



ANNUAL REPORT

May 2012 – April 2013

Town Mayor

CLlr Christine Davenport

Deputy Town Mayor

CLlr Karl Boggis

Chair of Allotments Committee

CLlr Karl Boggis

Chair of Environmental Renaissance

CLlr Dave Young

Chair of Community Funding Committee

CLlr Richard Scorer

Chair of Picture House Committee

CLlr Susan Press

Chair of Staffing Committee

CLlr Christine Bampton Smith

Chair of Strategy & Review Committee

CLlr Matthew Talbot

Chair of Twinning Committee

CLlr Scott Trickett

Other Members of the Council

CLlr John Beacroft-Mitchell

CLlr Wesley Downs

CLlr James Fearon

CLlr James Allison

CLlr James Baker

CLlr Nader Fekri

CLlr Tony Hodgins

CLlr Steve Sweeney

CLlr Karl Boggis

CLlr Julia Gibson

CLlr Jonathan Timbers

Clerk to the Council - Jason Boom
Neighbourhood Manager - Emma Green
Administrator - Rebekah Cox



Hebden Royd Town Council

The Parish of Hebden Royd lies in the Calder Valley and includes the main population centres of Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd as well as surrounding rural areas, notably, Cragg Vale.

The Town Council, whose members act in a voluntary capacity and are unpaid, has to respond to legislation but is the tier of government closest to the electorate and it seeks to serve by identifying and responding to local needs.

VISION STATEMENT:

The economic, social, and environmental well-being of those who live and work in Hebden Royd will be a major factor in all our decision-making.

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are committed to a better quality of life for all the people of Hebden Royd. We plan to achieve this in association with community groups and the public, private and voluntary sectors. Hebden Royd Town Council will therefore strive to:

- Be open and accessible in all its decision-making
 - Be accountable in all its council activities
- Be responsive to the needs of the community
 - Promote equal opportunities

Wherever possible, individuals and groups are encouraged to work in partnership with the Council to enhance the area to the benefit of the wider community.

Mayors Report

By Cllr Christine Davenport

I was in Dunemore East, Southern Ireland when the email came in. I had been selected as Mayor for Hebden Royd. Numbness came over me as well as fear. I'd only ever chaired a carnival committee. The role of Mayor was something else. In my Mayor Making speech, I said I wanted to try and unite council, to work together. We have 6 wards in Hebden Royd, with 3 councillors elected to each ward. We should be working together to support our wards, not politically fighting each other.

Who could have expected Hebden Royd and the upper valley to require all the support it could get from the community in what was going to be a very unusual and difficult year.

The floods that followed in June were devastating. Shops, homes, property, live-stock and peoples health were affected. To walk around the town that has been home for over 18 years, and see it turned into a ghost town was very upsetting. Like most of us, I love this town.

Watching the community pull together and begin the clean-up was a very proud moment. Food Angels set up a group distributing food and drinks to all the volunteers who were helping with the clear up. Rob Holden set up the flood group, search and rescue teams came out and assisted the Police and Fire Brigade. The council workers, worked through the night and round the clock trying to clear drains. How do you prioritise drains when everyone is trying to save their properties but prioritise is what we had to do.

Ten days later the second flood hit, this took Dodd Naze and other areas by surprise, even the street I live on became an island with water gushing down Birchcliffe and Keighley Road.

This town continued to fight back against the disastrous summer; the opening of the Town Hall was still set to go the day after the devastating first flood. It had no option as guests had arrived from our twin towns, it had to go on. We saw Mytholmroyd Gala continue despite the downfall of rain most of the day. The Heritage Brass Band continued with bands coming from far and wide. The Town Crier competition almost ended up under water as the swollen river Hebden posed a threat of flooding yet again. All the criers hit the pub while we disparately phoned around for sand bags. Waters receded, we then headed for the Town Hall to continue the competition. The Hand Made Parade moved its date due to the flooding. We saw the first Hebden Bridge Food Fest in the town. The Vintage Car Rally still attracted the many visitors to the area. The Blues Festival won an award and returns again. Valley of Lights linked Todmorden, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. The rag market in the Town Hall. So many events kept Hebden Royd on the map. The pride when I look back now, 10 months later at our beautiful parish. It's back to life again. Most of our shops are open and on top of that, Hebden Bridge was voted top town to live in the country.

