

New Christmas lights brighten Bingley

The Town Council has received many positive comments about the new Christmas lights – a £9,000 investment which has lit up the town over the winter months.



BBC's Harry Gration with Town Crier Chris Richards at Bingley Lights Switch On

The new lights include five Christmas tree lamp post decorations, chosen by residents. They were officially switched-on by BBC Look North's popular presenter Harry Gration at the very well attended annual Christmas Fayre on 25 November, organised by Bingley Chamber of Trade and supported by Bingley Town Council.

Thanks to liaison between Bradford Council and Cllrs Mark Truelove and John Goode, who lead the Christmas lights project, spare lights were used to extend decorations from the market square and Arts Centre area along Chapel Lane and Wellington Street. In addition, a grant of £369 was awarded to Cottingley Community Association to enhance the village's existing lights.

It's hoped next year to have more lights in Bingley and surrounding



Cottingley Village Lights

areas. The Town Council will also be considering paying for the Christmas tree as Bradford District Council will not be funding this in 2018.

The Christmas Fayre was a huge success. Cllr Michelle Chapman organised the stalls with 30 inside the Arts Centre and 34 outside, all reporting brisk business despite the very low temperatures. A variety of goods, crafts and home made produce were on sale, along with food stalls, raffles, tombolas and popular free rides and activities for children. A selection of seasonal music was provided by the 'All Together Now' choir.

Santa's grotto was as popular as ever with the little ones. He was ably supported by elves from Myrtle Park Primary School.



Cllrs Chapman, Goode and Truelove and the Christmas lights. Credit Terry Roberts Photography (Bingley Camera Club)

A very happy new year from Bingley Town Council!

It's been a busy winter so far and this newsletter gives a sample of some of your Town Council's work. If you'd like to know more, please sign up for our monthly email newsletter – details are on the website.



Also on the website is a community calendar. Please use it to upload information about events organised by any group you're involved in to help spread the word about all the interesting and exciting activities happening in our communities.

There's lots to look forward to in 2018 and I hope you will be able to join the council at the Annual Town Meeting on 26 April at Bingley Methodist Church.

Wishing you a very happy and prosperous 2018.

Ros Dawson

Chair, Bingley Town Council

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Community Speedwatch

A Speedwatch was held on Park Road, Bingley at the Villa Road Junction on Monday 4 December. PCSOs Allwood and Williams were joined by Councillors O'Neill and Truelove (Eldwick).

During the seventy five minute operation, nine vehicles exceeded the 34 mph "threshold", with three or four doing 37mph. All nine drivers will be notified by post in line with the Speedwatch process.

How Speedwatch works: if a driver exceeds 34mph, a "gotcha" warning letter is issued, explaining future consequences. These are, if the

driver is trapped by a subsequent Community Speedwatch, being classed as a habitual speeder and being penalised by three points, fine or court action, depending on the severity of the offence. The exception is if a driver exceeds limits to an excessive degree when traffic police will take action immediately.



Speedwatch team - PC Paul Allwood with Cllrs Mark Truelove and Chris O'Neill

Welcome to Bingley!

In response to requests to improve information for visitors about how to find Bingley's attractions, Bingley Town Council is working towards the installation of two 'Welcome to Bingley' display boards. These will include a town centre plan with an inset map of the surrounding villages.

The project is being led by council vice chair Cllr Marcus Dearden. The aim is to site one board outside Bingley railway station and one on Main Street near the Arts Centre.

The Town Council is now liaising with Bradford District Council about planning issues and, once these are clarified, will commission a local designer to create an illustrative, clear map to feature landmarks and services.

Neighbourhood Plan

Bingley Town Council took the next steps towards developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Bingley by holding an event at Church House on 21 November for anyone interested in assisting with the process.

The Council's appointed Neighbourhood Planning Consultant, Andrew Towleron, presented information about what a plan can include and the process for producing it.

In groups, attendees then discussed issues which are important to the community and which the Plan should focus on. Those who have expressed an interest have been invited to join a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, alongside several Town Councillors. .

New defibrillator for Micklethwaite

Micklethwaite Village Society received a grant of £1,000 from Bingley Town Council towards the cost of a defibrillator for the village. The defibrillator was installed on 31 May 2017 in a freshly painted disused phone box on High Fold.

An initial cardiac arrest training and awareness session in June, presented by Community Heartbeat, was attended by about forty residents. Afterwards, 12 volunteered to be 'responders' and attended further training in October.

Micklethwaite Village Society has received much positive feedback including this comment from Pat Findlay, a resident of Micklethwaite: "As a retired G.P. I know the

Bingley's public toilets

Bradford Council will be closing Bingley's public toilets, in Jubilee Gardens, in March 2018 and the Town Council has been exploring options for alternative provision.

