

# Town Council by Numbers

18 COUNCILLORS

49 MEETINGS

26 MEMBERS OF STAFF

£308,354 BUDGET

251 HANGING BASKETS

23 GROUPS IN THE SPRING

£52.23 COST PER BAND A HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

5 FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

26 LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS GRANTED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

63 CHRISTMAS LIGHT FEATURES



# Annual Report

May 2016 – April 2017



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## Members of the Council

**Town Mayor** – Cllr Tony Hodgins

**Deputy Mayor** - Cllr Pat Fraser

### Members of the Council

Cllr Christine Bampton Smith	Cllr Karl Boggis	Cllr June Cammack
Cllr Sarah Courtney	Cllr Catherine Crosland	Cllr Luke Daber
Cllr Christine Davenport	Cllr Robin Dixon	Cllr James Fearon
Cllr Sue Fenton	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 •

## About Hebden Royd

Hebden Royd Town Council is an elected authority which 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 9,621 and includes the settlements of Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. The full council meets every three weeks 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.

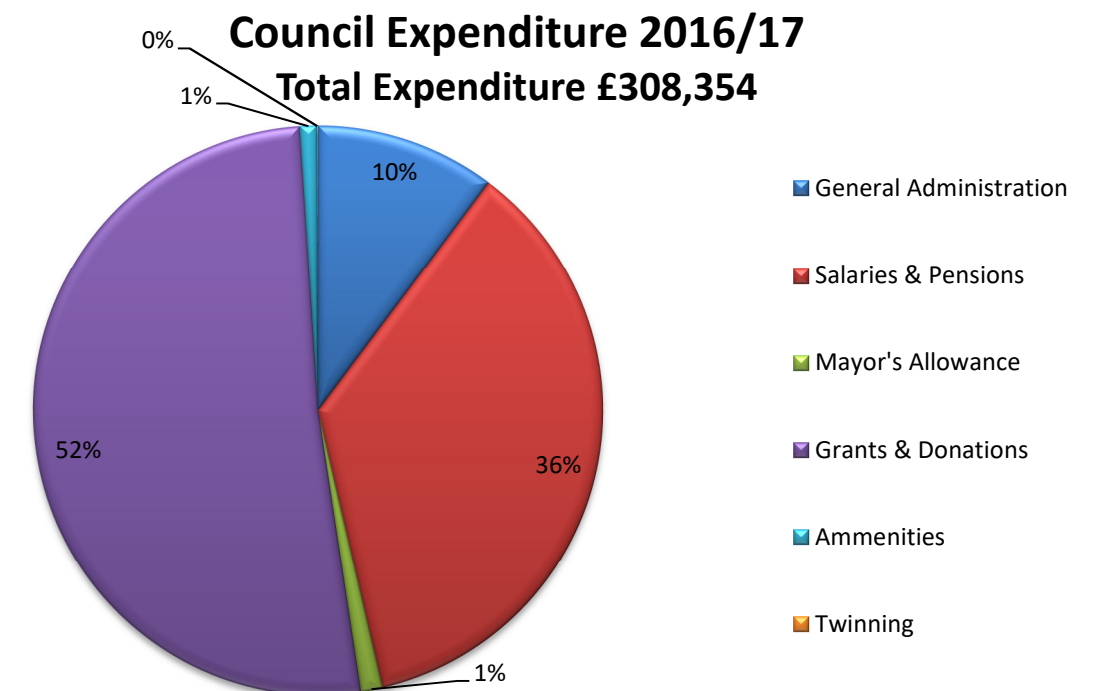
This annual report gives a summary of the work of the Town Council over the last year against those strategic aims but much more information can be found online at: [www.hebdenroyd.org.uk](http://www.hebdenroyd.org.uk)

## Neighbourhood Plan

Hebden Royd Town Council together with the Hill Top parishes of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth has been working to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. Now nearing adoption, 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. Further consultation will take place this year to enable a plan to be developed which is fully representative of the community. Following the floods it is likely that there will be some substantial changes to our townscape as the environment agency works to defend our communities. The Joint Committee will be working closely with stakeholders including Royd Regeneration, the Environment Agency and others to ensure that flood defence works feed in to the Neighbourhood Plan, ultimately creating an environment in which the towns can thrive.

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

## Finance



The Precept, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was £245,997 plus grants of £35,242.00. This works out at £78.35 per year for a Band D household or £1.50 per week. The majority of dwellings in Hebden Royd are Band A properties which are charged £52.23 per year or £1.00 per week.

# Committee Highlights & Achievements

## Community Funding

At the beginning of 2016, following the floods of Boxing Day 2015 which devastated the communities of both Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd, the full council decided to increase the allocation of funds to the community funding committee for the year 2016-17. Council anticipated that there would be an increased need to support local organisations which had been affected by the flooding. Council was correct. This has been a busy year for the committee and we have been impressed with the number and quality of applications we have received. We have awarded grants to 26 organisations, both large and small. These have included those working with children such as Hebden Bridge Junior Band through to Verd De Gris, a local organisation working with those affected by dementia. Among others we have supported sports groups, arts groups, musical groups, those working on flood alleviation projects and those developing allotments and encouraging people out into our beautiful countryside. We believe we have distributed the money widely and wisely to support local people recover the dynamic, vibrant community in which we live.

