

NORTHALLERTON TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023





MAYOR'S STATEMENT

The celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, the death of the country's longest reigning monarch and the proclamation of the new King made for a momentous year for Northallerton Town Council, and indeed all public bodies. I am very pleased that the Council, both councillors and staff, performed its duties in relation to the protocols for these historic events with dignity and respect, whilst enabling the local community to express its feelings in appropriate ways. Our contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy in the Applegarth will, I hope, remain as a lasting tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II.

In terms of our day to day activities, the highlight of the year was the Council securing funding to enable the completion of the new public toilet project, the development of new allotments at Bankhead Park and additional funding to allow us to carry out further improvements to green spaces around the town. We are very much looking forward to these projects being completed in 2023.

Throughout our Strategic Plan for 2022-2027, we set out ambitious plans to significantly increase our level of engagement with the community and I am pleased to say that this report contains many examples of this. Not least of which the creation of a second community garden and working with volunteers from the community to plan and organise a much-expanded and very successful Christmas Event, which we hope will set a precedent for future years. This report also contains a healthy list of other achievements relating to community facilities and open spaces which we hope will bring long term benefit to Northallerton.



Cllr Phil Eames

Mayor

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Northallerton Town Council consists of twelve elected councillors, who give their time and share their skills as unpaid volunteers. They are from a variety of backgrounds and all serve on a variety of council committees to ensure projects are delivered successfully.

The Town Council represents the people of the town and assists residents and businesses to deal with local issues that affect them. We work in partnership with principal authorities and other local councils, the Northallerton Business Investment District, the Police and other bodies to strive towards Northallerton being a vibrant and sustainable town, and to encourage tourism to the area.

Our employees comprise a Town Clerk and a team of ten staff who look after Administration, Amenities Areas, Finance, Cemetery and the Town Hall. Our offices are in Northallerton Town Hall.

Our responsibilities include: the management and maintenance of public green spaces, including planting and grass cutting, play areas and associated equipment; the management of four allotment sites; oversight of the Joint Burial Committee and operation of Northallerton Cemetery; Christmas Illuminations and the organisation of events such as the Bonfire and Fireworks, Remembrance commemorations and the Town's Christmas Event; plus management of the Town Hall, which is available for hire and used by charities, businesses and local residents for a variety of activities and events.

Council meetings take place monthly and members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Council has a 5-year Strategic Plan which sets our vision and priorities for the period 2022-2027. The Strategic Plan is available on our website northallertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Our 5-year Strategic Plan provides focus to the key areas in which the Town Council intends to make a positive impact over the period 2022-2027, based on three themes: Community Facilities, Engagement and Events and Environment and Open Spaces; each theme has its own council committee to manage progress.

Community Facilities

Providing the best possible facilities for residents and visitors to use and enjoy, both within the council's control and by influencing other organisations to do the same. This year we:



Undertook a programme to refurbish public benches and introduced new benches in locations such as the Zetland Street bus stop.



Started work, in collaboration with Brompton Town Council and Romanby Parish Council, on developing and promoting plans for improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.



Held discussions with developers with the aim of ensuring that pedestrian and cycling routes are provided to connect the future Stokesley Road housing development to the centre of town.



Installed new CCTV covering the Applegarth Play Park.



Held our first wedding showcase at the Town Hall to explore the potential to use the Town Hall as a wedding venue.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Demand and supply assessment completed.
- Ongoing dialogue with the National Allotment Society.
- Funding obtained to implement new allotments at Bankhead.
- 18 new plots provided at the Sports Village.

- Support for the initiative to create a permanent Heritage Hub.

- Funding obtained for new public toilets in the Town Hall.
- Planning consent granted.
- Construction commenced with anticipated completion in Spring 2023.

Allotment Provision

The Heritage Hub

Improve Public Toilets

Community Facilities Progress

Increase Access to the Town Hall

Enhance Play Parks

Community Facilities in North Northallerton

- Basement actively used by Northallerton Boxing Club.
- Increased use of the Town Hall facilities, through improved marketing.

- On-going discussions regarding improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure.

- Significant improvements to the Applegarth play park.
- Installation of CCTV.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Engagement and Events

Working more closely with the community, businesses and local stakeholders is a key objective of the Town Council, listening and jointly seeking ways to improve facilities and events within the town using social media, the website and improved face-to-face contact. In doing this we:



Organised a party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the Town Hall on 5th June, to which 70 members of the community, nominated by fellow residents for their volunteering activities, were invited.



Worked with volunteers from the community to deliver the 2022 Christmas Event, which was well-attended and highly-praised.



Extended the Christmas Illuminations to the tree at Gardner Court.



Supported the Northallerton 10k event by providing the Town Hall for administration; 3 councillors took part in the event itself.



Facilitated arrangements for the mourning of the death of HM the Queen, including a book of commemoration and floral tributes, and held a well-attended candlelit vigil on the eve of her funeral.



Staged the proclamation of the new King from the Town Hall.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Provided support and encouragement to Northallerton Camera Club in producing the Northallerton Calendar 2023.



Participated in the ongoing Community Alcohol Partnership with North Yorkshire Police and other stakeholders, with the aim of reducing the sale and consumption of alcohol by youths in Northallerton.



