## Project delivery 2020-2023: update and overview

This is an update on the projects and work being carried out at present by Bingley Town Council. It also serves as an update to the priorities agreed by the Town Council in January 2020, following the community consultation that ran from 7.9.19 to 25.9.19. This document is an overview; each piece of work is supported by documents, discussions and decisions by the council and its committees – all available on the Town Council website.

## **Background**

At the start of Bingley Town Council in June 2016, a list was created of priority projects, many of which have been achieved or are ongoing. Examples include: rejuvenating the market, campaigning for action on derelict buildings, auditing all the bins in the parish and sponsoring replacement and new ones, taking action on littering, preparing and nominating key buildings and facilities as assets of community value (Myrtle Park, Bingley Swimming Pool, Bingley Town Hall).

The priorities were informed by consultation with residents during the campaign for a council in 2014-2016, and by input from subsequently elected councillors.

In 2019, following the election of a new set of town councillors, the council sought through a consultation to share its on-going and planned work for 2020 to 2023 with residents. One of the aims was to inform the budget setting, and the precept, for 2020/21 (a process that starts in September each year and concludes with the budget and precept being agreed the following January.) The consultation also enabled residents to let the council know what they viewed as important work or projects and anything else the council should be achieving.

The consultation also provided an opportunity for residents to give their views on what the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) should be spent on<sup>1</sup>. In addition, there was the opportunity to comment on the initial draft of the Neighbourhood Plan<sup>2</sup> and to indicate which colour was preferred – blue or black – for the planned investment in smartening up the street furniture<sup>3</sup>.

The consultation was held over two weeks and residents could take part online or at one of seven information events with councillors and staff on hand to answer queries:

- Sat 07/09/19 9am to 1pm Bingley Market and Bingley Arts Centre
- Mon 09/09/19 2pm to 4pm Eldwick Church (in the café area)
- Thu 12/09/19 5.30pm to 7.30pm COPWA (Crossflatts Old People's Welfare Association)
- Mon 16/09/19 1.30pm to 3.30pm Bingley Methodist Church
- Tue 17/09/19 7pm to 9pm St Wilfrid's, Gilstead

<sup>1</sup> CIL is a charge paid by developers to Bradford Metropolitan District Council. As Bingley has a Town Council is receives 15% of any CIL paid on development in the parish. Last September, when the consultation was held this amounted to around £16,000. Now, it's just short of £20,000. If Bingley didn't have a town council, it would not receive any CIL. When Bingley has a Neighbourhood Plan, the parish will receive 25% of any CIL.

<sup>2</sup> A Neighbourhood Plan creates policies that will influence building and development in Bingley parish until 2030. Full details of progress so far on the Neighbourhood Plan is on the Bingley Town Council website. More general information about Neighbourhood Plans are available on the Locality website.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Town Council held a further consultation at the monthly market (1 Feb 2020) about the preferred colour: 46 black, 17 blue.

- Fri 20/09/19 10am to 12pm Cottingley Community Centre
- Wed 25/09/19 10am to 3.30pm Bingley Business Expo, Bingley Arts Centre

Some of the draft findings from the survey were considered at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 24 September. In October, the Town Council considered the final results and it was agreed that overall, the consultation, although it had engaged only a small proportion of the population, was an indicative guide and confirmed that the Town Council is tackling issues important to residents. A final document pulling together the results and reflecting the budget was agreed in January 2020, as well as making further recommendations.

## Progress January 2020 to July 2020

Over the past six months, the Town Council has made progress on many of the projects. Good governance and management of the allotments are top priorities, other projects are work that the council has opted to do.

Bingley Town Council has responded to events and undertakes works and projects which it believes are valuable and necessary but are not included in the guide created in January. For example, much of the Town Council's work has been postponed or progressed more slowly than anticipated since March due to the pandemic. Instead, the Town Council has concentrated on supporting Bradford Council and the community in a variety of ways through the coronavirus crisis. In addition, its ways of working (via zoom with staff working from home) are also placing unique and unforeseen demands on the organisation. The Town Council also did not foresee in January that the Environment Agency would be minded to grant a permit for an incinerator to operate at Marley.

The Town Council's project list does not indicate that some projects should be progressed more quickly, or have more funds allocated to them, than others. Some projects have deadlines, some don't. Some projects rely on response from external organisations – and subsequently can be held up, some don't. Some projects cost little but have huge value. For example, litter picking has huge impact and is greatly valued. It takes councillor and staff time to organise as well as leveraging many volunteer hours but the funds required for the equipment are relatively small.

The following table aims to be a helpful indicative guide, not an exhaustive list, because there are often smaller tasks and projects that crop up and take time and effort. Also, it is difficult for one councillor to have a complete overview of all council activity. In order for projects to progress, generally a councillor is needed to scope out and spearhead the work, writing the necessary reports, risk and resource assessments and making arrangements.

