

# Bingley Town Council mailing no. 18

We're delighted to announce another batch of grants going to community groups from across the parish, this time with the focus on local history, junior football and a station garden.

Don't forget that the Council considers grant applications three times a year, in June, October and February. If you have an idea for a community project, or your existing group is in need of some support, please contact our Clerk for details of how to apply. Small grants are up to £500; larger awards can be made up to £2,000.

We also have brief reports on plans for summer floral displays and summer markets, an update on progress on the council offices/public toilets and news of vacancies in Gilstead and Crow Nest wards.

*Best wishes,*

*Ros Dawson*

*Chair, Bingley Town Council*

Picture below: Action Stations, awarded a grant in February - monthly gardening session



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## Grants

The Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee this month awarded a total of £1,671 in grants to another three local community groups.

Bingley Juniors Football Club was awarded £720 towards equipment such as club tracksuits, polo shirts and kit bags. The equipment will be initially used on the club's exchange trip to Hamm in Germany for under 14's and under 12' s from 17 to 21 May 2018.

A sum of £451 went to Cottingley Village History Society to purchase display screens, 'A' boards and sign holders for the Cottingley Heritage Centre. This project will provide a central location for the archives of the History Society and make them available for viewing by the general public.

Action Stations, the group that has adopted Bingley and Crossflatts railway stations, was granted £500 towards the costs of establishing a "5 Rise Locks" themed garden at Bingley station, located in the garden area between the Station Master's House and the Skipton-bound platform.

Picture below: Pole-mounted basket 2017. Credit: Deborah Clarke, Bingley Camera Club



### **Summer floral displays**

The Town Council has again allocated funding from its Green and Clean budget to support floral displays throughout the parish.

Carlton Nurseries, whose baskets, tubs and planters were so appreciated by residents in 2017, is being contracted to supply further hardware and planting and maintenance services. This year we will be repeating and adding to the display in central Bingley (Main Street, market place, Chapel Lane etc) and also extending to outlying areas in Cottingley, Crossflatts, Eldwick, Gilstead and Poplar House. Look out for a new colour scheme!

The Town Council will also be supporting local gardening and planting groups by purchasing summer bedding plants at low cost, and a small-scale wildflower meadow planting project is also being planned.

Picture below: Autumn planting in Cottingley



### Summer Markets

The Council is continuing to plan for a series of Summer Markets, which it is hoped will be held on the market place in central Bingley on the first Saturday of the month from June to October.

It is anticipated that the markets will be run with the support of Yorkshire Farmers' Markets (YFM), a not-for-profit organisation operated by Otley Town Partnership. YFM already operates successful monthly markets in Otley, Knaresborough, Wetherby, Harrogate and York. The stalls would be locally produced or made food, some hot food and some artisan craft stalls, and YFM would ensure existing Bingley market traders are included.

The proposed dates for the five markets are Saturdays 2 June, 7 July, 4 August, 1 September and 6 October, with provisional opening hours of 9am to 3pm.



### Office and public toilets

The Town Council is trying to retain public toilets in the town after they are shut in March by Bradford Council and has now received formal, legal requests from campaigners for a Changing Places facility. In addition, the Town Council is working with Bradford Council on the possibility of installing a Changing Places facility at Bingley Pool.

A Changing Places facility is different to standard accessible toilets and is specifically for people with multiple and complex disabilities who have one or two assistants with them. The room contains a WC, fixed-track hoist system, basin and adult-sized changing bench.

Campaigners for a Changing Places facility requested on Monday (26 February), under the Freedom of Information Act, wide-ranging correspondence relating to the proposed Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the public toilets in

Bingley's Jubilee Gardens from Bradford District Council to Bingley Town Council. In addition, the campaigners have also made a formal request (27 February) for a "reasonable adjustment" under equalities legislation that plans for the public toilet at Jubilee Gardens include, at a minimum, an adult-sized changing bench and a hoist in a sufficiently large space for these aids to be used safely.

