offer are good and accessible
- Ask for help in spreading the word...

Any Questions?

Georgina Burton

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