**Cllr Carol Stow**

**Chair of Community Funding Committee 2016-17**

## Accessibility for All

We have continued to work hard as a council to ensure that all members of our community are able to access the services provided by the Town Council. We have ensured that the disabled community has a say in how we work by establishing an Access Forum led by those affected, this will feed directly in to the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, the purchase of a PA system for use in meetings has meant that even those hard of hearing can be actively involved in discussions and this has been warmly received.

## WW1 Commemorations Working Group

Throughout second year of commemorations of the First World War, we have not forgotten those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Commemoration projects have included Stepping in to the Past, recreating pictures from 100 years ago, and Tommy's Portraits, over 400 pictures of local men who gave their lives which have been drawn or painted by the local community.

# Mayor's Report

When I took office as Mayor in May 2016 we were all still coming to terms with the devastating Boxing Day floods. I have been proud to witness the strength and resilience of the people of Hebden Royd during what has been a year of recovery and regeneration.

We are still in recovery, especially in Mytholmroyd, where we are now in the throes of having buildings demolished to widen the river and the prospect of walls being built – which, at the moment, we have little idea of what the design or materials will be.

We now have a good contingent of flood wardens in Hebden Royd, who are doing sterling work in helping people prepare and in making their premises flood resilient.

The Picture House has made a spectacular recovery from the floods. With new seating and a new foyer it is looking very resplendent, and as a town we should be very proud of this facility and support it wholeheartedly.

There have been very many memorable highlights during my year as Mayor, and some that spring to mind are firstly the presentation of the Legion d'Honneur (Chevalier) to two veterans of the D-Day landings - Mr William Birch and the son of Mr Robert Johnson. This was a lovely occasion with both families present.

Secondly, the Calder Valley Youth Theatre's production of The Wiz that we supported through Community Funding was a brilliant evening, with some very mature performances from extremely talented youngsters.

Finally Mytholmroyd Station Partnership's Christmas carols on a train to Sowerby Bridge was also unforgettable, with the passengers on the train joining in with the schoolchildren singing carols. Switching on the Christmas lights in Hebden Bridge and in Mytholmroyd, along with the Christmas Market, were also delightful events to be a part of.

Unfortunately there are far too many events to mention them all, but it has been an extraordinary year. I've had the pleasure of going to places I wouldn't have gone to normally, and met some exceptional people who have shown me what a diverse, caring, community-minded collection of folk we have in Hebden Royd.

I would like to thank our Town Council officers, my Deputy Mayor Pat Fraser and my consort Hazel Scriven for their support and encouragement throughout the year, and also thank everyone who worked so hard on my Civic Event, which was a huge success and raised money for Calder Valley Search and Rescue.

# Our Strategic Aims and How We Achieved Them

## Good governance: improving our own efficiency and effectiveness

### What we did:

- The Strategy & Review Committee continue to review and update policies e.g. Standing Orders & Financial Regulations.
- Monitored new policies implemented to meet changing needs.
- We reviewed councillor and staff training, ensuring relevance and value for money.
- We implemented the adopted business plan for the cinema.
- We reviewed, updated and invested in better cinema security and the Picture House building.
- We continued to adopt a living wage for employees, as set by the Living Wage Foundation and offered 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 finance for local flood warden groups.
- We established a Forum to allow disabled people to air their views and provide feedback to projects being developed in our community.
- We continued to provide Town Councillors to outside organisations strengthening community capacity.
- We lobbied the borough council to improve highways lighting and air quality in our area.
- We initiated a master plan for Mytholmroyd which will consider the many and varied development pressures the Town faces.

### Which committee:

Full council • Joint Neighbourhood Planning

## Support and develop our young people

### What we did:

- We supported music and creative activities e.g. Calder Valley Youth Theatre.
- We gave Service to the Community Awards to recognise the achievements of our Young People.
- The Mayor presented Kaberry Barker Awards to promote primary and high school literacy.
- We used the Council Chamber to host our annual School Council Meeting allowing young people to voice their opinions and understand democracy.
- We gave grants to Hebden Bridge Community PA and other youth groups.

### Which committee:

Community Grants • Full Council • The Mayor

## Protect, enhance and improve the local environment

### What we did:

- We provide allotments on two sites, investing in storage, watering and encouraged allotment associations to develop.
- We purchased spring bulbs for community groups and organised a 'Big Clean Up' in the spring. We provided equipment for Community Groups to take control of their own areas in need to attention.
- We provided Dog Waste bags to encourage responsible Dog ownership, hosting a 'Happy Hounds' event to raise awareness of this issue, in a bid to reduce fouling in public areas.

### Which committee:

Environment and Allotments Committee • Joint Neighbourhood Planning Committee

## Promote Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale

### What we did:

- We supported the wide and varied festivals that bring visitors to the Calder Valley such as the Arts Festival, Happy Valley Pride, the Handmade Parade and the Vintage Car weekend.
- We worked with the Hebden Bridge Twinning Association to promote the area with our Twin Towns and Internationally.
- We organised the Christmas lights Switch on Events in both towns.
- We promoted the Picture House as part of the tourism attractions, hosting events as part of and complementing other 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)