



Hebden Royd
Town Council

Annual Report

May 2014 – April 2015





Members of the Council

Town Mayor

Cllr Jonathan Timbers

Deputy Mayor

Cllr Tony Hodgins

Members of the Council

Cllr Emma Tsonvea

Cllr Susan Press

Cllr Karl Boggis

Cllr Martin Macdonald

Cllr Christine Bampton-Smith

Cllr James Fearon

Cllr Richard Scorer

Cllr Robin Dixon

Cllr Alex Rudkin

Cllr Steve Sweeney

Cllr Robert Gibbon

Cllr Andrew Halewood

Cllr Scott Trickett

Cllr Nigel Yorke

Cllr Christine Davenport

Cllr Dave Young

Hebden Royd Town Council Staff

Clerk to the Council - Jason Boom

Neighbourhood Manager - Emma Green & Hannah Dobson

Administrator - Rebekah Cox

Apprentice Administrator – Harriet Harbidge

About Hebden Royd

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.

Mayor's Report

By Cllr Jonathan Timbers



Peace became the theme of my year as town Mayor.

World War One Centenary – Notwithstanding this, it was the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. It was important to mark the contribution of local men who fought in the Battle of Mons. But those soldiers at the front who weren't there to escape poverty fought to end war. So, to honour their dreams, we pointed out that the United Nations and EU have kept the peace in Western Europe from 1945 to this day.

Nancy Wheelhouse - The commemoration wasn't all about soldiers. I researched and published the story of a local peace campaigner, Nancy Wheelhouse, of 13 Eton St, Hebden Bridge, a leading light in the Independent Labour Party (ILP), who campaigned against war. She argued for the creation of international and European institutions to prevent future wars. It was thrilling to make her prophetic voice heard again.

Loss is Eternal - Everyone who saw it was impressed by Jamie Wardle's sand sculpture, 'Loss is Eternal', which we helped to fund. It reminded us that war is not epic, it is tragic.

Ted Hughes Festival - And the cost is not confined to those who fight. It is also paid by the families at home. I highlighted this by presenting a talk at the Ted Hughes festival in Mytholmroyd on Hughes's war poetry. Ted was the son and nephew of veterans. It was a privilege to work with David Blanchard and Nick Wilding who gave a talk and presented a film respectively on related subjects during the same event.

Mayors for Peace - War is not over, the danger continues. So I became an active member of the British and Irish Chapter of Mayors for Peace, founded by the Mayor of Hiroshima, which is committed to the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Twinning - During our twinning events, I was able to reflect on the experience and lessons of our common history of conflict. In Germany, I spoke in public about my own family's damaging war experiences and was embraced (literally) by the President of the German Bundestag (Parliament), who had been invited to the event. There is still so much pain from those wars to work through.

Refugees and the St Augustine Centre - My charity, the St Augustine's Centre, in Halifax, which helps refugees, sadly, couldn't have been more apt in a year that recorded the highest number of refugees worldwide since the Second World War. If we are a proud country, we should do more to support refugees.

The Tours - On a brighter note, I welcomed the Tour de France as it went through Hebden Royd and up the longest ascent in England (Cragg Vale) accompanied by the jubilation of thousands of on-lookers. Then nearly a year later, the Tour de Yorkshire came riding down the same hill in the opposite direction.

Sainsbury's Appeal - Finally, I wrote the Town Council's submission to the planning inspectorate in the Sainsbury's appeal, which stopped a convenience store being built on traffic grounds. But I suspect the matter isn't entirely settled.

Committee Highlights

By the Chairs of the Committees

Environment and Allotments

Since the amalgamation of Environment and Allotments this committee hasn't allowed the grass to grow under its feet. The allotments at High Hirst and Banksfield are completed with just some finishing off work to be done at High Hirst. There has been extensive bulb planting with some grot spots cleared and planted. The spring clean campaign went well with local groups benefiting. The Christmas festive lights program is progressing in discussion with Calderdale. *Cllr Tony Hodgins*



Calder Valley Centre

The Calder Valley Centre Committee was set up to explore avenues to reopen the Calder Valley Club in Mytholmroyd that closed in June 2014. The Council looked at ways in which the premises could be put to use by local groups, especially groups with members that may have had mobility problems. Although unsuccessful other parties have expressed interest in taking over the CVC premises. As chair of this committee I would like to thank the officers and members for their time and commitment to this endeavour. *Cllr Tony Hodgins*

Community Funding

Once again HRTC continues to be one of the biggest funders for community groups in the upper Calder Valley. 2014/15 saw grants to the value of £55,822.40 allocated which will directly benefit the residents of Hebden Royd. Diverse activities such as singing for the over 55s, training facilities for the young unemployed, support for the Calder Valley Youth Theatre and promoting the history & heritage of Cragg Vale have featured. The Council continues to support the many and varied festivals that the areas hosts, this year Folk Roots, the Piano Festival, Hebden Bridge Arts Festival and the Mytholmroyd Gala all benefited. *Cllr James Fearon*
Any formally constituted group may apply for funding, please contact the office or website for further information.



Strategy & Review

This Committee has supported the work of the Clerk in key developments such as opening new bank accounts, changes to pension arrangements for the staff and significant changes to Standing Orders.

The work of this Committee has included:

Clarifying certain aspects of the Mayor's Charity and its distribution; application for Gold Quality Parish Status; establishing changes in the Community Funding Criteria including ring fencing a percentage of these funds for sport; supporting Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd Flood Groups by holding their funds and monitoring expenditure; working with the Clerk on health and safety issues in the Picture House; producing the annual budget for the Council and researching the notion of Well Being as applied to the Council and the community it serves. *Cllr Robin Dixon*



Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee looks after 30 members of staff employed by the Town Council, including the Hebden Bridge Picture House, a very successful and popular asset for the residents of Hebden Royd and further afield. The Committee has put in place measures to ensure the smooth running of the enlarged organisation, appointing employment law specialists to support us.