It's been an amazing year. I've met some wonderful people, yes I have got to say, Prince Charles was a delight. I met the Mayors of our twin towns, Warstien and St Pol, Mayor of Pietrapaola. Mayor of Blakna, and the Mayor of Zeeland. Portuguese horse riders and many more visitors of other countries to our Royd. I visited other councils and supported them, in turn they have supported me, by doing so, it has built bridges between our towns.

Work of the Council

During the last year the full council has met on 18 occasions and made 348 decisions plus considered and made recommendation to Calderdale MBC on 121 planning applications.

Committees

Committees examine issues in detail. Seven were appointed this year and the Chairs outline the highlights..

Allotments

As this Council year comes to a close, it gives me great pleasure to report that our Banksfield site in Mytholmroyd, has now been successfully asset transferred from Calderdale MBC, all groundworks undertaken, and will soon be ready for old and new allotment holders to move on to. Our site at High Hirst, Dodd Naze, has also been successfully asset transferred but is currently awaiting approval of more detailed drawings by the planning authority, although planning permission has been granted. *Cllr Karl Boggis*

Environmental Renaissance

This committee seeks to improve the Environment of Hebden Royd. The bulb planting and our ever expanding popular hanging basket scheme continues as well as the Spring Clean campaign through Hebden Royd. Other projects undertaken during the past 12 months were Cragg Vale Park hand rail, Dog Waste Dispensers in Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge, Knotweed Management Programme and the Christmas lights during the festive period. *Cllr Dave Young*

Community Funding

The Town Council is one the biggest funders of community groups in the Calder Valley. This year grants to the value of £75,000 were allocated and the committee worked hard to ensure that funds were fairly allocated between the various communities and groups which make up Hebden Royd. Many different organisations applied for the funding; the one difficulty was a sudden rush of applications in the final quarter of the year and so in future we would ask interested applicants to apply as early in the financial year as possible. The HRTC website contains further details of funding criteria and applicants are advised to consider these, but a wide range of different groups have secured funding and we will continue to ensure that the diversity of our community is represented in funding decisions.

Cllr Richard Scorer

Picture House

A year ago Hebden Royd Town Council embarked on its most ambitious project ever – transferring the Hebden Bridge Picture House from Calderdale MBC to the ownership of the Town Council – Twelve months down the line the Picture House is going from strength to strength. Perhaps the most significant event this year was our £50,000 investment in new digital equipment, we have had much positive feedback on the vast improvement in sound and picture quality. Most importantly, we have helped ensure the Picture House's long-term viability as without the new equipment it simply could not have survived. It was always our aim to preserve the unique visitor experience offered by the Picture House and we did not want anything to change that. Our famous range of cakes and Fairtrade products has been increased and at weekends and special screenings a glass of wine or beer are also available.

Cllr Susan Press

Staffing Committee

This year has marked the beginning of a new era for Hebden Royd Town Council. The Asset Transfer of the Hebden Bridge Cinema has meant that the staff has increased from 3 to over twenty. This has meant that the Staffing Committee has needed to put in place measures to ensure the smooth running of the enlarged organisation. Three of the Committee members have worked for many hours to try to make sure that this happens, and has been supported by the full committee. The Council has also appointed Employment Law Specialists – Haworths - to support us in our aim to be a good employer.

Cllr Christine Bampton Smith

Strategy & Review

The Strategy and Review committee continues to oversee the strategic direction of the Town Council in response to current issues and requests received from both National and Regional organisations. It is also responsible for recommending a budget for approval by the Council. This year's budget process was very successful, with all councillors having an opportunity to make submissions and a great deal of cross-party collaboration.

Cllr Matthew Talbot

Twinning

Working closely with Hebden Bridge & District International Group there were friendship visits to Warstein and St Pol with a new link made with Pietrapaoula in Italy. Visits from St Pol & Warstein took place and both generously support those affected by the flooding.

