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Dear resident...

Welcome to the 14th edition of the Bingley Town Council newsletter which forms the Annual Report of the Town Council.



2020

Many of you may not have received the 2020 Annual Report, as COVID-19 restrictions limited delivery and interim newsletters were cancelled due to the problems of delivery during the pandemic. Despite this, Bingley Town Council has been busy and has continued to work throughout the crisis. It is hoped that by the time you read this life will have returned to a semblance of normality.

Personnel changes

There have been a number of personnel changes in the last year, both with staff and councillors. We were all extremely sorry to say goodbye to Admin Officer, Laura Jowett and Town Clerk, Ruth Batterley who have moved on to posts with other town councils. Both were superb employees, skilled, knowledgeable and totally supportive of Bingley Town Council. They are missed but we wish them success in their new roles.

I hope you'll give a warm welcome to the new Town Clerk, Eve Haskins (*below left*) and the Deputy Clerk, Nicola Mansfield-Smith, (*below centre*) and we are lucky to still have with us our Admin Officer, Ruth Thompson (*below right*).



Since 2020, Councillors Richard Holmes, Ros Dawson, Edwina Simpson and John Brazendale have resigned from the Council. Four new Councillors have been elected or co-opted. They are Councillors Michael Taylor – Bingley Central; Joanne Reynard – Priestthorpe; Philippa Gibbons – Priestthorpe; and Robert Beckwith – Crownest. Ward and contact details for all Councillors can be found on the back page of this report.

Council activities

During the pandemic many of the Council's public facing activities were necessarily halted, such as Green and Clean projects, litter picks, the markets and Play in the Park. We are really looking forward to resuming these in the very near future.

In 2020 the street furniture and lighting renovation project was finally completed. This has made a huge difference to the 'feel' of the town centre which looks so much smarter and welcoming. The floral displays in the centre of town and in the villages were maintained and the provision of bedding plants to various community groups continued and gave much pleasure during the various levels of lockdown.

Although the Chamber of Trade Big Lights Switch On was cancelled, the Town Council provided a Christmas Tree and continued to replace festive lights in the town centre and to roll out provision of these in the district.

The Council continues to actively campaign for and promote the needs of Bingley to Bradford Metropolitan District Council on matters such as the provision of pedestrian crossings, maintaining a library service in Bingley, improvements to car parking in the town, and in responding in detail to the recently published Local Plan.

Despite the difficulties of the last year, there are so many volunteer groups in Bingley which have continued to work together and to improve Bingley for the benefit of all – The Friends of Myrtle Park, Friends of Prince of Wales Park, Friends of Bingley Pool, Action Stations, Cottingley Community Association, the Village Societies in Eldwick, Crossflatts, Micklethwaite and Gilstead and the Bingley Bloomers – to name but a few. We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated people who have such a community spirit and love of our home town. Heartfelt thanks to all.

Bingley Pool Update

The recent announcement from the Friends of Bingley Pool is very disappointing. The proposed Community Asset Transfer is in doubt. The structure of the building is unsound as a result of the failure by Bradford Metropolitan District Council to maintain the building for many years. The District Council must not be allowed to let another Bingley amenity fall into disuse and become another useless eyesore. Bingley Town Council will continue to put pressure on Bradford Metropolitan District Council and to support Friends of Bingley Pool to find a solution.

I hope you enjoy the round up of the work of Bingley Town Council in the last year as we move forward with determination and energy to make Bingley an even better place to live, work and visit.

Best wishes,
Cllr Helen Owen
Chair, Bingley Town Council

Arrangements for meetings of the Council in 2021

From April 2020 until May 2021 all Council meetings have been held remotely via Zoom and although this was sometimes a challenge due to connection difficulties, Councillors quickly adapted and the business of the Council has been maintained. Face to face meetings resumed after 6th May 2021 and continue with COVID-19 precautions in place.

For the present, meetings will take place at St Wilfrid's Community Hall, Gilstead, unless otherwise stated on the website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend in person, although numbers will be limited. Bingley Town Council intends to invest in new technology which will allow residents to observe meetings remotely. If possible, questions for full Council meetings should be submitted by 9.00am on the Monday before the monthly meeting. All meeting details and agendas will be displayed on the website in advance. Full Council meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month. Planning Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm.

Details of Committees and Working Groups can also be found on the website. Residents are invited and encouraged to participate in Neighbourhood Plan, Changing Places and Climate Emergency Working Groups and we hope to resume the Green and Clean Forums as soon as possible. These meetings will be held remotely for the foreseeable future.