Project/work	Brief update
Good governance: number one priority	Internal, independent audit report: working practices robust, all areas of council's finances satisfactory as they have been since the inception of the council. Most recent audit considered by
	the Town Council in June 2020.
Allotments	The council manages allotments at Beck Lane and Stanley
	Street, where there are currently waiting lists for both sites.
	Regular inspections are undertaken and maintenance and

Project/work	Brief update
	management issues are dealt with through the Finance and
	General Purposes committee.
A new Bingley hub: re-	Ahead of schedule, due to open Autumn 2020.
providing public toilets and	
central office for Town	
Council.	
Neighbourhood Plan	Ongoing, final chapters being prepared, aiming for public
	consultation in late Spring 2021. There is then a statutory
	process that must be followed involving the local planning
	authority and an independent inspector. For the plan to be
	adopted, residents must express support through a
	referendum.
Supporting efforts to keep	Ongoing dialogue with Friends of Bingley Pool who are
open Bingley Pool	responsible for and leading on the CAT, now due to take place
	Sept 2021. (Town Council previously provided grant of £5,600
	to cover costs of electrical survey and consultant's feasibility
	study.) FOBP aware of town council's grant scheme and
	budgetary process. Two Bingley Town Councillors are also
Climate sharps are arranged	trustees of FOBP.
Climate change emergency initiatives and environmental	Climate change emergency working group established and
	programme of events planned but have had to be postponed
improvements including reduction of plastic use,	due to pandemic. It is hoped to restart in the second week of September, with action taken on items already approved by full
improving air quality and litter	council, such as tree planting. Since 2016, over 1,000 sacks of
picks.	litter have been removed from the parish's streets through
picks.	Town Council organised community litter picks (hopefully soon
	to resume when safe to do so) and 48 individual community
	litter champions, who each are provided with litter picking
	equipment, recruited.
Working with police to reduce	Ongoing. Councillors hold regular liaison meetings with local
crime and traffic offences.	police representatives, and police attend council meetings to
	discuss and explain issues and share residents' concerns.
	Inspector Craig Stothers, recently appointed, has attended full
	council meeting. The council has supported efforts to reduce
	the speed limit on various roads and lobbied for a pedestrian
	crossing on Park Road, near Prince of Wales Park, and behind
	the Five Rise Shopping Centre.
Bingley Monthly Market:	Market re-started for its third year in February 2020. It has had
Continuing to run and develop	to be cancelled due to the pandemic but will re-start on 1
the monthly fresh food and	August (Yorkshire Day).
local products market	
Grit bins and gritting routes:	Ongoing. Following the audits of bins and routes and
maintaining existing bins,	purchases in 2017 and 2018, a further ten new grit bins were
adding new bins and routes.	ordered and installed in autumn 2019 in time for winter.

Project/work	Brief update
Creating a youth Town	A councillor is working with the Youth Café and local youth
Council to engage younger	workers, engagement ideas being explored.
people in civic activities.	
Grant scheme to support local	£18,136 given to groups in 2019/20, and £20,000 allocated for
groups.	2020/21. Recipients include many local sports clubs, Bingley
	Park Run, Bingley Walkers are Welcome, Bingley Arts Centre
	and village societies, voluntary groups and clubs promoting
	well-being and mental health.
Lobbying Bradford Council to	The council objected to introduction of parking charges at St
improve car parking (provision	Ives and increases in parking charges across Bingley.
and cost).	Individual councillors may also be able to provide their own
	updates. Individual councillors were consulted on the recent
E	Covid secure signage.
Floral displays and bulb	Ongoing. Summer and winter displays have been provided by a
planting throughout the parish, providing horticultural groups	local contractor since 2017. 2020 is the second year of a three-
	year contract. Bulbs and summer and winter bedding are
with free seasonal plants.	ordered from Bradford Council and other suppliers for distribution free to Friends groups looking after parks, village
	societies and other gardening groups.
Christmas: lights - upgrading	Ongoing. Just over £14,000 of investment has already been
and adding to the seasonal	made to upgrade and improve the lights, as well a competition
display, school competition,	for local school pupils to design a light which is then created
providing a Christmas tree.	and displayed.
Painting street furniture black	Ongoing, project commenced 2017 and has involved frequent
(lamp post, sign posts and	liaison with and navigation through Bradford Council. Now due
railings etc) to smarten up our	to start in August 2020.
town.	
Providing a Changing Places	£12,000 allocated in budget to provide CP in Bingley Pool or
facility.	alternative location.
Supporting civic events	£342 grant for Remembrance Parade 2019.
including the Remembrance	
Day parade and service.	
Free summer play in the park	£5,075 was allocated. This would have been the third year the
events	town council has paid for the events attended by hundreds of
	children; however due to coronavirus restrictions 2020's events
	have been cancelled. Portable toilets are available at all events
	and, at Bingley Myrtle Park, there is a CP mobile facility.
Planning for emergencies	Bingley's emergency plan, used to support Bradford Council, is
	currently being updated and revised.
Communications about the	Distribution of the last printed newsletter in March had to be
council's work: including	halted due to the pandemic. The next newsletter, an Annual
monthly e-newsletters, social	Report, is planned for September. All newsletters are available
media updates and	on line. An e-newsletter is distributed to mailing list subscribers
newsletters.	after each town council meeting. Details of meetings and other
	information, most recently about the pandemic response, are
	posted on the Town Council's Facebook page.

Project/work	Brief update
Providing new signs to the	Discussions have been ongoing for many months with the
Five Rise Locks and canal	Canal & River Trust on a range of new signage including
	pavement markers. It is hoped to resume discussions once
	coronavirus restrictions permit. An audit of current 'tourism'
	signage has taken place.
Objecting to the incinerator	Ongoing objections being made to the Environment Agency.
	Liaison with AVAI. Awareness raising.

## CIL

The part of the consultation in September about what CIL should be spent on highlighted parks and green spaces (particularly Bingley Myrtle Park) and Bingley Pool as residents' preferences.

It was agreed that in order to allocate CIL, the Town Council should develop a CIL policy - as CIL is a relatively new charge, there is no template policy so the Town Council has created its own. This policy has now been agreed and a CIL application process will be created so that groups such a Friends of Bingley Pool and Friends of Myrtle Park can apply for funds to support their work. (Other groups will of course be able to apply for CIL and the two Friends groups mentioned can also apply for funding through the Town Council grant scheme.)

Ros Dawson, 20 July 2020.