The Council has worked with architects and other experts to explore the possibility of developing the current toilet site into a single-storey building that would provide a central office space for the Council and retain independently-accessible public toilets for Bingley.

Public consultations events were held in Bingley on 2nd and 16th December 2017 so that residents could see plans of the Town Council's proposed scheme and get full information about the financial implications. All supporting information was posted on the Town Council's website and placed in Bingley Library and Cottingley Cornerstone, and residents were asked to complete a survey to give their responses to the plan. The Council will now analyse the results and decide a way forward.



New defibrillator at Micklethwaite

enormous benefits of providing a fast response in the event of cardiac arrest. The introduction of a defibrillator into our phone box in Micklethwaite along with the C.P.R training for a number of our community is an enormous step forward. Well done Micklethwaite Village Society and Bingley Town Council for making it happen."

BTC Community Grant Awards



Bingley Amateur Operatic Society

In the latest round of Grant Applications, the following groups were awarded funding by Bingley Town Council:

- £2,000 was awarded towards the costs of establishing a Parkrun in Bingley (subject to Parkrun raising the additional £1,000 required for the scheme).
- Bingley Amateur Operatic Society received £2,000 to fund the costs of a feasibility study which will

allow the Society to apply for funding from the Arts Council National Lottery.

- Cottingley Community Association was awarded £369 towards the cost of Christmas lights for the village centre.
- Bingley Belles, a new cycling group for women cyclists of all abilities, were awarded £500 for startup costs.
- Gilstead Village Society received £500 towards the cost of a defibrillator to be installed at St Wilfrid's Community Hall.

Bingley Town Council consider applications for grants three times a year in June, October and February and full details can be found on the documents section of the website. If your community organisation would like to apply for a grant, please contact the Clerk to Bingley Town Council at enquiries@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk for further information.

Total grant recipients

The Town Council has allocated a total of £22,214.60 to 17 different local groups since the start of its community grants scheme. The successful applicants are, in chronological order of the award:

- Bingley Green Dog Walkers
- Eldwick Juniors
- Micklethwaite Village Society
- All Saints Church
- All Saints Bell Ringers
- Beckfoot and Bingley Tennis Club
- Cottingley Guides
- Friends of Prince of Wales Park
- Ryshworth Rangers FC
- Bingley Walkers are Welcome
- Friends of Bingley Pool
- Hale
- Bingley Amateur Operatic Society
- Bingley Belles
- Cottingley Community Association
- Gilstead Village Society
- Park Run

Update on Priestthorpe annex

Since its creation in 2016, the Town Council has been pressing Bradford Council, the owner of the Priestthorpe Annex, or former Technical School, to take action on the run-down Mornington Road site. Bradford Council is currently inviting expressions of interest in the building, which must be lodged with them by the end of January.

At a public meeting on 6 November, organised by the Town Council, residents were told of Bradford Council's recent assessment that the building has degenerated so much that it is now beyond economical repair, is a danger to anyone who enters it and should be demolished as soon as possible.

Residents voiced concern that Bradford Council had made no investment in the building, allowing the roof to be removed and sold in



Priestthorpe Annex, Bingley

2009. Residents felt that Bradford Council had a duty to obtain as much as possible from any sale of the building and that the funds should be entrusted to the Town Council.

The Town Council has now written to Bradford Council requesting that the building/site is developed positively, that Bingley be compensated for the losses suffered due to Bradford's neglect, and that the Town Council receives the proceeds of any sale so that it can administer it in accordance with the original trust's aims: for the educational benefit of the people of Bingley.

Bingley Market

The Town Council is aiming to run six new markets between April and September this year with the help of a newly-recruited group of volunteer "Marketmakers".

The markets, on the first Saturday of the month, will offer food and artisan goods as well as an area to eat produce bought on the market or from local shops and free entertainment – and marketgoers will be given information to encourage them to visit other parts of Bingley and area.

Anyone interested in joining the Marketmakers or having a stall should contact Cllrs Michelle Chapman or Ros Dawson.



Cllrs Ros Dawson and Michelle Chapman

Green and Clean Champions

Bingley has 17 Green and Clean Champions! Who are they and what do they do? The short answer is that they are residents who care greatly about their town and are willing to spend their own time working independently to help keep Bingley free of litter.