Bingley Town Council Events Diary

July 2021		
Sat 3	10am - 2pm	Bingley Monthly Farmers' Market.
Wed 7	1.30pm	Facilities Management Committee meeting. The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.
Tue 13	6.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting. St Wilfrid's, Gilstead Lane.
Wed 14	6.30pm	F&GP Committee Meeting. St Wilfrid's, Gilstead Lane.
Mon 19	6.30pm	Changing Places Working Group. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Tue 27	6.30pm	Full Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's, Gilstead Lane.
Fri 30	11am - 3pm	Play in the Park Event, Gilstead Rec.
August 2021		
Sat 7	10am - 2pm	Bingley Monthly Farmers' Market.
Sat 7	11am	Official opening of Council Office.
Sat 7	11am - 3pm	Play in the Park Event, Myrtle Park.
Tue 10	6.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Wed 11	6.30pm	F&GP Committee Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Fri 13	11am - 3pm	Play in the Park Event, Crossflatts Rec.
Mon 16	6.30pm	Changing Places Working Group. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Fri 20	11am - 3pm	Play in the Park Event, Cottingley Rec.
Tue 24	6.30pm	Full Council Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Fri 27	11am - 3pm	Play in the Park Event, Eldwick Rec.
September 2021		
Fri 3	11am - 3pm	Play in the Park Event, Myrtle Park.
Sat 4	10am - 2pm	Bingley Monthly Farmers' Market.
Tue 7	6.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Wed 8	6.30pm	F&GP Committee Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Mon 20	6.30pm	Changing Places Working Group. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Tue 28	6.30pm	Full Council Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
October 2021		
Sat 4	10am - 2pm	Bingley Monthly Farmers' Market.
Tue 12	6.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Wed 13	6.30pm	F&GP Committee Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Mon 18	6.30pm	Changing Places Working Group. Meeting arrangements tbc.
Tue 26	6.30pm	Full Council Meeting. Meeting arrangements tbc.

The Hub: Bingley Town Council Office and Public Toilets



The conversion of the former public toilet block in Jubilee Gardens was completed and ready to open in September 2020. The public toilets have been open since then and are well used.

Unfortunately, staff have not been allowed to return to work and to make full use of the office due to 'Work from home' advice. It is expected that after 19th July 2021 the office will be fully staffed and open to the public from 12.00 - 3.00pm. Monday - Friday. It is hoped to have a small scale formal opening of the new premises on Saturday 7th August 2021.

How your money was spent 2020 – 2021

Opening balance

£200,925

Receipts

£354,281

Payments

£335,869

Carried forward

£219,337

Income

	£
Loan for building works	163,500
Toilet cash collection	1,011
Precept	173,158
Allotment rental	2,333
Allotment grant	2,576
BMDC CAT contribution	5,000
CIL	5,967
Grants and donations received	450
Bank interest received	286

Total 354,281

Expenditure

Salaries and staffing costs	56,133
Subscriptions	2,311
Office costs and administration	16,566
Building and maintenance	176,893
Project management	5,938
Professional fees	2,750
Communications (newsletters)	1,998
IT support	3,990
Emergency support (including grit bins)	1,800
Allotments	1,674
Neighbourhood Plan	730
Tourism and Regeneration (including markets and seasonal costs)	31,798
Green & Clean (including floral displays)	14,509
Grants	17,829
Changing Places	950

Total 335,869

Balance carried forward 219,337

Small amounts of rounding have been allowed in the above figures.

If you have any queries about this information please contact the Town Clerk:

Email townclerk@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone 07529 222679

Grants to Community Groups

	£
Aire Valley Against Incineration	£5,000
Down Syndrome Training & Support Services	£2,000
Eldwick Scouts and Guides	£500
Friends of Myrtle Park	£9,429.70
Myrtle Park Bowling Club	£898.80

Total 17,828.50

Grant recipients during 2020/21

The Town Council has a Grants Policy which has supported numerous organisations and voluntary groups in the town, from Action Stations to Time to Talk. For details, please contact:

townclerk@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The following grants have been awarded in recent months:



Down Syndrome Training & Support Services – £2,000

Towards the cost of replacement carpets.



Myrtle Park Bowling Club – £898.80

To improve the toilet facilities in the Club Hut.



Eldwick Scouts and Guides – £500

To repair the roofing on their building.



Friends of Myrtle Park – £9,429.70

The Friends of Myrtle Park have been hard at work renovating the Veterans' Hut for use as an event, information and education centre for users of the park.

Aire Valley Against Incineration – £5,000

For pre-action protocol letter to determine whether a judicial review would be successful.

Street furniture & lamp post columns painting



Above: Renovations work at the Veterans' Hut in Myrtle Park; below: new raised planting beds in Cottingley village centre.