Introduced bi-monthly charity coffee mornings in the Town Hall and included the opportunity to talk with councillors.



Sponsored a Community Spirit award at the 2022 BID Business Awards



Supported the Christmas Community Meal held at the Town Hall.







2022-2023 PROGRESS

- Significant increase in social media communications.
- Regular meetings with a range of community groups and initiatives.
- Increased liaison with officers at the new unitary authority.
- Resident surveys undertaken in relation to toilet provision and community events.

Improve Communications

- Monthly review undertaken of all planning applications – formal comments submitted as required
- Detailed responses to NYC on consultations on Parish Charter and Climate Change.

Increase forward planning involvement



Support a Vibrant Market

Improved Events Experience

- Actively supported the markets, in a number of ways.
- Expressed interest in taking over the management of Northallerton Market from NYC.

- Worked collaboratively with community volunteers to deliver a successful Christmas event.
- Delivered a safe and well-attended Bonfire night.
- Worked with the Town Team to develop an Events Programme for the coming year.

2022-2023 PROGRESS

Environment and Open Spaces

Identifying opportunities to provide new or enhanced green spaces in the town, including council owned parks and gateways to the High Street, with participation of local community groups. This year we:



Planted a row of fruit trees along the path through the Applegarth as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark the Platinum Jubilee.



Provided space, support and practical help to Incredible Edible Northallerton in the creation of a second community garden – Cherrycroft – adjacent to the Cemetery.



Continued to press for the playing field associated with the former Northallerton College to eventually become a public green space.



Started work on improving the green spaces surrounding Northallerton Library and the East Road underpass.



Initiated discussions with landowners on the possibility improving the public right of way between the Tannery Lane and Springwell Lane.



Replaced petrol-driven tools by battery packs, ceased the use of peat-containing compost and progressed with plans for more sustainable (perennial) planting going forward.

2022-2023 PROGRESS



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Northallerton and Romanby Joint Burial Committee

Northallerton Cemetery was established in 1856 as a burial place for the parishes of Northallerton & Romanby. It was formerly the site of a 'Bishop's Palace' a residence of the Bishop of Durham and was given to the town as a burial site following the closure of the church graveyard.

The management and day to day running of the cemetery is the responsibility of the Northallerton & Romanby Joint Burial Committee which is a committee formed councillors from each of Northallerton Town Council and Romanby Parish Council, who are the administrative bodies responsible for the cemetery.

Our committee meets every three months to make decisions regarding the cemetery and its responsibilities include maintaining the cemetery regulations and rules, setting budgets and charges, monitoring spending as well as any other issues affecting the cemetery.

Our staff work hard to keep the grounds well maintained and tidy, for our many visitors.



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Finance

We signed an agreement with Hambleton Community Action in June 2022 that enables HCA to use the proceeds of the Grace Gardner Trust, for which Northallerton Town



Councillors are trustees, to assist elderly residents of Northallerton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. An initial sum of £5,000 has been made available to HCA.

We raised the precept (the amount of money we request to enable the Town Council to operate) by 16%, primarily to ensure that the new public toilets can be completed, but also in response to significantly increased staff and utility costs and to begin to address a legacy of ten years without any increase. In trying to minimise the increase, the Council has identified a range of savings such as more sustainable planting regimes, but also plans to increase its income from sponsorship of green spaces and rental income from use of the Town Hall.

We made financial donations to Hambleton Foodshare, the Homegrown Food Festival, YouthSpace and DalesBus along with contributing to the Town Twinning group and the Tourist Information Centre.

We also provided equipment to the both of the town's volunteer litter picking groups and donated old furniture to the Mens' Shed.

The Town Hall was also made available to a number of community events at no cost.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Staffing

Our staff team works hard to ensure the delivery of council decisions, looking after all aspects of administration, hire of the Town Hall and a significant amount of outdoor space.

A recent reorganisation has increased productivity and is building resilience in the team, so they can meet any challenges ahead.

We have also welcomed young people on work experience, giving them a taste of how a local council operates.

Staff organised a successful Macmillan Coffee Morning and are instrumental in the meet and greet events held by councillors.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Councillors will continue the work of implementing our 5-year plan, and will endeavour to increase levels of engagement with residents, businesses and other voluntary organisations. In particular, we are looking forward to completing the projects to complete the public toilets, establishing new allotments at Bankhead Park and starting up the new allotments in the new development north of the Leisure Centre.

An important challenge for the year ahead, and probably beyond, will be developing strong working relationships with the new North Yorkshire Council. Northallerton Town Council is committed to engaging constructively with the new unitary authority.

And finally, we look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May, and to creating a lasting commemoration of this event through the planting of community fruit trees.

We welcome all feedback so please do get in touch with us if you would like to know more about our work.

You can keep up-to-date with progress on social media and via our website, northallertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!







NORTHALLERTON TOWN HALL **HIRE OUR VENUE**

VARIETY OF CLASSES
COFFEE MORNINGS AND CHARITY EVENTS
WEDDINGS/CHRISTENINGS
MUSIC PERFORMANCES/EXHIBITIONS
BIRTHDAY PARTIES/CELEBRATIONS

Contact us on:

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