Photo: Champions (credit: Joyce Simpson, Bingley Camera Club)

L to R – Joyce Tolson, Brian Tolson, Nancy Allison, Julie Ramsden, Janet Daykin, Jill Gaunt, Christine Smith, Nicky Nutton

Champions missing from the photo: Michelle Chapman, Eileen Cole, Terry Cole, Valerie Conley, Sandra Fisher, Fiona Macaulay, Cathy Mackay, Paul Taylor and Tillie Taylor

Annual Town Meeting – a date for your diary

This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 26th 2018 at Mornington Road Methodist Church Hall, Herbert Street BD14 4NU from 6.30 – 8.00 p.m. All are welcome. Community groups which have benefited from grant awards in 2017 – 18 will be there to give feedback on how the grants have been used.



The Town Council has equipped them with their own litter picker, gloves and a supply of rubbish sacks, and the Champions venture out when they are able, choosing their own time and place, and collect up other people's rubbish wherever they find it – around 60 sacks in total since the start of the scheme. Areas "patrolled" include Sty Lane, Oakwood, Shipley Glen, Priestthorpe and Crownest, Five-Rise locks, around Bingley Grammar School/Keighley Road, Bailey Hills, Myrtle Park and Cottingley Rec.

Motivation varies – most Champions tell us that they do it because they take pride in their neighbourhood, others are saddened or even infuriated by people who think it acceptable to drop litter even when there is a litter bin a few steps away. One of our volunteers wonders why her "picturesque road" is "always littered with cans & bottles & trash food packaging". Some will admit to being slightly obsessive, another Champion says that her husband now disowns her when she's out with her litter picker! And a further volunteer says her litter picking has "become such a habit I do it in other towns and countries too."

Huge thanks also to everyone who has helped at one of our community litter picks or is independently looking after their corner of Bingley parish!

Next Community Litter Pick – Saturday 10th February.

True Grit

Bingley is better prepared for cold weather, thanks to Bingley Town Council investment and collaboration with Bradford District Council which has overall responsibility for gritting and grit bins.



Cllr Sara Hardman and the new Oakwood Drive grit bin

In a project led by Cllr Sara Hardman, town councillors mapped every grit bin in the parish to identify areas most in need of new or replacement grit bins and also pinpointed key public transport routes that also require gritting.

The results of the survey and discussions with Bradford Council have led to the replacement or repair of nine bins and four new bins on Oakwood Drive, Pendle Road, Timble Drive and Primrose Bank. Bingley Town Council has spent a further £400 on new bins on Belgrave Road, Bailey Hills, Falcon Road and Birchdale. In addition, Lady Lane, Crownest Road and Marley View are now on Bradford Council's gritting routes.

Anyone with questions or concerns about gritting should contact Bradford Council 01274 431000.

Development plans at Crosley Wood Road

InCommunities tenants in the high rise blocks at Crosley Wood Road – Adelaide, Peel and Brunswick Houses – contacted the Town Council concerned about plans for the development of the buildings and fearful they may lose their homes. A number of councillors attended a meeting, organised by InCommunities, to listen to

residents' concerns and ask questions of the housing provider.

Following this, the Town Council wrote to InCommunities requesting full options for all of the high rise flats and that residents be able to participate fully in any decisions about the future of the blocks. The Council also asked that InCommunities ensure the flats are maintained in compliance with statutory requirements and that the site is always used for social housing.

Winter Planting



Bulb planting Ferncliffe banking

Local groups from across the parish have taken advantage of the Town Council-subsidised winter bedding plants and spring bulbs for an opportunity to add seasonal colour to their own areas. In addition, a community bulb-planting session was held on 21st October, when crocuses and daffodils were planted on the banking on Ferncliffe Road by the sliproad to the A650 bypass.

On 19th October, Bingley Airedale Rotary members turned out in force to plant crocuses on part of Quaker Hill, off Chapel Lane. The purple crocuses that will hopefully

appear on the site in spring have been planted to raise the profile of Rotary's worldwide objective to eradicate polio. Purple has been chosen because it is the colour of the dye used to identify children who have been vaccinated against the polio virus. Not content with this, on 27 November Rotary members also planted 200 daffodils on the corner patch of Quaker Hill opposite the Aldi store.



Bulb planting by Bingley Airedale Rotary Club

The Town Council supplied 2,610 bedding plants and 3,520 spring bulbs this autumn, and Bingley Airedale Rotary planted a further 5,000 crocuses and 200 daffodils!

Next Green and Clean Forum – Saturday 13th January, 10-12, Cardigan House, Ferncliffe Road, including a talk by Mike Cunningham from Keighley In Bloom.

Action on dog fouling

Alongside work to combat littering, the Town Council has been supporting the great work done by Bingley Green Dog Walkers to educate the small number of people who persistently allow their dogs to foul our residential areas.

