

# Town Council by Numbers

18 COUNCILLORS

65 MEETINGS IN TOTAL

£285,205 TOTAL BUDGET

111 PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BEFORE GOING TO CALDERDALE

145 HANGING BASKETS PROVIDED

8 COMMUNITY GROUPS RECEIVED SPRING BULBS

£48.59 COST PER BAND A HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR



## Annual Report

May 2015 – April 2016



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[www.hebdenroyd.org.uk](http://www.hebdenroyd.org.uk)



## Members of the Council

**Town Mayor** - Cllr James Fearon

**Deputy Mayor** - Cllr Tony Hodgins

### Members of the Council

Cllr Christine Bampton Smith	Cllr Karl Boggis	Cllr June Cammack
Cllr Catherine Crosland	Cllr Luke Daber	Cllr Christine Davenport
Cllr Robin Dixon	Cllr John Dunford	Cllr Pat Fraser
Cllr Elizabeth King	Cllr Jane Scullion	Cllr Carol Stow
Cllr Jonathan Timbers	Cllr Scott Trickett	Cllr Nigel Yorke
	Cllr Dave Young	

### Hebden Royd Town Council Staff

**Clerk to the Council** - Jason Boom • **Neighbourhood Manager** - Emma Green

**Administrator** - Rebekah Cox • **Administration Support Officer** – Harriet Harbidge

## About Hebden Royd

Hebden Royd Town Council is an elected authority which works at the local community level. The Council has a supportive role, funding local projects and organisations. It provides services such as allotments and owns and runs the Hebden Bridge Picture House. It also works with other organisations to lobby and campaign for local improvements. The Council area has a population of 9,558 and includes the settlements of Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. The full council meets 15 times a year and there are six committees.

Hebden Royd Town Council's strategic aims are to:

- Protect, enhance and improve the local environment
- Promote Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd
- Support and develop our young people
- Improve the resilience of the area and strengthen our community
- Improve our own efficiency and effectiveness, leading to good governance.

This annual report gives a summary of the work of the Town Council over the last year against those strategic aims but much more information can be found online at: [www.hebdenroyd.org.uk](http://www.hebdenroyd.org.uk)

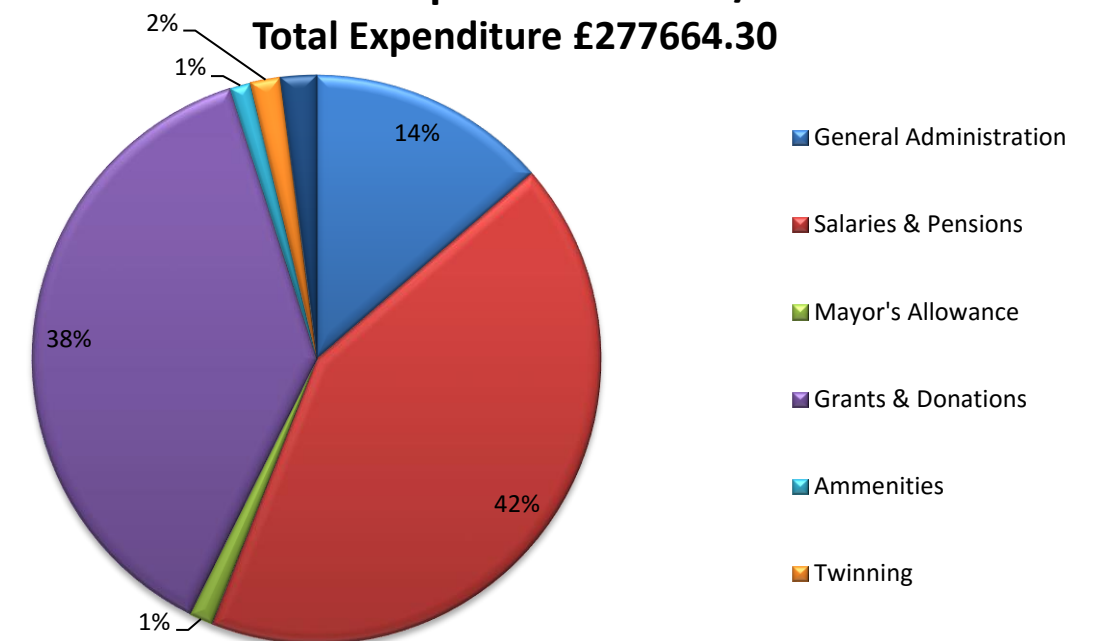
## Neighbourhood Plan

For the last two years Hebden Royd Town Council together with the parishes of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth have been working to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. Once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will set down some of the rules and standards for new developments, including housing in the area. It is legally binding, and planning applications within the neighbourhood plan area will be determined in accordance with its policies. A first stage consultation in 2015 asked people to identify the issues that particularly concerned them and what they value about the area. Further consultations will establish the planning framework for the area in conjunction with Calderdale Council's Local Plan.

Find out more at [www.hebdenhilltopplan.co.uk](http://www.hebdenhilltopplan.co.uk).

## Finance

### Council Expenditure 2015/16 Total Expenditure £277664.30



The Precept, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was £224,164 plus grants of £38,173. 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 which are charged £48.59 per year or £0.94 per week.

## Key events and achievements

The first event in the Town Council's year was the May 2015 elections and this resulted in 8 new councillors taking office. In addition one councillor was co-opted following a vacancy. Councillor Boggis acted as Mayor from May to early September when he stood down to be replaced by Councillor Fearon for the remainder of the year. The first few months were busy with events such as the Hebden Happy Hounds day, the 'Make a Place' event with local school children during the arts festival, fundraising for the Mayor's charity, (St Augustine's Centre), as well as the Christmas lights switch on events in both Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. In addition the council received a living wage employer award and was able to offer its apprentice permanent employment with the council.

