

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2021/2022

The Annual Report summarises the activities of Hebden Royd during the year 2021/2022

www.hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk

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About Hebden Royd

Hebden Royd Town Council is an elected authority which works closely with the area's principal authority, Calderdale MBC to support the residents of the area by funding local projects and organisations. It provides services such as allotments and owns and runs the Hebden Bridge Picture House. It acts as a catalyst for discussion working with other organisations to lobby and campaign for local improvements. The Council area has a population of 9,728 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 more can information including agendas, minutes and press information can be found at www.hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk.

The Mayors Overview

My year as Mayor of Hebden Royd has been both a privilege and a pleasure despite the many and varied challenges posed by Covid 19 and the consequent Lockdowns and restrictions, including the need to operate under delegated powers, which have meant that many meetings and events have had to be conducted virtually, postponed or even cancelled altogether.

Despite the fact that my time as Mayor was interrupted for a period of 6 weeks by a very severe dose of Covid during which our very able Deputy Mayor, Jane Hoyle, stood in for me, the pandemic did have some positive outcomes in that it gave me a focus for what I wanted to achieve during my year of leading our wonderful community of Crag Vale, Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge. Prior to the arrival of Covid the life, economy, rich, diverse culture and vibrancy of our local communities had been severely impacted upon by repeated flooding. When this difficult period was followed so quickly by the pandemic which led to Lockdown after Lockdown many in Hebden Royd, particularly in business and arts, felt that our community would never return to being the vibrant, eclectic, inclusive and, above all, creative place that it had once been and was noted for. In response, and with the support of a wide range of individuals and groups, most notably the Business Forum, Rotary Club of Hebden Bridge and various community centres and organisations an initiative was launched under the banner of Our Vibrant Valley with the aim of revitalising and reinvigorating our valley communities in all their diversity and artistic creativity. This initiative began with our schools and youngsters through the 1000 Postcards art exhibition which, under the guidance of local Crag Vale resident and Community Chair Marianne Hood, gave the children of Hebden Royd the opportunity in art and words to interpret what made this such a wonderful place in which to live and work. This was followed, as the dark nights of winter descended, by the Light Up the Valley festival which visited all our valley and hilltop communities showcasing the wide range of talents of those who live here, from the youngest to the oldest and giving focus to a wonderful array of local groups including Handmade Parade, Drum Machine, FlameOz, Sand in Your Eye, our local schools and more. This gave impetus and momentum to the delivery of ice skating over the February half term, the Easter Monday Duck Race and planning for future events such as Vintage Weekend in August re-establishing Hebden Royd as a vibrant, creative community in which to live and visit.

It would be remiss of me, of course, not to mention the achievements of our Town Council, Councillors and staff during this most challenging of years. Much was undertaken, delivered, and achieved despite repeated Lockdowns,

changing Covid restrictions and concerns regarding Council procedure and business in unprecedented times. Despite these challenges the Town Clerk and his staff guided us and supported the Council so that essential business and requirements were delivered by our committees and important initiatives such as the Community Meadow at High Hirst progressed successfully whilst new appointments were made to support the environment and give advice to youth and other members of our community. In addition, much was achieved in protecting Hebden Royd to ensure the impact of the pandemic had no long term impact on life and valued institutions such as the Picture House which, as a result of careful stewardship by our Town Council Committee has now re-opened, is thriving and building back to its previous position. Much more has been achieved that could be mentioned but in the spirit of keeping this address short I will simply say well done to everyone for not only getting us through this but for doing so whilst continuing to develop and enhance the life of our community.



In addition I have had the pleasure to represent the Town Council at a wide range of events ranging from the opening of Ted's Ice Cream Parlour to the civic dinners of Keighley Town Council and Saddleworth Parish Council, from opening the Scrambled Arts children's circus skills presentation at Mytholmroyd Community Centre to laying the Remembrance Day wreath in the Memorial Gardens in Hebden Bridge and more, much more. On many of these occasions I have been pleased to be accompanied by one of my two Consorts, my wife Helen or my 7 year old granddaughter Sophie.

Being Mayor has given me the opportunity to visit many of our local schools, not only to deliver the Kenneth Kaberry award, enabling the purchase of new books for school libraries but also to talk to the children about the role of Mayor and the work of the Town Council.

As a former Headteacher, involved in educating and supporting children over 40 years, my choice of charity was not a difficult decision. I chose the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice which provides care and help not only to children with life ending medical conditions but also to their families. Through collections and donations £664 was donated to the Hospice but world events led me to make the decision to donate a further £500 to St Augustine's Refugee Centre in Halifax.

Finally, during my year as Mayor I have had the pleasure and privilege to lead the Town Council, both virtually and face to face, as Chair of meetings, through formal and informal discussions and in committee. When I took on the role of Mayor I made no secret of my relative inexperience of local government and said that if my year was to be a success I would need the support of council colleagues, staff and members of our local community. This I have received and it would be wrong of me not to finish by acknowledging the contribution that has been made to getting us all through what was, at times, a very difficult and challenging year by fellow Councillors, Council and Town Hall staff and local residents who have engaged in our work. Whilst the support and friendship I have received has come from far too many to mention individually, I would want to give particular thanks to our Town Clerk and his staff who have given guidance and put me back on track whenever I have strayed into getting it wrong, Council Chairs of Committees who have kept me informed and guided me, Roger Benn without whose tireless energy and creativity the Our Vibrant Valley project could not have been delivered and, of course, our Deputy Mayor for 2021/22 Jane Hoyle who always worked with me in a spirit of co-operation and partnership and who stood in for me so ably on those occasions when I was ill or unavailable.