At the inception of the Council back in 2016 one of the main priorities for Bingley was to improve the ambience of Bingley Main Street and adjoining streets by repainting the street furniture. Bingley Town Council held consultations around the district seeking the public's opinion and views on the colour of the street furniture. Black was the overwhelming favourite.

The Town Council engaged with Bradford Council to obtain their approval to undertake the works and seek their guidance on using their approved painting contractor to undertake the works, which involved not only the lampposts but also the benches dotted around Bingley.

We would like to give a word of thanks to the Rotary Club of

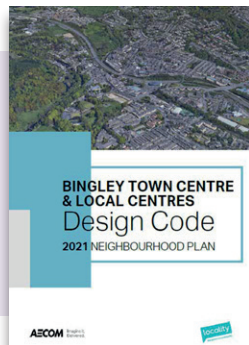


Bingley Airedale who sponsored the painting of the benches in the Market Square in the spring of 2019.

Bingley Neighbourhood Plan *Update*

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan has continued, although the pandemic has slowed progress.

The draft plan is now available on the Bingley Town Council website and includes two substantial documents, a Master Plan and Design Code for Bingley, which were commissioned from AECOM to support and enhance the future vision for Bingley.



The draft plan must be considered by Bradford Metropolitan District Council (regulation 14) before a statutory consultation with residents. A formal independent assessment will then be carried out by a Government Inspector. If agreed, a referendum of residents will be held. The plan becomes law if accepted and has significant benefits for the area, including an increase to 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charged on new developments in the parish.

The plan will help to develop a vision for Bingley and respond to the aspirations and needs of the community. It is a statutory document which will be incorporated into the district planning framework and must be used by Bradford Metropolitan District Council to inform planning decisions.

Christmas in Bingley

It's never too early to plan for Christmas! Festival Lights, a division of Bradford Council provides the Christmas lights and light features in Bingley.

All the lights are the property of Bingley Town Council. Bradford Council covers the costs for installation, removal and storage.

Over the last few years, a number of rope lights on the lamp posts have been replaced and additional lights have been installed in the trees in Jubilee Gardens. New light features will be installed on the six lampposts opposite Bingley Market Square



and the current ones moved to Crossflatts. The Christmas tree in the Market Square will be provided by Carlton Nurseries, as the cost of a tree from Bradford Council was prohibitive.

The Council has agreed over a number of years to install Christmas lights in surrounding villages, where the infrastructure is adequate to accommodate the lights. Bingley Town Council has

already provided lights in Crossflatts. This year it is proposed to undertake the same exercise in Gilstead; to provide timer and sockets on six lamp posts with the addition of a 15ft Christmas tree.

It is expected that the Annual 'Big Lights Switch On' with Bingley Chamber of Trade will take place in late November.

Bingley Monthly Market



Bingley Town Council with Yorkshire Farmers' Markets holds a market on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to 2pm. The markets resumed in March 2021 and it is expected they will continue through to December. The popular 'Entertainers' section and a local Charity Stall will return on 7th August.

The emphasis is on local produce and crafts and there are some very popular regular stalls, e.g. Rita's Street Food Kitchen, Wood's Brownies, Gerard's Pretzels, East Morton Tabletop Preserves, Isabella's Creperie along with some new offers like Peggy in Purse Crafts and Handmade by Lily.



Monthly Farmers' Markets in 2021:

Sat 3 July

Sat 7th August

Sat 4 September

Sat 2 October

Sat 6 November

Sat 4 December

Welcome Back To Bingley Business Event

On Saturday 7th August 2021 there will be a Welcome Back To Bingley Business event in the Market Square to promote local volunteer groups and local businesses. There will be a Play in the Park event on the same day in Myrtle Park and a low-key official opening of the Council office. Bingley Monthly Market will also be open. Local Volunteer and support groups are encouraged to come along or to provide information about their work. Refreshments will be available at the Market and in Bingley Arts Centre. There will be a raffle to encourage residents to buy local.

Bingley Community Partnership

Bingley Community Partnership is an umbrella organisation which seeks to bring together voluntary groups working in Bingley. It was set up by BMDC Ward Officer Marcia Churley at the height of the pandemic to support in particular, residents who were isolated, lonely or in need. The group has representatives from Bingley

Town Council, Bradford District Ward Councillors, CABAD, Bingley Bubble, Bingley Food Bank, Bingley Community Kitchen, Bingley and Bingley Rural Covid-19 Facebook Support Group and local churches.