The steady rhythm of the municipal year was abruptly interrupted by the Boxing Day floods which hit our communities very badly and the remainder of the year has been very much focussed on dealing with both the immediate aftermath of the floods and the longer term recovery. Three of the councillors are flood wardens and were directly involved in giving support. In addition the Town Council's staff were active in the flooding hubs offering information and practical help. The Picture House was badly affected and the staff did a magnificent job in clearing up, getting the cinema open by using the balcony and overseeing the refurbishment and repair. The council also held a special meeting on flooding on 12<sup>th</sup> January and revised its grant funding scheme to make sure that local organisations affected by the flooding were able to get the support that they needed.

On a more hopeful note, for the first time ever, the Annual Town Meeting focussed on the needs and hopes of young people. 'Youth conversations' was the theme of the well-attended and successful evening and the Town Council facilitated further networking between the youth organisations which attended.



## Mayor's Report

It was a historic year for the community of Hebden Royd. I was very proud to lead HRTC through the horrific floods of Boxing Day 2016. The infrastructure of our towns was practically destroyed, yet the resilience and community spirit of our town's folk was truly inspirational to behold. The magnificent way the community harnessed their energies and pulled together showed that our living, breathing community is capable of profound acts of cohesion, generosity and compassion. It takes time to recover from this type of destruction but we are getting there.

We greatly appreciated the acts of kindness from our neighbours, both from near and far and our twin towns of Warstein and St Pol. The Italian town of Paratico sent representatives to visit us, encouraging links between the youth groups in our respective towns.

There were many highlights during my year as Mayor, but a few that spring to mind include: collecting the Living Wage Employer Award on behalf of the Town Council, the successful launch of the Mytholmroyd Arts Festival to join the already creative tour de force that is our annual Hebden Bridge Arts Festival and the promotion of local musicians during the Folk Roots Festival.

Joining the Friends of Hebden Bridge Station's Christmas choir, entertaining the commuters at Hebden Bridge Train Station and switching on the Christmas lights with my son and consort Ennis also stood out for me. I was very proud to be part of the Happy Valley Pride campaign to highlight discrimination and victimization of the LGBT community.

I would also like thank the work done by our own Town Council officers, my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Tony Hodgins, the work of the Flood Wardens and the integral part that the Flood Hubs played during the catastrophe.

Most of all a big thanks to you, the people of Hebden Royd, who were simply magnificent and stood shoulder to shoulder during the floods as shining beacons for us all.



# Our Strategic Aims and How We Achieved Them

## Good governance: improving our own efficiency and effectiveness

### What we did:

- We set up a Task and Finish Group to review and update policies e.g. community grants criteria.
- Developed new policies to meet changing needs e.g. reserves, complaints and safeguarding policies.
- We brought councillor and staff training (including health and safety) up to date.
- We developed a business plan for the cinema.
- We reviewed, updated and invested in better cinema fire safety.
- We took on an apprentice with the intention of creating local employment and subsequently created an administrative post.
- We ensured a living wage for employees and we set up a pension scheme for all our employees.

### Which committee:

Strategy and Review • Picture House • Staffing • Full Council

## Improve the resilience of the area and strengthen our community

### What we did:

- We managed and administered flood related finance for the establishment of bases for local flood wardens.
- We were represented on the local Flood Resilience Committee (Defra).
- We ensured that Town Councillors were represented on outside organisations strengthening community capacity.
- We lobbied the government for the extension of the Flood Re scheme to local businesses.
- We extended our Annual Service to the Community Award Scheme to include flood related service.
- We worked with neighbouring parishes to exchange information in order to ensure appropriate focus on catchment water management and to ensure that both the upland and the valley bottoms are considered in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Which committee:

Full council • Joint Neighbourhood Planning

## Support and develop our young people

### What we did:

- We supported music and creative activities e.g. Hebden Bridge Junior Band.
- We gave awards celebrating young achievement.
- The Mayor gave grants to promote primary school literacy.
- We used the Council Chamber to promote understanding of democracy to school and youth groups.
- We gave grants to Scouts, Cubs, Woodcraft Folk and other youth groups.

### Which committee:

Community Grants • Full Council • The Mayor

## Protect, enhance and improve the local environment

### What we did:

- We provided allotments and encouraged allotment associations to develop.
- We purchased spring bulbs for community groups and organised a 'Big Clean Up' in the Spring.
- Working in partnership with the neighbouring four parish councils we strengthened the environmental aspects of the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan.
- We provided hanging baskets and planters and organised maintenance.

### Which committee:

Environment and Allotments Committee • Joint Neighbourhood Planning Committee

## Promote Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale

### What we did:

- We supported local events such as the Handmade Parade, Piano Festival, Vintage Car weekend, Mytholmroyd Arts Festival.
- We supported, with others, specialist weekends aimed at increasing tourism activity e.g. Brass Band competition.
- We worked with the Twin Towns to promote the area.
- We organised the Christmas lights in both towns and organised the switch on.
- We promoted the Picture House as part of the tourism attractions.

### Which committee:

Community Funding • Full Council • Picture House • WW1 Commemoration • (Partner organisations including Friends of the Picture House, Hebden Bridge Twinning Society, Hebden Bridge Partnership and Royd Regeneration)