



## **Bishop's Stortford Town Council**

Bishop's Stortford is an ancient market town situated on the Herts/Essex border. It is conveniently located close to the M11 motorway and to Stansted Airport with excellent travel links to London and Cambridge and the North. The Town has grown significantly in recent years making it the largest town in East Herts, however it remains proud of its heritage and maintains a strong independent community spirit, with the Town Council working hard for its 37,000 residents.

The Council consists of 18 members who were elected to serve for four years in 2011 and employs 12 office staff (both full and part time) and 7 outdoor staff.

The statutory duties include management of the cemetery, 10 allotment sites, the closed Churchyard at St Michael's Church and some of the Town's open spaces 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 and Christmas Fayre. The Council also administers several Trusts including Community Halls at St Michael's Mead, Havers and Bishop's Park as well as being Trustee of the Rhodes Birthplace Trust, which runs the Rhodes Arts Complex and 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 and the East of England Tourist Board. 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.