



MORLEY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



FINANCIAL YEAR – 1ST APRIL 2017 TO 31ST MARCH 2018

MUNICIPAL YEAR – 10TH MAY 2017 TO 8TH MAY 2018

Introduction by the Mayor for 2018/19 – Cllr R Bell

I am very privileged to be elected as Morley's Mayor for 2018-2019, as I am Morley born and bred. Since May I have visited 104 different venues as Mayor, and I still have a few months to go. I have been to schools, churches, charity and volunteer groups, dog shows, Remembrance events and other ceremonies. This year I will be raising money for my charities, which are Downs Syndrome, Dravet Syndrome, Parkinsons and small local volunteer groups, who do a marvellous job in our town.

Our 26 councillors work hard to look after Morley, with aspects from policing to street cleaning. The Town Council has a grant system to assist local community groups with projects and purchasing equipment, which allows them to operate more effectively within our town. The Town Centre Management Board, which oversees activities held throughout the year, gives support to local businesses to keep our High Street thriving.

I would like to express special thanks to all Poppy sellers, who through the Morley Royal British Legion branch have broken all records in the money raised this year.

Members of the Council 2017/18 – Figures Show Attendance at Full Council Meetings in the Municipal Year (7 meetings held)					
Cllr Robert Finnigan (Mayor)	7	Cllr Helen Evans	4	Cllr Simon Kimberley	5
Cllr Roger Bell (Deputy Mayor)	6	Cllr Alison Foster (Disqualified)	1	Cllr Susan McGarroch	7
Cllr Jim Aveyard	6	Cllr Bob Gettings	6	Cllr Dennis Marshall	4
Cllr Lew Beever	6	Cllr Danny Harrison	5	Cllr Adam Rhodes	1
Cllr Howard Bell	4	Cllr Janet Harrison	3	Cllr Joyce Sanders	7
Cllr Noel Bullock	5	Cllr Charlotte Hill	1	Cllr Colin Taylor	3
Cllr Andy Dalton	6	Cllr Andrew Hutchison	2	Cllr Shirley Varley	6
Cllr Neil Dawson (Resigned due to ill-health)	2	Cllr Josie Jackson	4	Cllr Wenda Whitehead	6
Cllr Judith Elliott	6	Cllr Wyn Kidger	5	Cllr Chris Windle	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 9:30am and 11.30am – Tuesday to Thursday, and 9.00am to 11.00am Monday and Friday. The Council will also take public questions/accept delegations at all its meetings. Please contact the Town Clerk for more information.

COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Figures in () show number of meetings attended in the municipal year

The Council operates through Standing Committees plus a sub-committee as follows:-		Number of meetings held in municipal year
<u>Finance, General Purposes & Strategic Committee</u> Cllrs R Gettings (Chairman) (7), J Elliott (6), A Hutchison (1), W Kidger (5), S Kimberley (9), S Varley (7), R Bell (9), J Aveyard (6) and R Finnigan (5)		9
<u>Planning Committee</u> Cllrs R Finnigan (Chairman) (12), H Bell (10), H Evans (5), C Hill (elected Feb 2018) (2), J Jackson (6), A Rhodes (5), J Sanders (12), C Taylor (7), W Whitehead (11) and C Windle (10)		12
<u>Community Development Committee</u> Cllrs R Bell (Chairman) (7), N Bullock (7), A Dalton (8), N Dawson (resigned April 2018) (4), W Kidger (5), S Kimberley (7) and S Varley (8)		9
<u>Highways and Transportation Committee</u> Cllrs J Aveyard (Chairman) (11), L Beever (9), A Foster (disqualified November 2017) (1), D Harrison (10), J Harrison (9), S McGarroch (9) and D Marshall (5)		11
<u>Audit Committee</u> Cllrs W Whitehead (Chairman) (3), N Dawson (resigned April 2018) (1), H Evans (2), S McGarroch (3) and J Sanders (3)		3
<u>Staffing Sub-Committee</u> Cllrs R Finnigan (Chairman) (1), R Gettings (1), J Harrison (1) and W Kidger (0)		1
Income and Expenditure for the financial years ended 31st March 2017 and 2018		
	£	£
	2016/17	2017/18
Income		
Council precept	196,443	200,372
Interest on investments	1,354	392
Local Council Tax Support Grant	16,142	14,431
Miscellaneous	2,148	2,562
Community Infrastructure Levy	316	30,836
Total	216,403	248,593
Expenditure		
General administration	66,856	105,809
Community Grants	2,946	4,099
Community Development	85,489	100,617
Highways and Transportation	18,236	31,371
Planning	700	1,000
Civic Duties	5,462	2,750
Grass Cutting	2,088	2,088
Community Infrastructure Levy	0	7,203
Total	181,777	254,937
General Fund		
Opening balance as at 1st April	179,522	214,149
Add total income	216,404	248,593
Deduct total expenditure	181,777	254,937
Balance as at 31st March	214,149	207,805

ACHIEVEMENTS – 2017/2018

- Continued to jointly fund 4 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 summer events including a 'pop-up' cinema, the annual 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 2017 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 7 local organisations, approving grants totalling £4,099.
- Various successful civic and other events were organised, including the Mayoress'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 Highways & Transportation Committee continued to fund 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 further benches, with commemorative plaques.
- The Highways & Transportation Committee also funded the purchase and installation of two further portable Speed Indicator Devices, currently located on Magpie Lane and Westwood Side, Churwell.
- A budget was set aside to fund gritting/snow clearance provision on some affected and otherwise untreated estate roads and main roads, with several treatments being required due to the bad weather.
- 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. Three Town Council representatives are Members of the Board. This funding also contributes towards the Town Centre Manager post.
- From Community Infrastructure Levy income,

COMMITTEES – 2017/2018

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 approve appointment of Internal Auditors.
- To consider Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure.
- To deal with other policy and constitutional issues that may arise.
- To deal with recommendations to Council regarding amendments to Standing Orders/Financial Regulations.

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' funding Contract with West Yorkshire Police Authority, which includes regular attendance at meetings by Representatives of West Yorkshire Police to provide updates on performance, results, crime statistics etc.
- 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, in order 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 Summer Entertainment in the town, which in 2017, for the first time, included an Outdoor Cinema.

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, and also include neighbouring proposed developments which may impact on Morley.

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

- Expansion of the maintenance of the Public Rights of Way network in partnership with Leeds City Council
- Explore the possibility of establishing a 'Morley Country Way'
- Organisation of the Christmas Lights switch-on event with provision of additional lighting along Queen Street and Morley Bottoms
- Other annual town events such as the Lantern Festival, Schools' Music Festival, 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 funding
- Consideration of grants funding to local community groups/organisations via the Community Development Committee
- Organisation of the Remembrance Day service and parade
- Provision of additional gritting/snow-clearance during the Winter period
- Continue to provide grant funding to local organisations, i.e. Morley In Bloom, Morley & District Lions Club, The Royal Society of St George, Morley Arts Festival, Morley Murals and Morley Amateur Operatic Society.

MEDIUM/LONG-TERM PROJECTS

- Input into planning of an 'Arts space' in Windsor Court
- Forward plan for 'Community Infrastructure Levy' projects
- Additional Speed Indicator Devices

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.