

MORLEY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



FINANCIAL YEAR – 1ST APRIL 2015 TO 31ST MARCH 2016

MUNICIPAL YEAR – 20TH MAY 2015 TO 3RD MAY 2016

Introduction by the Mayor for 2016/17 – Cllr R Gettings

Having been elected as Mayor at the Annual Full Town Council meeting in May, I follow Councillor Simon Kimberley who worked tirelessly to promote our town over the last year.

Since having been elected to the Town Council I have chaired the Finance, General Purposes & Strategic Committee and, as Mayor, I now chair the Town Council meetings. In my first two weeks, as our Town's first citizen, I have already attended several engagements both in the town and in neighbouring towns and cities and I look forward to continuing to fulfil the Mayoral duties.

As in previous years, there are lots of events to organise and the highlight for me will be the 50th anniversary of the Civic Twinning with Siegen, our German partner town.

I will, through my charity fundraising, support local charities and community groups. Anyone wishing to support my fundraising should contact me via the Town Council office.

All 26 Morley Town Councillors work in a voluntary capacity receiving no payment or expenses, and I am proud to lead them in their work to improve our wonderful town.

Members of the Council 2015/16 – Figures Show Attendance at Full Council Meetings in the Municipal Year (7 meetings held – 6 scheduled, 1 extraordinary)					
Cllr S Kimberley (Mayor)	7	Cllr Judith Elliott	5	Cllr Susan McGarroch	7
Cllr Helen Evans (Deputy Mayor)	6	Cllr Alison Foster	6	Cllr Dennis Marshall	7
Cllr Jim Aveyard	6	Cllr Robert Finnigan	6	Cllr Adam Rhodes	4
Cllr Lew Beever	7	Cllr Bob Gettings	6	Cllr Joyce Sanders	7
Cllr Howard Bell	7	Cllr Danny Harrison	7	Cllr Colin Taylor	3
Cllr Roger Bell	4	Cllr Janet Harrison	6	Cllr Wendy Whitehead	7
Cllr Noel Bullock	6	Cllr Andrew Hutchison	4	Cllr Chris Windle	7
Cllr Andy Dalton	7	Cllr Josie Jackson	5	Cllr Shirley Varley	6
Cllr Neil Dawson	5	Cllr Wyn Kidger	6		

Town Clerk - Karen Oakley
Deputy Town Clerk – Wendy Maynard-Light
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CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

The Town Council office is open between 9:00am and 11.30 am – Monday to Friday. The Council will also take public questions/accept delegations at all of its meetings. Please contact the Town Clerk for more information.

The Council operates through Standing Committees plus sub-committees as follows:-		Number of meetings held in municipal year
<u>Finance, General Purposes & Strategic Committee</u> (formerly Finance & General Purposes Committee) Cllrs R Gettings (Chairman) (8), A Dalton (7), A Hutchison (3), S Kimberley (8), J Aveyard (7), R Finnigan (8), J Elliott (7), W Kidger (9) and S Varley (7)		9
<u>Civic Duties Committee</u> Cllrs W Kidger (Chairman) (5), S Varley (5), R Bell (3), J Elliott (5), A Foster (3), A Hutchison (4), J Jackson (1), S Kimberley (6), S McGarroch (2), D Marshall (2), J Sanders (6) and W Whitehead (6)		6
<u>Planning Committee</u> Cllrs R Finnigan (Chairman) (11), H Bell (10), H Evans (6), J Jackson (6), A Rhodes (6), C Taylor (9) and C Windle (9)		11
<u>Community Development Committee</u> Cllrs S Kimberley (Chairman) (9), R Bell (6), N Bullock (8), N Dawson (7), A Foster (5), J Sanders (9) and W Whitehead (9)		9
<u>Highways and Transportation Committee</u> Cllrs J Aveyard (Chairman) (9), L Beever (8), D Harrison (9), J Harrison (7), S McGarroch (9) and D Marshall (8)		9
<u>Audit Committee</u> Cllrs W Whitehead (Chairman) (3), N Dawson (2), H Evans (1), S McGarroch (3) and J Sanders (3)		3
<u>Staffing Sub-Committee</u> Cllrs S Kimberley (Chairman) (1), H Evans (0), R Finnigan (1) and R Gettings (1)		1
Income and Expenditure for the financial years ended 31st March 2015 and 2016	£ 2014/15	£ 2015/16
Income		
Council precept	192,591	192,591
Interest on investments	491	64
Local Council Tax Support Grant	21,068	17,739
Miscellaneous	1,310	1,818
Total	215,460	212,212
Expenditure		
General administration	66,651	90,643
Community Grants	3,750	4,275
Community Development	82,879	77,483
Highways and Transportation	8,945	12,951
Planning	0	1,000
Civic Duties	4,159	3,642
Grass Cutting	360	333
Total	166,384	190,327
General Fund		
Opening balance as at 1st April	108,561	157,637
Add total income	215,460	212,212
Deduct total expenditure	166,384	190,327
Balance as at 31st March	157,637	179,522

Please note, the above figures are yet to be External Auditor approved.

