



Hebden Royd
Town Council

Annual Report

May 2017 – April 2018



The Town Hall, St George's Street, Hebden Bridge. HX7 7BY •
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www.hebdenroyd.org.uk



Members of the Council

Town Mayor – Cllr Pat Fraser

Deputy Mayor - Cllr Carol Stow

Members of the Council

Cllr Christine Bampton Smith

Cllr Sarah Courtney

Cllr Christine Davenport

Cllr Sue Fenton

Cllr Jane Scullion

Cllr Scott Trickett

Cllr Karl Boggis

Cllr Catherine Crosland

Cllr Robin Dixon

Cllr Stephne Harrison

Cllr Chris Phillips

Cllr Nigel Yorke

Cllr June Cammack

Cllr Luke Daber

Cllr James Fearon

Cllr Tony Hodgins

Cllr Jonathan Timbers

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 works closely with the area's principle 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 against those strategic aims but much more information can be found online at: www.hebdenroyd.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

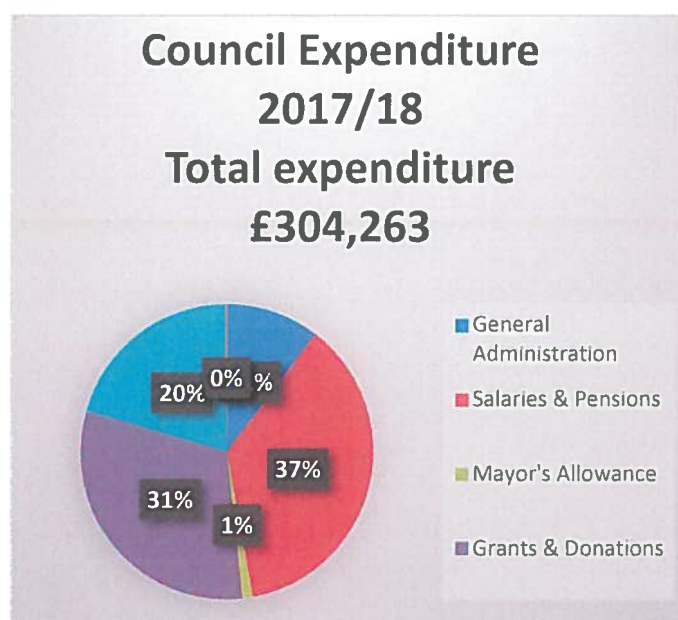
Hebden Royd Town Council continues to work closely with the Hill Top parishes of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth in developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area.

Much consultation has taken place with the many differing interest groups in the area, as well as regional and national bodies. As the group works towards adoption of the plan, via a referendum, the Neighbourhood Plans adopted policies will set down some of the rules and standards for new developments, industrial, commercial and residential in the area. All planning applications within the neighbourhood plan area will be determined in accordance with its policies.

A Masterplan has been developed for Mytholmroyd with substantial changes to our townscape being incorporated as the environment agency works to defend our communities. The Joint Committee continues to work closely with stakeholders to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan, ultimately creates an environment in which the towns can thrive.

Find out more at www.hebdenhilltopplan.co.uk.

Finance



The Precept, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was £254,671 plus grants of £33,005. This works out at £80.30 per year for a Band D household or £1.54 per week. The majority of dwellings in Hebden Royd are Band A properties which are charged £53.53 per year or £1.03 per week.

Committee Highlights & Achievements

Report from the Chair of the Picture House Committee

My report last year included the comment “We look to the future with continuing optimism but also with an awareness that we still have important areas and resources which need replacement and modernising.” This has proved accurate in every respect!

This year we have focussed on the refurbishment of the balcony seating and with the successful launch of the seat sponsorship scheme in the autumn and support from Hebden Royd Town Council have been able to commission work to re-cover and renovate the balcony seats in the coming year of 2018-19.

Finding enough fabric to match the fabric used on the stalls’ seats has been a challenge which I am delighted the contractors have risen to and I look forward to using the new seats in the coming year.

The optimism I voiced was well placed. As well as providing entertainment for our local community we also offer employment to many local residents, both those who actually work in the building and those who supply the food and drink we stock in the sales kiosk. We continue to generate a small financial surplus and remain a much-loved community resource.

Our vibrant local community is always generating new ideas and I look forward to the coming year with interest to see what new ideas and opportunities arise for the Picture House.

