

NORTHALLERTON TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023-2024



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MAYOR'S STATEMENT

We are now two years into our 5-year Strategic Plan and I hope that this report provides a good summary of the progress we are making.

The provision of new public toilets is a significant element of the Strategic Plan and we are proud to have completed this project and opened the toilets in August last year. The feedback we have received has been very positive, and we hope that the new facilities will play an important part in helping to keep the High Street and markets vibrant, and in encouraging more visitors to Northallerton by virtue of the Town's status as a coach-friendly destination.

Another major part of our Strategic Plan is to increase our engagement with the community and I believe we have made excellent progress in the last year, examples being our on-line surveys following events, involving community groups in our Annual Parish Meeting, working with volunteers to deliver another excellent Christmas Event and working with other organisations such as Incredible Edible Northallerton and Youthspace.

We are also making efforts to engage further with North Yorkshire Council and other regional organisations to try to influence future direction in terms of transport (rail and bus as well as pedestrian and cycling provision) and planning.

Looking forward to the coming year, we will be opening new allotment sites at Bankhead Park and at the Northallerton Sports Village, hosting a Freedom Parade for the RAF on 31st May involving a music parade and fly-past, and continuing to engage with our community, local government and voluntary organisations to make Northallerton a better place to live, work and visit.



Cllr Phil Eames

Mayor

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Northallerton Town Council consists of twelve elected councillors, who give their time and share their skills in an unpaid role. They are from a variety of backgrounds and all serve on a selection 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, Northallerton Business Investment District, the Police and community groups to strive towards Northallerton being a vibrant and sustainable town and to encourage visitors to the area.

Our employees comprise a Town Clerk and a team of ten staff who look after Governance, Administration, Finance, Communications and all our facilities. 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; running of Northallerton Town Hall, which is available for hire and used by charities, businesses and local residents for a variety of activities and events; Christmas Illuminations and the organisation of events such as the Bonfire and Fireworks; Remembrance commemorations and the Town's Christmas Event; supervision of four allotment sites plus oversight of the Joint Burial Committee and operation of Northallerton Cemetery.

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.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Our 5-year strategic plan – now in its second year – 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:



Opened new public toilets opened in the Town Hall in August 2023.



Continued to work with Brompton Town Council and Romanby Parish Council on developing and promoting pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.



Made use of the Town Hall to host a successful evening for the visitors from Ormesson-sur-Marne in May 2023 and also to support the Northallerton 10k with provision of the Town Hall for this event.



Secured pedestrian and cycle connections to Turker Lane for the forthcoming 145-home Stokesley Road development.



Lobbied successfully for the retention of Northallerton Station Ticket Office.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- New allotment associations being formed for new Bankhead and North Northallerton allotments.
- North Northallerton allotment opening as soon as land transfer complete.
- Bankhead site to be developed this year.

- Work with others to develop a plan for a permanent facility.

- New toilets opened in August 2023 and proving popular!
- Developing options for provision of donations.
- Publicity provided for Changing Places facilities in Northallerton.

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

- Improved marketing has increased use of upper and lower halls.
- Continued to improve decoration.
- Continued to develop longer term plans for the maintenance of the building.

- Pursuing funding for bus services.
- Secured pedestrian and cycle connections to Turker Lane for the forthcoming 145-home Stokesley Road development.

- CCTV installed at Applegarth Play Park.
- Plans to develop Bankhead Play Area in preparation.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Engagement and Events

Working more closely with the community, businesses and local stakeholders is a key objective of the Town Council, by 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:



Increased our support to Youthspace as a key resource in providing local youth with weekly social and recreational activity; Town Council support matched by local North Yorkshire Councillors.



Tailored toilet opening hours tailored to support the weekly markets, with regular reviews to ensure they are managed effectively.



Successfully lobbied for Northallerton to be included in the name of our parliamentary constituency.



Provided financial and administration support to the Homegrown Food Festival to help make it the most successful yet.