Thank you

THE MAYOR'S OVERVIEW

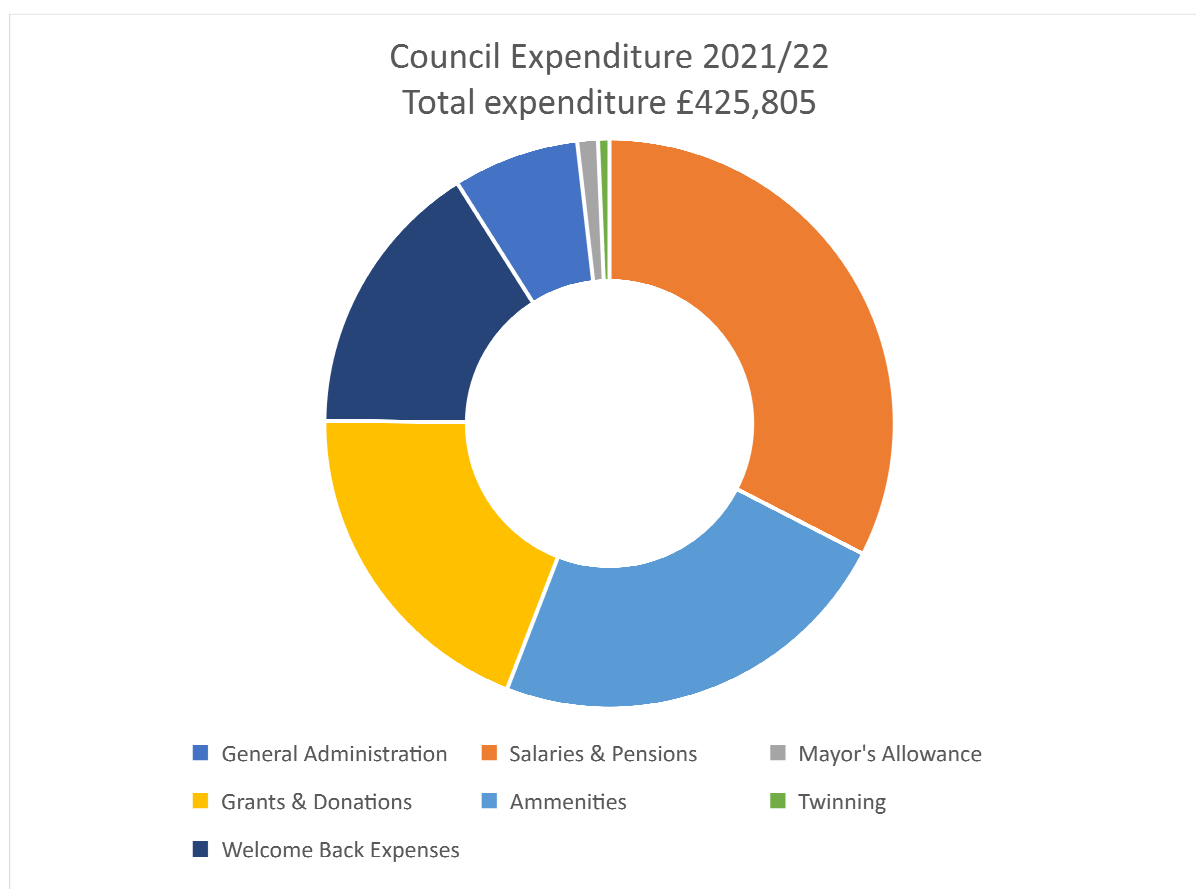
Cllr Rob Freeth

Mayor of Hebden Royd Town Council

Financial Information

The Precept, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was £360,834 plus grants of £41,779. This works out at £112.67 per year for a Band D household or £2.16 per week. The majority of dwellings in Hebden Royd are Band A properties which are charged £75.11 per year or £1.44 per week.

The account statement for 2021/2022 is subject to external audit and may be modified.



Town Councillors

The Town Council comprises eighteen elected members. Elections take place every four years when all eighteen of the Town Council seats will be available for contest. The next elections will be in May 2023.

The eighteen members below were members of the Town Council on 31 March 2021. During the year, the Town Council met remotely as and when necessary. The schedule of meetings was displayed on Town Council notice boards and on the website.

Members of the Council

Town Mayor – Cllr Rob Freeth

Deputy Mayor - Cllr Jane Hoyle

Members of the Council

Cllr Christine Bampton
Smith

Cllr Sarah Courtney

Cllr Patsi Guilfoyle

Cllr Richard Needham

Cllr Dr Carol Stow

Cllr Karl Boggis

Cllr Sue Fenton

Cllr Nikki Harvey

Cllr Scott Patient

Cllr Geoff Wood

Cllr June Cammack

Cllr Pat Fraser

Cllr Tony Hodgins

Cllr Val Stevens

Cllr Dave Young

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