



# ANNUAL REPORT

May 2013 – April 2014

**Town Mayor**

Cllr Karl Boggis

**Deputy Town Mayor**

Cllr Jonathan Timbers

**Chair of Environments & Allotments Committee**

Cllr Nigel Yorke

**Chair of Community Funding Committee**

Cllr James Fearon

**Chair of Picture House Committee**

Cllr Susan Press

**Chair of Staffing Committee**

Cllr Dave Young

**Chair of Strategy & Review Committee**

Cllr Robin Dixon

**Chair of Twinning Committee**

Cllr Christine Davenport

**Other Members of the Council**

Cllr John Beacroft-Mitchell

Cllr Richard Scorer

Cllr Emma Tsoneva

Cllr James Baker

Cllr Nader Fekri

Cllr Tony Hodgins

Cllr Steve Sweeney

Cllr Christine Bampton Smith

Cllr Andrew Halewood

Cllr Scott Trickett

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



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 Karl Boggis**

On the evening of the day that we became Mayor and Mayoress, and after our Mayor making had finished, I went online to post thank you's. The reports of the attack on Lee Rigby that same afternoon left me numb. I felt the same numbness when I attended my first function, the Mytholmroyd Station Partnership annual luncheon the following morning. Knowing I had to say some words, I was slightly stuck, when all I could say was 'thank you'. The feeling that something so terrible had taken place, that could happen anywhere, yet we have people so freely giving of their time and energy to make our town a cleaner, better, more welcoming place for residents and visitors alike. This theme of just saying thank you seemed to stick with me for the whole of our year, and nothing pleases an audience more, than a short speech!

That said, some of my longer and more nerve wracking talks were with our schools and academy's, while presenting the town council's Kenneth Kaberry awards. Our areas schools are all very different, some with uniform, some without, some with incredible discipline, others not quite so, but a common result of incredible, inquisitive and open minds. I will never forget the young man at Central Street, who, when I was presented at their assembly and they were all asked 'do you know who this is?' bellowed out in the thickest of Yorkshire accents 'the bloke from the chippy'! This too showed itself to be true across our communities that many of us do wear many different hats, and visiting groups, companies and institutions in our area, you get to see the same faces with striking regularity. Again, people giving a lot to ensure our communities thrive to the best of their potential.

To the people who give hundreds of hours to restore community spaces, people who give days to walk miles in sweltering conditions to raise awareness, those who prepare foods for our districts older folk, organisations that run massive community events bringing much needed visitor pounds to our economy, those who make our Christmas celebrations shine out, ladies baking to their hearts desire to help others raise funds, those who create spaces for community growing projects, those who extend an international hand to our twinned towns of Warstein and St. Pol sur Ternoise, those who stand on call, ready to help save lives, people whose dedication allows to not forget those who went before us and paid the supreme sacrifice, folk who take time out to organise unique events to help put our towns very securely on the map of England, I say thank you. Not just from me, but also this community of ours that you help make what it is.

To my fellow Councillors, including those in our neighbouring parishes, I also say thank you. Like those mentioned previously, you all give on top of family commitments, and jobs, your time on a voluntary basis, to ensure our area gets all the help and support it deserves, and as the following committee reports show, not just by sitting in full council meetings every three weeks!

For this last twelve months, it has been our pleasure to be able to represent the towns in which we live and work, and although it will be nice to return to a less demanding diary, I hope we do still get to as many community events as is possible. One last thank you, to Cllr Christine Bampton-Smith, for asking me (so many times) to join Hebden Royd Town Council and for this fantastic opportunity. Thank you.

**Work of the Council**

During the last year the full council has met on 17 occasions and made numerous decisions plus considered and made recommendation to Calderdale MBC on 121 planning applications.

### **Committees**

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

#### **Environment & Allotments**

The E&A Committee has worked to improvement the environs of Hebden Royd. The main areas of work were:  
White Lee Rec: in partnership with Calderdale MBC made changes to the rec and part-funded the improvements.  
Christmas Lights: the annual installation of the Christmas Lights, the Picture House illuminated for the first time - something that received positive feedback and switch-on events in Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd.  
Hanging baskets: increased in number once more making our Township look attractive in the height of summer.  
Annual Spring Clean: Held in March, attracting a large number of community groups playing a role in the upkeep of the area, the Spring Clean weekend is recognised as a source of income for these groups.  
Banksfield Allotments: renovation work was completed, with an increased number of plots and improved facilities.  
High Hirst Allotments: Spring 2014 saw the culmination of several years' work to develop a plot of land at Dodd Naze into High Hirst allotments. There are 41 plots with further opportunities to develop the site. *Cllr Nigel Yorke*

#### **Community Funding**

Being Chair of the Community Funding Committee is a real privilege, you can see the community of Hebden Royd growing and developing. The projects are innovative with proposals packed with new ideas that address concerns within the community. Some are about putting into place something that has been omitted from the fabric of life in Hebden Royd, whether it be in the Sports or Arts or other obscure minority interests. The resourcefulness and energy of people presenting their projects is engaging and eventful as people try to compress their projects into a five minute presentation before a panel of councillors. Vital social needs are highlighted and without the hard work and of many young people, some festivals such as the Fair for Youth would not be going ahead this year. In this time of economic recession, as councillors we applaud the resilience and determination of people of Hebden Royd to make a difference to our lives. *Cllr James Fearon*

