



Bishop's Stortford Town Council

Bishop's Stortford is an ancient market town situated on the idyllic countryside border of Herts and Essex. Bishop's Stortford's setting allows for walks through its green spaces and river which run throughout the town. There are a variety of attractions which are suitable for all of the family, and plenty of events for arts and history lovers.

Bishop's Stortford is conveniently located close to the M11 motorway and to Stansted Airport with excellent travel links to London, Cambridge and the North. The Town has grown significantly in recent years making it the largest town in East Hertfordshire, however it remains proud of its heritage and maintains a strong independent community spirit, with the Town Council working hard for its 40,000 residents.

The Council consists of seventeen members who give their time and effort voluntarily and were most recently elected in 2019. The Council employs ten office staff (both full and part time) and eight outdoor staff. Its duties include management of the cemetery, ten allotment sites, Community centres, Community minibuses, the closed Churchyard at St Michael's Church and some of the Town's open spaces, splash pool and parks. The Council also provides the Tourist Information Centre, operates the regular and specialist markets and organises civic events including the ever popular Carnival, Remembrance and the Christmas Fayre.

The Council also administers several Trusts including Community Halls at St Michael's Mead, Havers and Bishop's Park. It also administers the Rhodes Birthplace Trust, which runs the South Mills Arts and the Bishop's Stortford Museum in South Road. This contemporary venue for arts and culture provides conference facilities and boasts a 300 seat theatre, a multi-purpose studio space, a museum and large exhibition gallery.

The Tourist Information Centre is funded and managed by the Town Council and provides information and services for tourists, visitors and local residents planning visits to their own or other parts of the country. It is part of the national network of Tourist Information Centres and benefits from support services provided by the Visit Britain. The visitor's impression of the Tourist Information Centre, its services and the local area are as much influenced by the staff as by any other factor. The welcome given by Tourist Information Centre staff is often taken to reflect the attitude towards visitors amongst the local population and the Tourist Information Centre is judged by how efficiently and effectively their needs are met.