ACHIEVEMENTS – 2015/2016

- Continued to jointly fund 6 Police Community Support Officers to work exclusively in the Town Council area, which comprised Morley, Churwell and Woodkirk, under an agreement with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.
- Continued to pay the annual monitoring/maintenance costs for an additional CCTV camera at the Queen Street/Queensway junction.
- The Community Development Committee organised and promoted the summer entertainment programme, Christmas lights switch-on, Easter Bonnet Competition and the Morley Lantern Festival. It worked closely with the Town Centre Manager – Rachael Kennedy and the Town Centre Management Board to promote events to encourage visitors to Morley. Once again, the 2015 Christmas lights switch-on was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. In association with Morley & District Lions Club, the Committee also contributed towards the Marching Band & Hymn Tune contest held in the town centre, with Mayors and Mayoresses from other towns attending.
- Through its community grants scheme, the Town Council assisted 5 local organisations, approving grants totalling £3275.
- The Civic Duties Committee organised various successful civic events including the Mayor's 'At Home', the Mayor's Charity Ball and the extremely popular and enjoyable Schools' Music Festival, which was held in the Town Hall.
- The Town Council was consulted by Leeds City Council on all planning applications within the Town Council area; site visits were made by the Chairman of the Planning Committee and representations made on applications to which members had an objection. The Town Council was represented by a Rule 6 party at the Public Inquiry regarding the McDonald's application in respect of the former White Bear at Tingley.
- The Highways & Transportation Committee funded a Contractor in the town centre to clear litter/debris along Queen Street, Beryl Burton Gardens, Fountain Street car park and Station Road. It also funded the purchase and installation of four new benches, with commemorative plaques, and the repair and refurbishment of four existing benches.
- A budget was set aside to fund gritting/snow clearance provision on some affected and otherwise untreated estate roads and main roads, however, this was a particularly mild winter.
- Provided funding to the Town Centre Management Board to assist in improving footfall and to provide a first-class visitor and shopping experience, and deal with other town issues, as appropriate. 3 Town Council representatives are members of the Board.

COMMITTEES – 2016/2017

Finance, General Purposes & Strategic Committee

- To monitor the financial and administrative affairs of the Council, producing monthly income/expenditure reports, certifying all payments made and ensuring legal responsibilities are met.
- To consider the annual Council budgets and consistently monitor these throughout the financial year.
- To oversee Council communications, such as liaison with the local press, publicity and public information pertaining to the website.
- To consider appropriate licensing matters.
- To review Town Council procedures and policies.

- To deal with other policy and constitutional issues that may arise.
- To deal with recommendations to Council regarding amendments to Standing Orders/Financial Regulations.
- To plan and organise annual civic events, such as the 'At Home', Mayor's Ball and Civic Sunday.
- To effectively promote Morley through attendance by the Mayor at local/regional events, extending invitations to dignitaries from local towns, and receiving visitors from the UK and abroad, to the town.

Community Development Committee

- To continue to work in partnership with West Yorkshire Police to fund and monitor the effectiveness and viability of the funding of additional Police Community Support Officers operating within the Town Council area.
- To consider annual renewal of the Police Community Support Officers' contract with West Yorkshire Police Authority, which includes regular attendance at meetings by Representatives of West Yorkshire Police to provide updates on performance, results etc. Contract has been extended to cover the new Woodkirk ward.
- To further improve safety and security within Morley town centre by providing funding for the maintenance and monitoring of a CCTV camera.
- To help support and encourage local community and voluntary groups, through financial assistance in the form of community grants.
- To work closely with the Town Centre Manager to promote both regular and one-off events within the Town Council area, so as to encourage visitors to the area, i.e. the Lantern Festival and the Easter Bonnet Parade.
- To assist in the organisation of the guided tours of Morley Town Hall and a Heritage Walk, over the Heritage Weekend, in partnership with the Morley Community Archives Group.
- To organise the annual Schools' Music Festival held in Morley Town Hall.
- To continue to organise, fund and promote the Summer Entertainment Programme, which arranges street entertainment in the town centre on each Saturday from the end of May through to August.

Planning Committee

- Meet all planning deadlines by holding regular monthly meetings, with extraordinary meetings if necessary; attendance at meetings by members of the public is welcomed.
- To deal efficiently with all enquiries, correspondence and representations.
- To consider all planning applications, including site visits, if necessary, and to make appropriate representations.
- Continue to support Leeds City Council in the application of enforcement regulations.
- Monitor Leeds Plans Panels South & West and City, and subsequent decisions delegated to officers. Both of these may consider Morley applications.
- Inform the public about planning and development in Morley.
- Continue to oppose green field industrial and house building, particularly those included in the Leeds Local Development Framework (LDF) process.

Highways and Transportation Committee

- To deal with concerns raised by the public for highways works and liaise with the City Council regarding possible implementation, including speed and parking matters.
- To correspond with the City Council, other partners and interested parties in all highways and transportation issues.
- To deal efficiently with correspondence from local residents regarding highways issues.
- To consider all public transport matters including liaison with operators and related agencies.
- To continue to provide services under 'Community Cleaning'.
- To oversee developments in the maintenance provision of the 'Public Rights of Way' network.
- To determine appropriate locations for the siting of new bench seating.

Audit Committee

- To scrutinise council accounts and council procedures.

SHORT TERM PROJECTS

- Provision of additional benches
- Expansion of the maintenance of the Public Rights of Way network in partnership with Leeds City Council
- Explore the installation of 'boundary' markers
- Organisation of the Christmas Lights switch-on event with provision of additional lighting along Queen Street and Morley Bottoms, and other town events such as the Lantern Festival and Easter Bonnet Parade
- Continuation of funding to the Town Centre Management Board, which in turn funds the provision of a Town Centre Manager
- Continue to monitor effectiveness of additional PCSO's
- Consideration of grants funding to local groups/organisations via the Community Development Committee
- Lead on objections to planning applications affecting the area, i.e. McDonalds at Tingley
- Input into organisation of the Remembrance Day service and parade
- Provision of additional gritting/snow-clearance during Winter

MEDIUM/LONG-TERM PROJECTS

- Input into planning of an 'Arts-space' in Windsor Court
- Provision of additional benches
- Formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan
- Forward plan for 'Community Infrastructure Levy' projects

MISSION STATEMENT

Morley Town Council is committed to ensuring the provision of a high standard of cost-effective and best value for money community services, which will enhance the quality of life for the residents of the area.