Cllr Scott Trickett

ATTENDANCE RECORD

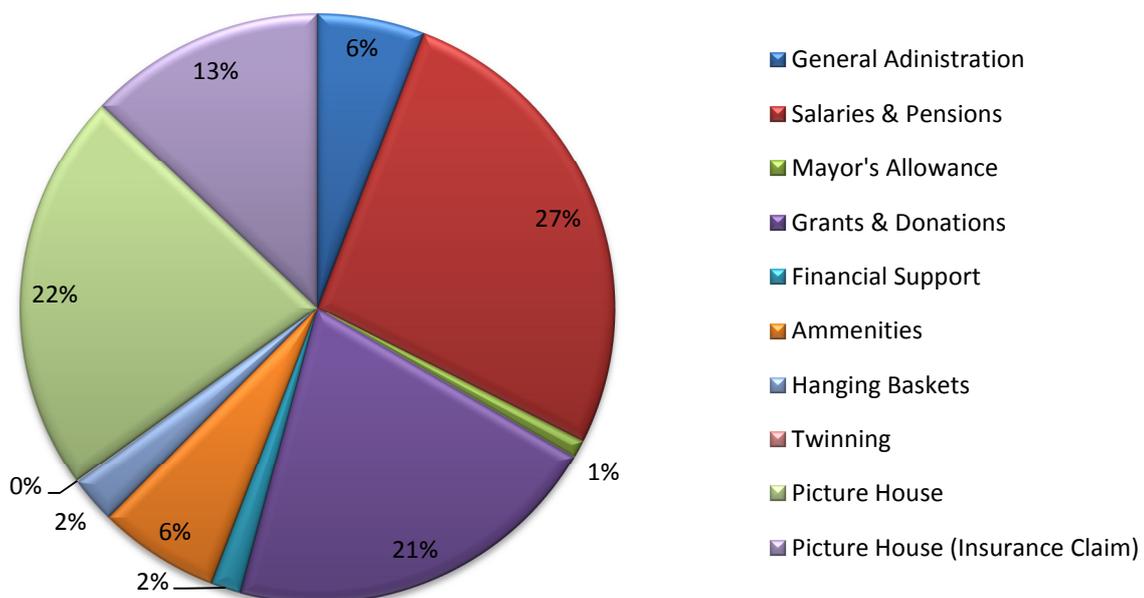
The Council held eighteen meetings during 2012/13 plus committee meetings as well as working parties and community public meetings. The possible number of meetings depends on the committees to which a member is assigned and the record is summarised below.

| Councillor *CMBC Councillor | Committees | Full Council Meetings | | Committee Meetings | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| | | Possible | Actual | Possible | Actual |
| Cllr Allison | SC, SR | 10 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Cllr Baker* | SR, | 18 | 17 | 11 | 10 |
| Cllr Bampton-Smith | CF, SC | 18 | 16 | 21 | 20 |
| Cllr Beacroft –Mitchell* | SC | 18 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Cllr Boggis | AL, CF, | 18 | 17 | 11 | 9 |
| Cllr Davenport | All as Mayor | 18 | 14 | 18 | 17 |
| Cllr Downs | TC | 10 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Cllr Fearon | CF, ER, PH | 18 | 18 | 21 | 14 |
| Cllr Fekri | SC, TC | 18 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| Cllr Gibson | AL, PH, TC | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Cllr Hodgins | ER, PH, SR | 18 | 16 | 21 | 16 |
| Cllr Press | CF, ER, SC, SR | 18 | 17 | 29 | 26 |
| Cllr Scorer | CF, | 18 | 13 | 16 | 10 |
| Cllr Sweeney* | AL, PH, SC, SR | 18 | 14 | 28 | 19 |
| Cllr Talbot | SR | 18 | 14 | 6 | 5 |
| Cllr Timbers | SR, TC | 8 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Cllr Trickett | ER, TC | 18 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| Cllr Tsoneva | CF, | 18 | 10 | 13 | 8 |
| Cllr Yorke | AL, ER, PH | 18 | 17 | 18 | 15 |
| Cllr Young* | AL, ER, SC, SR | 18 | 18 | 18 | 17 |

AL – Allotments, CF – Community Funding, ER – Environmental Renaissance, PH – Picture House,
SC – Staffing, SR – Strategy & Review, TC – Twinning.

NB - These figures do not show other meetings attended by members on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, casework or other tasks undertaken by ward members.

Council Expenditure 2012/13 Total Expenditure £367,037,13



The Precept, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was £258,468.00 plus a grant of £3,260.00 This works out at £57.94 per year for a Band D household or £1.11 per week. The majority of dwellings in Hebden Royd are Band A paying £38.63 or 74p per week.