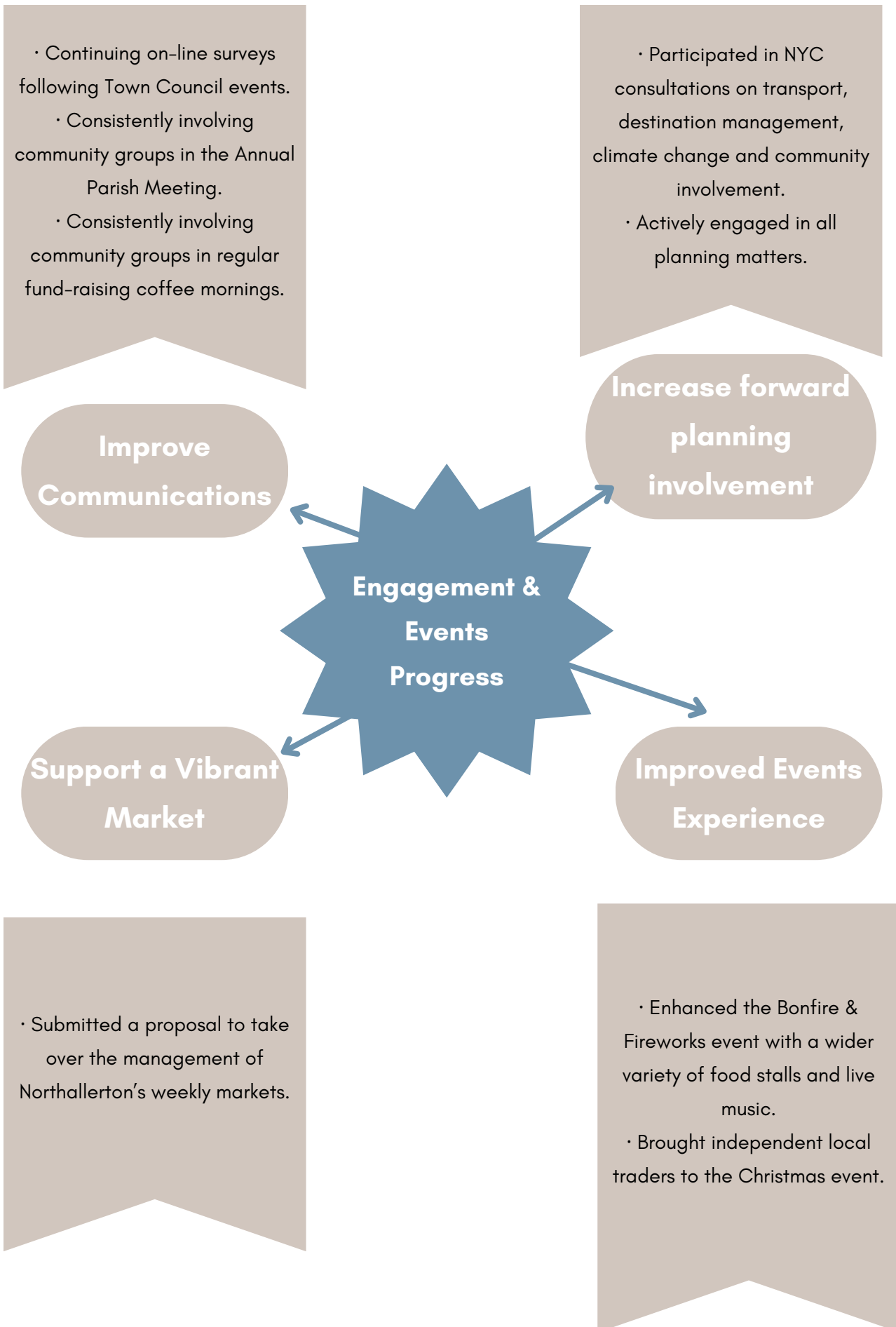


Held a successful Transport Engagement Event held in February 2024. Produced a report from this Event for use with regional government and transport organisations.



Held coffee mornings to raise money and enable informal contact between residents and councillors.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS



2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

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 new orchards in Bankhead Park and Weavers Green to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.



Replaced stiles with kissing gates on the public right of way between Springwell Lane and the Cemetery; held discussions with landowners over further improvements.



Continued to support the Incredible Edible community gardens which are now firmly established in the Applegarth and Cherrycroft.



Planted the High Street roundabouts more sustainably and made improvements to the green space around Library and underpass.