The group meets every six weeks or so and has



supported initiatives such as Bingley Food Bank, Telephone Befriending Services and Holiday Hunger - meals for disadvantaged families. Bingley Food Bank is open Tuesdays and Fridays 10.30 - 12.00.

Left: Bingley Food Bank. Councillor Geoff Winnard with volunteer Andrew Quarrie.

For further details contact:

helen.owen@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Floral displays and summer bedding plants for community groups

Over the last year many of us have taken pleasure in our daily walks, giving us the chance to stroll around our home town and admire the local area.

The Town Council has provided floral displays, which are placed around Bingley and surrounding villages, which improves the appearance of our town to residents and outside visitors, many of whom have commented specifically on these displays. The Council also provides grant money to community groups in order to enhance specific areas of our town, such as the railways stations and the parks. These displays are truly stunning and a testament to our community groups who work tirelessly to keep our town looking colourful. The Council knows how proud Bingley residents are of their town, so is grateful to work with residents in order to make Bingley look beautiful.

Litter Picks and Community Champions

The first litter pick of 2021 will be held on Saturday 26th June.

Meet at The Hub at 10.00am. This is the first opportunity for volunteers to meet and have a good tidy up in Bingley Centre since 2019. Gloves, pickers and bags will be provided.



Future dates

- Saturday 31st July
- Saturday 11th September
- Saturday 23rd October

Locations will be published on the Council website and Facebook page.

Litter Champions

Thanks to all those who used the lockdown to become litter champions for their area. Bingley now has over 50 Litter Champions, but there's always room for more. If you'd like to take up the challenge please contact:

enquiries@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Play in the Park



In previous years our Play in the Park events have been a huge success, so we were incredibly disappointed that they could not go ahead as planned in 2020.

We are pleased to announce that we will be putting on six events over the 2021 summer

to provide some much needed enjoyment for children and some relief for parents looking for a free activity to keep the kids entertained. Expect bouncy castles, sports equipment, space hoppers

and giant board games. All events will run from 11am to 3pm and the dates and locations are as follows:

- Friday 30th July at Gilstead Rec
- Saturday 7th August at Myrtle Park
- Friday 13th August at Crossflatts Rec
- Friday 20th August at Cottingley Rec
- Friday 27th August at Eldwick
- Friday 3rd September at Myrtle Park

Bingley Town Council will provide hand sanitiser for extra peace of mind. We look forward to seeing you there. There will be Mobiloo provision at both Myrtle Park events.

Changing Places Toilet facilities in Bingley

Bingley Town Council has recently refurbished and re-opened the town's toilets after they were closed as part of the economic cutbacks. Many townsfolk now use the toilets on a regular basis (we can see this from the traffic counters on the door mechanism). The re-provision of this important facility increases the appeal and hence the footfall in our town from which we all benefit. However, there is a key component missing from our service provision and that is a Changing Places Toilet.

In November last year Bingley Town Council embarked on a plan to provide a Changing Places Toilet alongside the new toilets in Jubilee Park in the town centre. A working group was set up and the project is in full swing. Planning Permission for the facility has been applied for and to date the Council has £45,000 set aside in its reserves to fund about half of the capital costs of the facility.

Contact your Councillor

Dale Barton – Crow Nest – Liberal Democrat
dale.barton@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Robert Beckwith – Crownest - Independent
07504697043 robert.beckwith@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Howard Clough – Cottingley – Conservative
07939 023377 howard.clough@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Rachael Drucquer – Crossflatts & Micklethwaite – Green Party
07708 507679 rachael.drucquer@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Philippa Gibbons – Priestthorpe – Independent
07730 809326 philippa.gibbons@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

John Goode – Cottingley – Independent
07703 456792 john.goode@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

David Heseltine – Eldwick – Conservative
01274 565468 david.heseltine@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Abdul Malik – Bingley Central & Myrtle Park – Independent
07876 787870 abdul.malik@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Ashraf Miah – Cottingley – Independent
07738 570492 ashraf.miah@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Helen Owen – Gilstead – Independent
07976 304941 helen.owen@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

John Pennington – Crossflatts & Micklethwaite – Conservative
07836 261557 john.pennington@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Jo Reynard – Priestthorpe – Conservative
07989 345099 joanne.reynard@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Michael Taylor – Bingley Central & Myrtle Park – Independent
07796 715991 michael.taylor@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Mark Truelove – Eldwick – Independent
07809 690398 mark.truelove@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Steve Williams – Lady Lane & Oakwood – Independent
07891 878760 steve.williams@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Geoff Winnard – Gilstead – Conservative
07971 395710 geoff.winnard@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

To contact the Town Clerk at Bingley Town Council, please email enquiries@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk or call 07529 222679