

NORTHALLERTON TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



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MAYOR'S STATEMENT

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

The RAF Freedom Parade on 31st May was a highlight for me personally, with big crowds turning out in good weather to see the parade, experience the fly-past and celebrate the close relationship between RAF Leeming and Northallerton. This relationship was further strengthened by the Town Council working closely with RAF Leeming and local historians to establish a stone memorial to mark the fatal Halifax Bomber crash near the Applegarth in December 1943, which was unveiled in a ceremony in December.

Another highlight of the last year was Northallerton being presented with official accreditation as a coach-friendly town in August. This was brought about by collaboration between the Tourist Information Centre, the Town Council, the Business Investment District and North Yorkshire Council and will ensure that we will welcome more than 100 coach visits each year, helping to promote the town and sustain the vitality of the High Street.

Improving green space and encouraging walking are important parts of our plans. Improvements made this year to the path between Springfield Lane and Tannery Lane, with the engagement of local volunteers, has been a big step forward, and we established contact with the Department for Education in respect of our desire to see a publicly-accessible green space on the site of the Grammar School; we will hopefully make progress on this in the year to come.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT CONTD...

In relation to community facilities, we have seen a welcome increase in the use of the Town Hall by local groups, but have experienced two disappointments: the closing of the Heritage Hub on the High Street (its new home will be in the Library) and frustration over the length of time it is taking for North Yorkshire Council to hand over to us the new allotments in the North Northallerton Sports Village. We will work to try and identify a permanent home for the Heritage Hub, and hope to be able to open the new allotments soon. We will also establish allotments and improve the play area in Bankhead Park over the next year.

In addition to talking with the Department for Education regarding the future use of the Grammar School site, we have been active in trying to influence other future developments in the Town: we are optimistic that we can secure good walking and cycling routes between forthcoming housing developments and the town centre, including a proper path on the south side of Yafforth Road, and we have engaged with the government, the new Mayor of York and North Yorkshire and North Yorkshire Council to influence the funding of a transport improvement plan for Northallerton, as well as maintaining rail services and reducing the impact of level crossing closures.

In the coming year, we will continue to engage with our community, local government and voluntary organisations to make Northallerton a better place to live, work and visit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Eames', written over a horizontal line.

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 that 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 market town, and to encourage tourism to the area. We lobby a range of stakeholders, such as our local North Yorkshire Councillors, our local MP and the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, on issues relating to Northallerton.

Our employees comprise a Town Clerk and a team of twelve staff who look after Governance, Administration, Finance, Communications and all our facilities. This team works hard to deliver council decisions and our office in Northallerton Town Hall. is open to the public five days a week.

Our responsibilities include: the management and maintenance of public green spaces, including planting and grass cutting, play areas and associated equipment; the 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 Strategic Plan which sets out our vision and priorities for the period 2022-2027, is available on our website.

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Our 5-year strategic plan – now in its third 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 and delivery.

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:



Secured pedestrian and cycle connections



Refurbished 8 public benches across the Town



Installed new donation facilities for public toilets

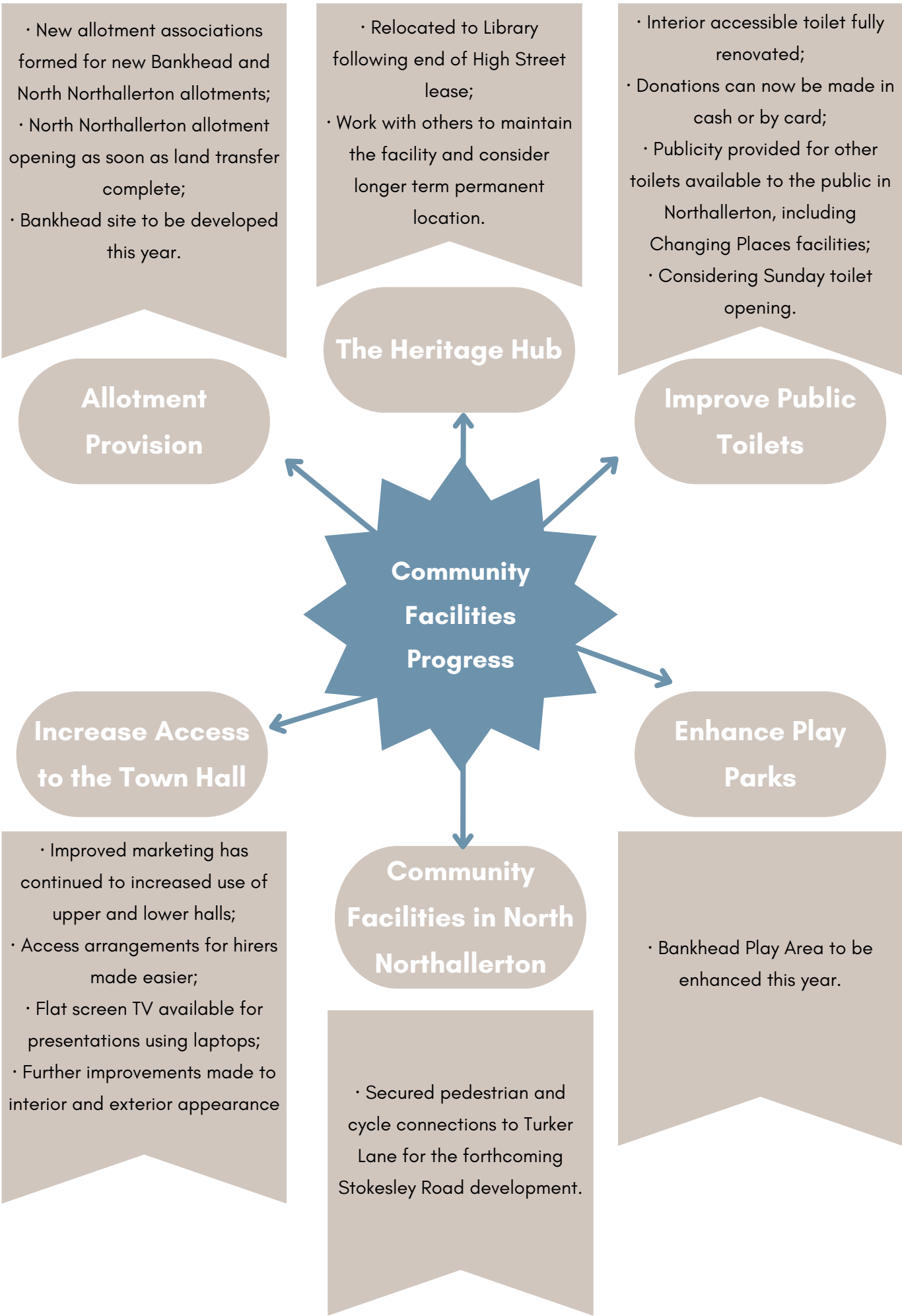


Increased use of Town Hall by local groups for events and meetings



Fully renovated the Town Hall interior accessible toilet

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS



2024-2025 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:



Held a successful and well-attended RAF Freedom Parade on 31st May



Unveiled a new memorial to the 1943 Halifax Bomber crash, in the Applegarth and planted a commemorative Canadian Maple tree



Saw the achievement of coach-friendly accreditation for Northallerton, working with the Business Investment District, the Tourist Information Centre and North Yorkshire Council



Produced a Transport Improvement Plan consultants brief



Undertook a public consultation on a new digital screen for the High Street



Engaged with the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire over future transport investment, maintaining rail services and reducing the impact of level crossing closures.

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- Consultation on provision of a digital screen on the High Street to promote local events;
- Refurbishment of notice board at south end of High Street;
- Continued to involve councillors and community groups in regular fund-raising coffee mornings;
 - Working to secure the replacement of the two High Street phone boxes with digital hubs.

**Improve
Communications**

- Lobbying for the development of a future Transport Plan for Northallerton;
- Discussions with Department for Education over potential future public park on Grammar School site.

**Increase forward
planning
involvement**

**Engagement &
Events
Progress**

**Support a Vibrant
Market**

**Improved Events
Experience**

- Achievement of coach-friendly accreditation for Northallerton (now 100+ coach visits per year)
- Continuing discussions with North Yorkshire Council over management of Northallerton's weekly markets.