Produced a visual graphic of indicative layout for a new park on the College playing field which was shared with the public.



Developed a project scope for a footpath through NE Green Corridor between Thorntree Road and Alverton School.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

• Native shrub planting and developing some buffer zones to attract wildlife and insects.

• Increased use of perennials on High Street roundabouts.
• Decarbonisation audit commissioned for Town Hall.

• Continued collaboration between NTC, Romanby Parish Council and Brompton Town Councils.
• Discussions with NYC on future projects to improve pedestrian and cycling facilities.

TC Sustainability Initiative

Improve Pedestrian & Cycle Facilities

Develop Green Corridors

Environment & Open Spaces Progress

Enhance Green Spaces

New Public Park

Develop Community Gardens

• Visual graphic of an indicative park layout shared with the public.

• Applegarth and Cherrycroft community gardens now well-established.
• Inventory of green spaces for future gardens.

• Project scope developed for additional trees and shrubs through NE Green Corridor between Thorntree Road and Alverton School.
• Extensive bulb planting in the Applegarth.

2023-2024 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 both 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.



2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Finance

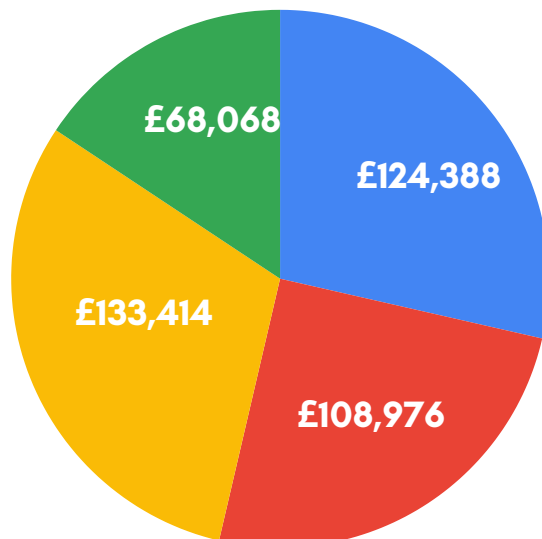
Our agreement with Hambleton Community Action to act as agents of the Grace Gardner Trust in the distribution of financial assistance to elderly residents in need has worked well, and a further £5,000 has been released to continue the scheme.

We raised the precept (the amount of money we request to enable the Town Council to operate) by 17% to underpin the successful operation of the new toilets, implement the national agreement for increasing staff salaries, cover increased utility and contractual costs and provide for urgent maintenance of the Town Hall. The Town Council continues to look for means to supplement income through actively marketing the Town Hall to increase rental, through sponsorship of our planted areas and to reduce costs where possible.

We made financial donations to Hambleton Foodshare, the Homegrown Food Festival, Youthspace and Dalesbus along with contributing to the Town twinning group and Tourist Information Centre. Our Town Hall was also made available to a number of community events at no cost.

Where does your money go?

- Administration, IT & Grants
- Community Facilities
- Environment & Open Spaces
- Engagement & Events



2023-2024 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 member of staff left the Council this year and, because of improved flexibility and productivity within the team, has not been replaced, in an effort to reduce costs.

The staff have run a series of successful coffee mornings to raise money for events and local charities, as well as providing an opportunity for members of the public to meet councillors and staff.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Councillors will continue the work of implementing our 5-year plan, and maintain the increased levels of engagement that we have achieved with residents, businesses and local voluntary organisations. We are looking forward to establishing new allotment associations and opening new allotments at Bankhead Park and at the North Northallerton Sports Village. We also hope to make progress with our longer term goal of a new park on the College playing fields, in identifying funding for improvements to pedestrian and cycling facilities, in collaboration with Romanby Parish Council and Brompton Town Council, and in influencing future transport plans for the Town.

We are looking forward to the Freedom Parade on 31st May, where the RAF will be granted freedom to march on the High Street and will do so by means of a musical parade with an accompanying fly-past and we hope to see many residents enjoy the event.

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

The Town Hall has been the focal point of Northallerton life for 150 years and the Town Council is determined to keep it that way in the future.



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

Contact us on:

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