

MORLEY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



FINANCIAL YEAR – 1ST APRIL 2018 TO 31ST MARCH 2019

MUNICIPAL YEAR – 9TH MAY 2018 TO 15TH MAY 2019

Introduction by the Mayor for 2019/20 – Cllr A Hutchison

It is an honour to have been elected Mayor of Morley for 2019/2020 and I feel equally privileged to have Rachael Kennedy as the Mayoress. As a family, we are enjoying representing Morley with Niamh (12), Jake (12) and Grace (8). We are attending as many events as a unit as we can, which has been well received by members of the public.

Being Mayor brings with it the challenges of being Chairman of the Council and it is a privilege to work with such a forward thinking and proactive group of councillors. With the Council Chamber currently being represented by 25 Independent councillors, emphasis is on chairing the council impartially, but also ensuring the council is accountable and transparent. We have noticed an increase in public questions and freedom of information requests, which we welcome.

The Mayoral year has been a busy one so far, with many Civic Services already attended and invites to many other events from our neighbouring authorities. It was an honour recently to be invited by the Mayor of our twinned Town of Siegen, Germany, on an official visit and we greatly enjoyed the weekend.

Every year, emphasis is on the Mayor's Charity and this year we have chosen Radio Aire 'Cash for Kids'. Four months into the Mayoral year, we are proud to announce that over £3000.00 has already been raised.

I thank my fellow councillors, for the opportunity to be first Citizen of Morley, the Mayoress and members of my family for their support.

Members of the Council 2018/19 – Figures Show Attendance at Full Council Meetings in the Municipal Year (7 meetings held)					
Cllr Roger Bell (Mayor)	6	Cllr Josie Foley	2	Cllr Dennis Marshall	4
Cllr Lew Beever (Deputy Mayor)	7	Cllr Bob Gettings	4	Cllr Adam Rhodes	5
Cllr Jim Aveyard	7	Cllr Danny Harrison	7	Cllr Julian Rodley	5
Cllr Howard Bell	5	Cllr Janet Harrison	5	Cllr Joyce Sanders	6
Cllr Noel Bullock	7	Cllr Charlotte Hill	7	Cllr Colin Taylor	6
Cllr Andy Dalton	7	Cllr Andrew Hutchison	5	Cllr Shirley Varley	6
Cllr Judith Elliott	6	Cllr Wyn Kidger	6	Cllr Wenda Whitehead	7
Cllr Helen Evans	5	Cllr Simon Kimberley	7	Cllr Chris Windle	7
Cllr Robert Finnigan	6	Cllr Susan McGarroch	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) (6), J Elliott (6), A Hutchison (7), W Kidger (5), S Kimberley (9), S Varley (7), R Bell (8), J Aveyard (7) and R Finnigan (7)		9	
<u>Planning Committee</u> Cllrs R Finnigan (Chairman) (8), H Bell (7), H Evans (5), J Foley (2), A Rhodes (4), J Sanders (5), C Taylor (6), W Whitehead (5) and C Windle (8)		8	
<u>Community Development Committee</u> Cllrs S Kimberley (Chairman) (10), R Bell (8), N Bullock (9), A Dalton (7), W Kidger (4), J Rodley (3) and S Varley (8)		10	
<u>Highways and Transportation Committee</u> Cllrs J Aveyard (Chairman) (11), L Beever (8), D Harrison (9), J Harrison (10), C Hill (10), S McGarroch (10) and D Marshall (7)		11	
<u>Audit Committee</u> Cllrs H Evans (Chairman) (1), S McGarroch (1), J Sanders (1) and W Whitehead (1)		1	
<u>Staffing Sub-Committee</u> Cllrs R Finnigan (Chairman) (3), R Bell (3) and L Beever (3)		3	
Income and Expenditure for the financial years ended 31st March 2018 and 2019		£ 2017/18	£ 2018/19
Income			
Council precept		200,372	204,379
Interest on investments		392	599
Local Council Tax Support Grant		14,431	13,479
Miscellaneous		2,562	2,467
Community Infrastructure Levy		30,836	74,639
Total		248,593	295,563
Expenditure			
General administration		105,809	96,836
Community Grants		4,099	6,000
Community Development		100,617	98,354
Highways and Transportation		31,371	12,775
Planning		1,000	0
Civic Duties		2,750	4,685
Grass Cutting		2,088	2,088
Community Infrastructure Levy		7,203	14,445
Total		254,937	235,183
General Fund			
Opening balance as at 1st April		214,149	207,805
Add total income		248,593	295,563
Deduct total expenditure		254,937	235,183
Balance as at 31st March		207,805	268,185

PLEASE NOTE, THE ABOVE FIGURES FOR 2018/19 ARE YET TO BE APPROVED BY EXTERNAL AUDITORS

ACHIEVEMENTS – 2018/2019

- 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 an outdoor 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 2018 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 civic guests from other towns attending.
- Through its community grants scheme, the Town Council assisted 8 local organisations, approving grants totalling £6,000.
- 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 in the town centre and worked closely with Morley In Bloom on horticulture projects.
- A budget was set aside to fund gritting/snow clearance provision on some affected and otherwise untreated estate roads and main roads.
- 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, various local infrastructure projects were supported, including the refurbishment of Churwell War Memorial and provision of a lighting column on a footpath near to Cottingley Station.
- A contribution was made towards the installation of town centre wi-fi.
- A covert mobile CCTV camera was purchased in order to reduce fly-tipping.
- Four new Town Council notice boards were installed at various locations, in order to publicise meetings, events legal notices and other announcements.
- The Town Council part-funded the provision of an Enforcement Officer to deal with dog-fouling, parking issues and other enforcement matters.
- A financial contribution was made towards work on grass verges on the A650 Dewsbury Road, in order to alleviate parking issues.
- Historic mileage signs in Churwell were refurbished.
- A Radar speed gun was purchased to enable speed monitoring to be carried out in specific problem areas.
- Part-funding of the conversion of a zebra crossing on Victoria Road, Churwell, to 'halo'-type beacons.

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.
- To deal with matters relating to 'horticulture' in the town centre

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
- Provision of a grant scheme available to local organisations to apply for funding up to £750 for specific projects

MEDIUM / LONG-TERM PROJECTS

- Input into the planning of an 'Arts Space' in Windsor Court
- Forward plan for 'Community Infrastructure Levy' projects
- Additional Speed Indicator Devices
- Conversion of zebra crossing beacons to 'halo' type

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.