- Councillors trained in traffic management and first aid to provide additional support to contractors;
- Introduced donations by card for the Fireworks and Bonfire Event.

2024-2025 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:



Improved planting schemes on Walkland Way and High Street south roundabout



Continued to make improvements to Springwell Lane – Tannery Lane path, working with landowner, Yorkshire Water and volunteers from the community



Secured North Yorkshire Council support for new footpath on south side of Yafforth Road



Held positive discussions with Department for Education on possibility of a future public park on the Grammar School site

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS



2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Northallerton and Romanby Joint Burial Committee

Northallerton Cemetery was established in 1856 as a burial place for the parishes of Northallerton and Romanby. It was formerly the site of the 'Bishops' 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 and Romanby Joint Burial Committee which is a committee formed of 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 rules and regulations, 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.



2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Finance

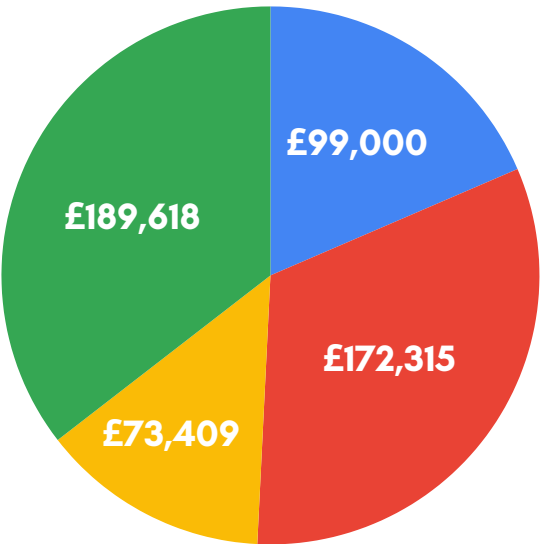
We raised the precept (the amount of money we request to enable the Town Council to operate) by 5% to underpin the ongoing operation of the public toilets, implement the national agreement for increasing staff salaries, cover increased utility and contractual costs and provide for ongoing maintenance of the Town Hall. The Town Council continues to look for means to supplement income through sponsorship of our planted areas, increased use of the Town Hall and donations for the public toilets, and to reduce costs where possible.

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 continued to work well, and further funds have been released to continue the scheme.

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 and the purchase of equipment for Northallerton Town Youth Team. 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
- Engagement and Events
- Environment and Open Spac...



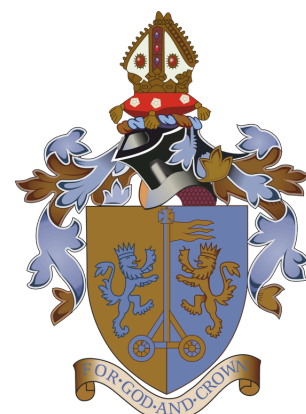
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Councillors will continue the work of implementing our 5-year plan and will maintain the increased levels of engagement that we have achieved with residents, businesses and local voluntary organisations. We are looking forward to opening new allotments at Bankhead Park and North Northallerton in 2025. We also hope to make progress with our longer term goal of a new park on the former Grammar School playing fields, in identifying funding for improvements to pedestrian and cycling facilities (in collaboration with Romanby Parish Council and Brompton Town Council), in lobbying for the production of a future transport plan for the Town and in positively influencing plans for the next housing development to the north of the Town.

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

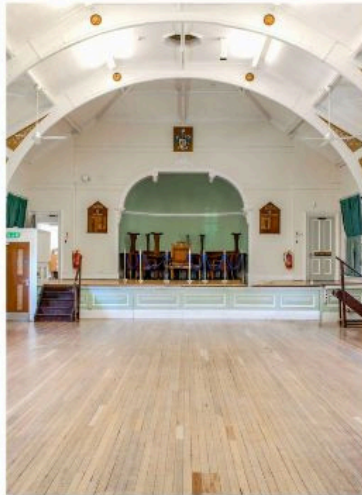
You can keep up to date with progress on social media and via our website, northallertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

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:

enquiries@northallertontowncouncil.gov.uk

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NORTHALLERTON TOWN COUNCIL



Town Hall Buildings
High Street
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8QR

t: 01609 776718

e: admin@northallertontowncouncil.gov.uk

