

Stuart Wright

Independent

Thetford Town Council Election – Castle Ward
Thursday 4th May 2023



Dear Voter

I am your Independent candidate for Castle Ward for the forthcoming Thetford Town Council election. A Town Councillor since 2007, I had the honour of being Thetford's Mayor for 2013/14. Over recent years the cuts to the County and District Council budgets have meant that the Town Council has had to pick up more and more of the services previously delivered by these other tiers of government. It has been a difficult job to balance the demand for improved facilities and services with the cost to you, the council tax payer. However it is pleasing to note that the Town Council has during my time; saved the old Burrell school site from falling into disrepair, secured funding to repair St Peter's church, delivered a skate park, refurbished the Carnegie Room and Guildhall. It has also taken on the running of the public toilets which were threatened with closure by Breckland Council. I am pleased to have been involved in some part, in all of these projects. **I will continue to support improvements to the town's facilities and will encourage the Town Council to lead by example.**

The new development to the north of the town is now taking shape and I was pleased to be involved in the Council's cross party working to get the boundaries moved, which ensures the new houses identify and connect with the existing town. **It is my desire that the town's expansion should benefit the town as a whole, not merely creating a dormitory on its edge.**

I look to promote Thetford's fantastic heritage at every opportunity, supporting the town's three museums and other initiatives that bring Thetford's wonderful story to life, including the good work carried out by the Town Council bringing the tales associated with the Guildhall to a wider audience. Thetford's heritage is a great way of promoting the town and instilling a greater esteem in its residents. The Dad's Army Museum has proved a great success and my involvement with it has been a great sense of pride in what can be delivered with minimal resources. **I wish to raise the profile of Thetford further as a destination for both visitors and businesses.**

I continue to campaign that our historic buildings are maintained and where appropriate, incorporated sympathetically in any new developments. The aspiration to bring businesses to the town on the back of the A11 Cambridge-Norwich corridor will only work if people are attracted to the town and that means improving the appearance of the town centre and also the approaches to the town. The Town Council's new entrance steps for the Guildhall demonstrate how improved access can breathe new life into an old building without compromising its historic appearance. **I will continue to support the Town Council's bid for lottery funding for its Heritage Masterplan which should deliver further funding for the town's historic buildings.**

The Town Council took on the town's play areas, after years of neglect by Breckland Council. Whilst funding is limited we have maintained the equipment in a good state of repair. **I am supportive of the Town Council maintaining the town's play areas in a good state of repair and seeking improved facilities if funding becomes available.**

I campaigned for a Waterspace study which showed it was feasible to reopen the river between Brandon and Thetford, as well as providing economic benefits reinventing the town centre as a waterside destination. In order to deliver this long term goal, more activities and facilities need to be delivered both on and alongside the waterway. I have supported improvements for canoeists as well as cycle routes and footpaths along the river corridor. **I believe the Town Council should seek to co-ordinate and facilitate additional improvements to the river corridor.**

I am pleased to support many local community groups and am involved in numerous organisations and societies in our town and hopefully with your support, I can continue to make a positive contribution to the running of your Town Council over the next four years.

To vote at a polling station, you will need to bring photo ID this year. Please use your vote on May 4th and may I ask you once more to cast it, the **WRIGHT** way.

Many thanks,

Stuart Wright

Please cast your vote the

WRIGHT

way

on Thursday May 4th 2023

Please note Photo ID is required to vote on the day