Local vets have been provided with information for their 'puppy packs' to ensure that new dog owners are aware of their legal responsibilities. Assemblies at local primary schools have taught pupils how to pick up after their dog. Signage has been put up in places that are consistently fouled, and the Council will shortly be running sessions in parts of town that are particularly badly

affected offering dog walkers free plastic 'poo bags'. This action will be reinforced by door-knocking and letters delivered door-to-door to all residents in some of these areas, such as the area around Britannia Bridge and Gilstead Rec.

Please remember that it is an offence to allow a dog to foul, and those who do so can be issued with a £80 fixed penalty notice. It is very easy to make sure you have a bag with you when you go out with your dog, and even easier to dispose of it – you can put bagged dog faeces into any of Bradford Council's rubbish bins. So let's 'bag it and bin it' for the sake of our health and wellbeing.

Action Stations (Bingley and Crossflatts)

This station adoption group, which emerged from the Green and Clean Forum, has now held two successful volunteering days and is planning regular activity every 3rd Saturday of the month to tidy up and enhance our stations throughout the coming year.

On 7th October, volunteers worked at Bingley Station to clear the bottom part of the grounds below the Station Master's House and trim some shrubbery on the Leeds platform, while others collected litter at the back of the station and in surrounding streets and car parks. The following month, the group continued its clearance work and planted some bulbs. Daffodils and crocuses have also been planted at Crossflatts station.

The group is planning to convert the area previously planted with laurels into a garden, and has had presentations from apprentices from Northern who are planning a number of additional projects at Bingley. They will be building on the results of an ongoing survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WZ6JBV7> asking residents how they would like to see their stations develop.

See the Action Stations noticeboards at both Bingley and Crossflatts stations for how you can get involved. All are welcome!

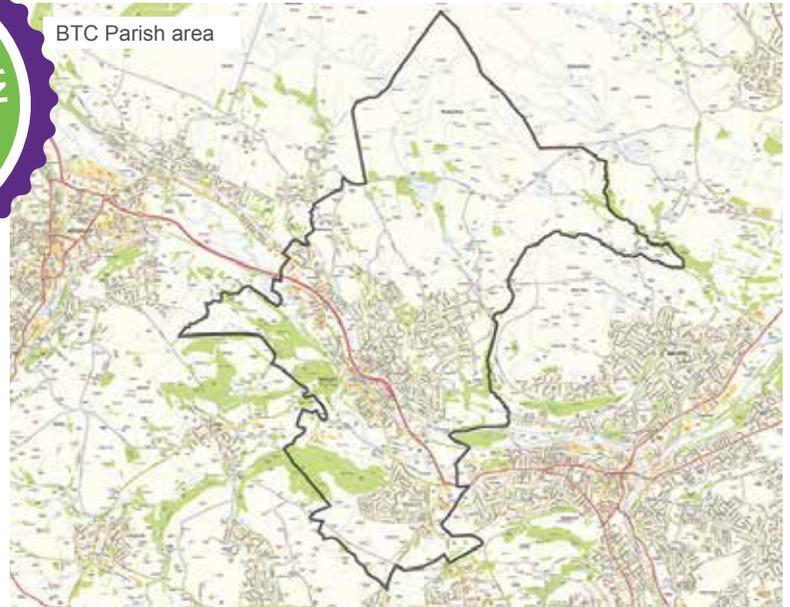


Bulb planting at Crossflatts station

Bingley Town Council Diary

All formal meetings are open to the public.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Date	Time	Event
9 Jan	18:30	Planning Committee Meeting, Cardigan House
10 Jan	18:30	F&GP Committee Meeting, Cottingley Cornerstone
13 Jan	10:00	Green and Clean Forum, Cardigan House, Bingley
16 Jan	18:30	Town Centre and Regeneration Sub-Committee Meeting, Bingley Arts Centre
23 Jan	18:30	Full Council Meeting, Church House, Old Main Street, Bingley
26 Jan	10:30	Green and Clean Sub-Committee Meeting, Town Council Office, Cottingley Cornerstone
5 Feb	18:00	Events, Marketing & Communications Sub-Committee Meeting
13 Feb	18:30	Planning Committee Meeting, Cardigan House
14 Feb	18:30	F&GP Committee Meeting, Cottingley Cornerstone
27 Feb	18:30	Full Council Meeting, Bingley Baptist Church
30 Jan	18:30	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting, venue TBC
13 Mar	18:30	Planning Committee Meeting, Cardigan House
14 Mar	18:30	F&GP Committee Meeting, Cottingley Cornerstone
19 Mar	18:00	Events, Marketing & Communications Sub-Committee Meeting
20 Mar	18:30	Town Centre and Regeneration Sub-Committee Meeting, Bingley Arts Centre
27 Mar	18:30	Full Council Meeting, Eldwick Church Hall



Photo credit: Philip Whiteoak of Bingley Camera Club

Contact your Councillor

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