We have appointed new staff during the last 12 months to cover maternity leave and our first apprentice. We are a Living Wage employer and were one of the first town councils in the country to achieve this. *Cllr Dave Young*



Picture House

It is now three years since HRTC took over the magnificent Hebden Bridge Picture House. Much should be celebrated now and the leadership and operational team must be congratulated as the turn over for year ending March 2015 has increased to almost £400,000. Retained profit has grown over the three years culminating in significant investments in digital projection, toilets, floor coverings and auditorium lighting.

With thanks to the local community, and our audience whom we are proud to serve, almost all areas of the business have improved with HRTC proving its sustainability, financial viability and importance to the local community. HRTC is committed to maintaining this unique building and service in the town.

A more detail report can be accessed at www.hebdenbridgепicturehouse.co.uk.

Cllr Nigel Yorke



Twinning

Twinning, the friendship between two towns in different countries, opens up a doorway to opportunities, creates friendships and allows the chance to learn about the culture and family day to day life. This year saw a significant visit to St Pol which included the Junior Band and other local musicians. Organised in conjunction with the Hebden Bridge Twinning Society the Liberation of St Pol in 1944 was celebrated and friendships renewed. A delegation also attended events in Warstein.

This year sees the celebrations to mark the anniversaries of our friendships with Warstein in Germany for 20 years and St Pol in France for 35 years. *Cllr Christine Davenport*



Neighbourhood Planning

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee brings together these town and parish councils in an equal partnership to help set the rules for land use and development. Strictly speaking, this is not a Hebden Royd committee – it also works for Wadsworth, Heptonstall, Blackshawhead and Erringden Parish Councils.

This year it has brought the town and parish councils together in their most ambitious joint venture ever. It received the official go-ahead to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to give us all a say on what gets built and how we use land in the area, and put in place a project plan to make it happen.

Cllr Jonathan Timbers



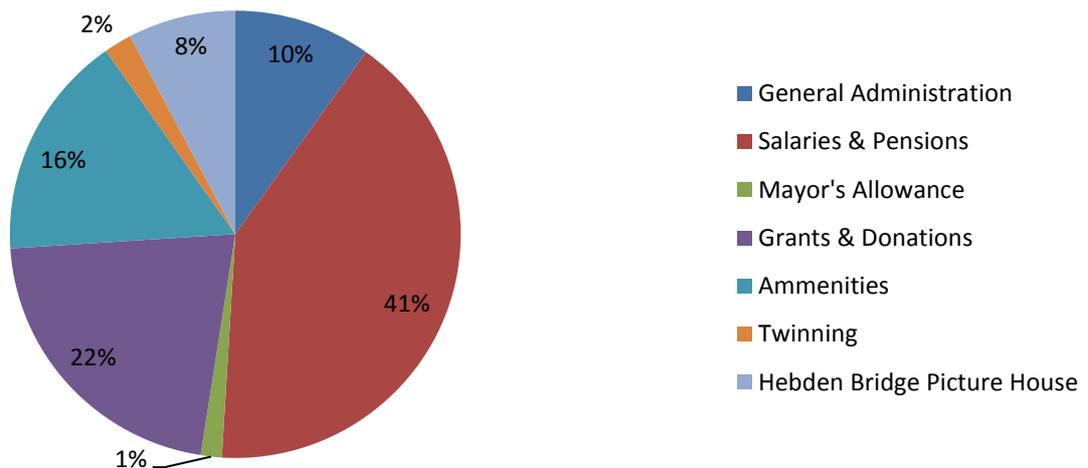
Attendance Record

Councillor *CMBC Councillor	Committees	Full Council Meetings		Committee Meetings	
		Possible	Actual	Possible	Actual
Cllr Bampton-Smith	SC, SR	18	17	11	10
Cllr Boggis	PH, SC, CVC	18	16	11	8
Cllr Davenport	EA, PH, TC	18	11	13	8
Cllr Dixon	CVC, NP, SC, SR, TC	18	15	26	18
Cllr Fearon	CF, NP, PH	18	13	18	11
Cllr Gibbon	EA, NP, TC	17	14	16	10
Cllr Halewood	PH, SC, CF	18	9	13	9
Cllr Hodgins	CVC, EA, SR	18	17	13	12
Cllr Macdonald	EA	17	11	4	2
Cllr Press	CVC, PH, CF	18	16	11	9
Cllr Rudkin	EA, TC	17	16	9	8
Cllr Scorer	CF	18	2	4	2
Cllr Sweeney	SR, SC	18	13	10	7
Cllr Timbers	All as Mayor	18	15	38	17
Cllr Trickett	CF, SR, TC	18	9	15	9
Cllr Tsoneva	CF	18	1	4	2
Cllr Yorke	EA, PH	18	18	8	6
Cllr Young	EA, SC, SR	18	17	15	12

CF – Community Funding, EA – Environment and Allotments, PH – Picture House, NP – Neighbourhood Plan, SC – Staffing, SR – Strategy and Review, TC – Twinning, CVC – Calder Valley Centre

Finance

Council Expenditure 2014/15 Total Expenditure £259,159.02



The Precept, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was £222,893 plus grants of £38,519. This works out at £72.89 per year for a Band D household or £1.40 per week. The majority of dwellings in Hebden Royd are Band A properties.

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**Hebden Royd
Town Council**