Cllr. Dr Carol Stow

Chair of the Picture House committee 2017-18

Hebden Royd Town Council

Community Funding

This has been a busy year for the committee and we have again received many applications from many worthy causes. The quality of applications has again been diverse and of a high standard.

We have awarded grants to 32 organisations, many returning from previous year and being both large and small. These have included those working with children such as Calder Valley Youth Theatre through to Happy Valley Pride who have been celebrating the rich diversity of the people who live in our area. We have support sports groups, musical groups and many artistic groups who come in many different guises, those that love to perform and others who like to meet quietly. The committee has taken time to carefully consider the benefits of each individual application and believes that the funds have

been distributed fairly and wisely as it looks to support the active community in Hebden Royd.

Accessibility for All

This year saw the first meeting of the Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd Disability Access Forum. This group came about follow a pilot project funded by the Community Foundation for Calderdale which allowed retailers, pubs and restaurant owners to undertake a fully funded survey looking at access to the businesses. The results could be used to attract further funding to improve access where a need was identified. The group meets every month, and this has been funded by the Town Council who also provided admin support and guidance on issues that are discussed.

The group are working hard to develop a map of accessible venues and shops in Hebden Bridge and have provided useful guidance to Calderdale MBC's Highways Department when they have been looking to develop projects.

WW1 Commemorations Working Group

The group continues to plan for the final year of these commemorations with a focus on opportunities for the public to gather, at appropriate times and locations, to remember the Great War.

Mayor's Report

It has been a tremendous honour to be Mayor of Hebden Royd, I have never been so busy! The year has given me the opportunity to meet so many of the active groups in the Parish and the many friends that the area has. I have visited our twin Towns of St Pol and Warstein and made new friends at both places, places I shall return to in the future.

I have been lucky to support 'Andy's Man Club' my charity for the year, who fill me with pride every time I meet someone who has benefited from their help and support.

I would like to thank our Town Council officers, Anna Warwood, my consort and my deputy Cllr Carol Stow for their support throughout the year.

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.
- Monitored legislation to meet changing needs.
- We reviewed training, allowing staff and councillors to attend relevant courses.
- We reviewed, updated and invested in the Picture House building.
- We continued to adopt a living wage for employees, as set by the Living Wage Foundation and offer a pension scheme for all our employees as per auto enrolment.

Which committee:

Strategy and Review • Picture House • Staffing • Full Council

Improve the resilience of the area and strengthen our community

What we did:

- We continued to manage finance for local flood warden groups.
- We support and finance a Forum to allow disabled people to air their views regarding projects being developed in our community.
- We continued to provide Town Councillors to numerous outside organisations strengthening community capacity.
- 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

Promote Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale

What we did:

- We supported the wide and varied festivals that bring visitors to the Calder Valley.
- 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 one of the many tourist attractions in the area.

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)

Support and develop our young people

What we did:

- We provided grant funding to support activities aimed at young people. The Mayor visited all the schools in the area and presented Kaberry Barker Awards to promote primary and high school literacy.
- We hosted our annual School Council Meeting allowing young people to voice their opinions and understand democracy.
- We continue to lobby for better facilities for young people in the Hebden Royd area

Which committee:

Community Grants • Full Council • The Mayor

Protect, enhance and improve the local environment

What we did:

- We continue to manage allotments on two sites, investing in facilities and encouraging allotment associations to develop.
- We organised a 'Big Clean Up' in the spring. We provided equipment for Community Groups to take control of rubbish in their own areas.
- We encourage responsible Dog ownership and again hosted the annual 'Happy Hounds' event in a bid to reduce fouling in public areas.

Which committee:

Environment and Allotments Committee • Joint Neighbourhood Planning Committee

Town Council by Numbers

20 COUNCILLORS

53 MEETINGS

28 MEMBERS OF STAFF

£304,263 BUDGET

283 HANGING BASKETS

23 INVOLVED IN THE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

£53.53 COST PER BAND A HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR
(THE MOST COMMON BAND IN HEBDEN ROYD)

5 FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

32 LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS GRANTED FINANCIAL SUPPORT
(GRANTS TOTALLED £74,300)

17 CHRISTMAS LIGHT FEATURES IN MYTHOLMROYD

46 CHRISTMAS LIGHT FEATURES IN HEBDEN BRIDGE