#### **Picture House**

The Picture House continues to go from strength to strength with perhaps the most exciting development this year being the introduction of 'live streaming' from some of the most prestigious theatre, ballet and opera companies in the UK. Beginning with 'The Audience' starring Helen Mirren and followed by Kenneth Branagh's Macbeth live from Manchester, David Tennant as Richard II from the RSC and War Horse from the National Theatre they have contributed significantly towards the Picture House showing a small surplus for the year. The improvements programme has continued with refurbishment of the upstairs and disabled toilets and plans to refurbish the kiosk in hand. The Picture House continues to offer a unique blend of 'art', foreign language and mainstream films. Friends of the Picture House must be thanked for their support raising c£1300 across two open days. *Cllr Susan Press*

#### **Staffing Committee**

The Staffing Committee looks after over 20 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 those 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, recruiting new staff during the year as well as gaining accreditation as a Living Wage Employer, one of the first Town Councils in the country to achieve this. *Cllr Dave Young*

#### **Strategy & Review**

This advisory committee looks at policies and procedure and some of the meatier subjects considered and discussed by the Town Council. The committee this year have enjoyed reviewing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, commented on items of consultation from Central & Local Government and many other bodies. *Cllr Robin Dixon*

#### **Twinning**

This twinning committee have been preparing this year for a number of upcoming celebrations, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of St Pol, hosting friends during the Tour de France which passes through Hebden Royd on July the 6<sup>th</sup> and the immanent 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Twinning Anniversaries with Warstein & St Pol respectively. Importantly, the 100 year commemoration of World War 1 has been discussed and a separate working group has been established to plan events to remember this important historical event. *Cllr Christine Davenport*

## ATTENDANCE RECORD

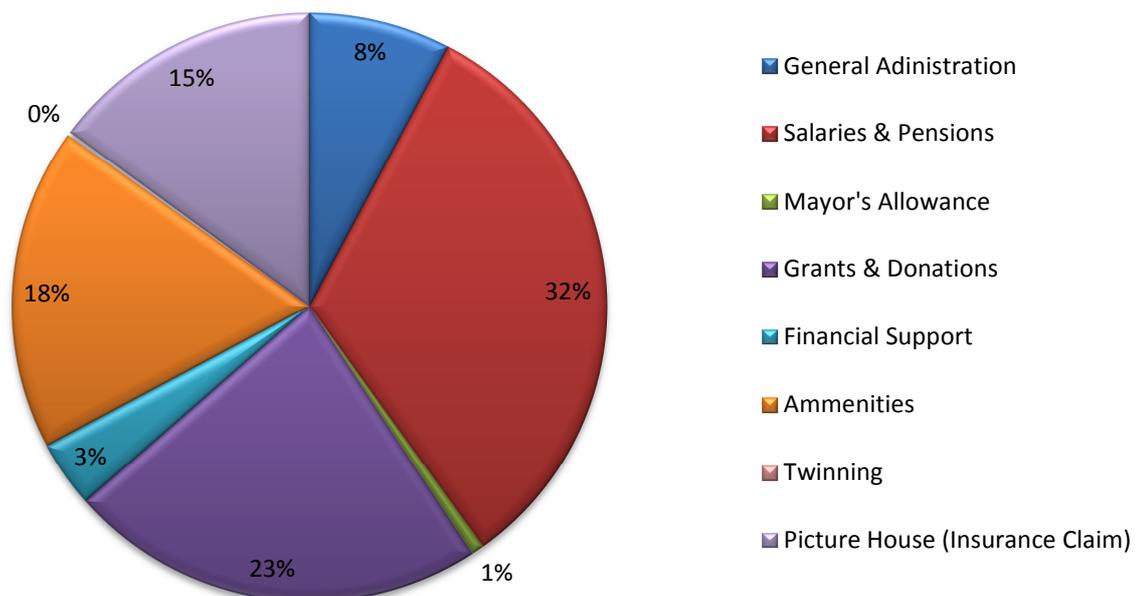
The Council held seventeen meetings during 2013/14 plus committee meetings as well as working parties and community public meetings. The possible number of meetings depends on the committees to which a member is assigned and the record is summarised below.

Councillor *CMBC Councillor	Committees	Full Council Meetings		Committee Meetings	
		Possible	Actual	Possible	Actual
Cllr Baker	CF, SR, BC	16	12	12	7
Cllr Bampton Smith	CF, SR, BC, SC	17	17	16	13
Cllr Beacroft Mitchell	SC	16	2	3	0
Cllr Boggis	All as Mayor	17	17	34	22
Cllr Davenport	PH, EA, TC	17	9	16	9
Cllr Dixon	SR, SC, TC	9	9	10	9
Cllr Fearon	CF, PH	17	16	12	11
Cllr Fekri	TC, EA	15	3	9	1
Cllr Gibson	TC, PH	8	0	4	0
Cllr Halewood	TC, PH	9	9	8	5
Cllr Hodgins	PH, EA	17	15	11	11
Cllr Press	SC, PH, CF	17	16	17	16
Cllr Scorer	CF, BC	17	6	8	5
Cllr Sweeney*	SC, SR	17	13	12	8
Cllr Talbot	SR	8	4	2	1
Cllr Timbers	TC, BC, SR	17	13	14	11
Cllr Trickett	SC, TC, EA	17	9	16	2
Cllr Tsoneva	CF	17	9	5	4
Cllr Yorke	PH, EA, PH	17	15	11	8
Cllr Young*	SC, SR, EA	17	17	16	14

CF – Community Funding, EA – Environment & Allotments, PH – Picture House,  
SC – Staffing, SR – Strategy & Review, TC – Twinning BC - Bookings Committee

*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 2013/14 Total Expenditure £317,079.37



The Precept, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was £218,795 plus grants of £39,538 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.