The deadline for the FOI request is 23 March. The Town Council is continuing to take advice about obligations under equalities legislation, how to include a Changing Places facility on the site and it is also working with Bradford Council on the possibility of a Changing Places facility at Bingley Pool.

Cllr Ros Dawson, chair of Bingley Town Council, said: "The council has already carried out research into a Changing Places facility and will continue to do so. It must now also focus on and respond to the formal, legal requests. There is a lot of work to be done and a limited time in which to do it."

"As always, the Town Council will work hard and do its very best to serve the residents of Bingley. The council believes Bingley needs public toilets in the interests of public health and the local economy. We will also of course continue to keep residents fully informed on developments with this project."

The public toilets in Jubilee Gardens in the centre of Bingley will be shut by Bradford Council on 31 March as part of a district-wide closure of all public toilets, apart from those in Bradford's City Park.

In December 2017, Bingley Town Council held a month-long consultation into its proposal to retain public toilet provision in the town in a cost-effective manner by developing the Jubilee Gardens site into offices for the Town Council along with two standard public WCs accessible to disabled people. The plan involves the Town Council taking responsibility for the site through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT), a long-lease on a peppercorn rent, and funding the development through a government loan.

A survey, as part of a month-long consultation on the proposal, showed 80% of respondents supported the proposal. At its meeting in January, The Town Council agreed to pursue the proposed CAT and set its budget accordingly in order to retain public toilet facilities in Bingley. The Town Council, responding to feedback, also resolved to investigate a Changing Places facility.

Ongoing research has discovered it may be possible for a Changing Places facility to be provided at Bingley Pool and the Town Council is now awaiting an update from Bradford Council on this option. The facility would be similar to ones located in Keighley Leisure Centre and Ilkley Lido although Bradford Council has made it clear that it could not fund any new equipment.

The Town Council is also investigating if the Jubilee Gardens site could be configured to include a Changing Places facility although spending on this has been paused as the Town Council awaits the information from Bradford about the viability of providing a Changing Places facility at the pool.

When the Town Council has received this information, responded to the Freedom of Information Request and the request under the Equalities Act, it will then consider options. This is likely to take place at the next Full Council meeting on 27 March or, if necessary, at an extra meeting of the council before that date. The deadline for submitting an application for the CAT to Bradford Council is 31 March although Bradford Council has indicated there may be some leeway.

Bingley Town Council was invited to take on the running of the town's public toilets after Bradford Council decided to shut all public toilets across the district, apart from those in City Park. In Bradford Council's Equality Impact Assessment about this decision, ascertaining whether town or parish councils, community or other voluntary groups could take over the running of the blocks to be closed was suggested as mitigation or elimination of the disproportionate negative impacts of public toilet closure on certain people. Bradford Council recognised the closure of its public toilets would have disproportionately negative impacts on older people, pregnant women, parents requiring access to baby changing facilities, young children, the transgender community, disabled people, particularly those with complex needs, and people who, because of a physical condition, may need to visit the toilet with increased regularity. A Community Asset Transfer (offering a long lease on a peppercorn rent) was the method proposed by Bradford Council for other organisations to take over the running of public toilets.



## Town Council by-elections

Following the resignation of Cllr Rachel Varley, an election is being held in Gilstead Ward on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

The three candidates are Helen Owen, Paula Parkinson and Steve Williams.

The polling station is at St Wilfrid's Community Hall and is open from 7am to 10pm.

Cllr Michelle Chapman has resigned from Crow Nest Ward. We will be advised by Bradford Council after 6 March as to whether there will be an election, or whether the Town Council may co-opt to fill the vacancy.

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### Next Town Council meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council is at 6.30pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at Eldwick Church Hall..

You can see all our meeting dates in the calendar of the Events section of our website, and a full listing is available as a separate document, updated weekly, in the Documents section of the site.



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Please do forward this email to anyone you think will be interested, and encourage them to sign up for future mailings on our website at [www.bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

You'll find us on Facebook too - BingleyTownCouncil

With best wishes,

Bingley Town Council

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