



Newsletter Edition 13

# Annual Report 2020



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# Welcome...

.. to the 2020 Annual Report edition of the Bingley Town Council newsletter. This newsletter is the second of the year, apologies if you didn't receive the March edition – unfortunately, the pandemic halted delivery.

## Bingley Hub

By the time you read this, it is hoped that the conversion of the former public toilets to a new Bingley Hub will be completed. This means there will be a Bingley Town Council office in the centre of Bingley, and access to public conveniences will be restored after closure by Bradford Metropolitan District Council in March 2018.

## Investing in our parish

Providing public toilets is just one of many projects the Town Council has undertaken or is planning to regenerate our town – you can read more on page 3. A significant investment is the work that starts in August and September on repainting heritage black all the street furniture in the conservation area and Bingley Town Centre. Smartening up the streets will make Bingley a more attractive and welcoming place and will encourage residents, visitors and potential businesses to see our wonderful town in a new light and to use and enjoy our facilities, amenities and businesses. This is a real investment and sign of confidence in our town, more important than ever in the current challenging climate.

## Value for money

The Town Council works hard to give value for money as well as working closely with residents and local organisations. On page 4, you can see more information about how your money has been spent. In 2020/21 the precept for the year for a Band D property is £20.13. This is an increase of 0.6% on last year's equivalent figure of £20.00. The Council has a full programme of work but always welcomes suggestions, ideas and costed plans for initiatives from councillors, members of the community and local organisations about ways to improve Bingley parish.

## Thank you

I wish all residents well and hope that as the lockdown eases, we all stay safe and healthy. Once again, I'd like to acknowledge the wonderful volunteers, from those who helped at the height of the pandemic to those of the numerous groups and societies such as the Friends of Myrtle Park, Bingley Bloomers and Friends of the Prince of Wales Park and many more, who do so much to make Bingley a more attractive, welcoming and caring place to live.

*Best wishes,  
Cllr Helen Owen  
Chair, Bingley Town Council*



## COVID-19 response



Photo: courtesy of Deborah Clarke.

As the country went into lockdown in March, Bingley Town Council adapted quickly to the new regulations. Staff have been working from home managing Council business and all Council meetings are taking place digitally via Zoom.

The Council has worked closely with the Bingley and Bingley Rural Ward Coronavirus Resilience Group, Bingley Food Bank and Bradford Metropolitan District Council Covid Response Group. These groups have recruited over 200 volunteers, who have shopped, collected, delivered, befriended and generally demonstrated a wonderful empathetic response, showing the strength of community spirit in Bingley. Residents have been extremely generous in their donations of food, care packages, books, magazines and puzzles to those in need.

Bingley Town Council wishes to thank all those who have been and continue to be involved in supporting families, neighbours and those in need in our community.

# Investing in Bingley...

## Work to smarten up the town continues

Plans are underway for more investment in the parish by Bingley Town Council. The Council is funding a programme to smarten up all the town's street furniture – with all the lamp-posts, railings and signposts in the town's conservation area and in adjacent streets painted heritage black.

The project, suggested by resident Darren Miller, and due to start in August and finish by the end of September, weather permitting, is one of many initiatives being undertaken by the Council to improve Bingley's appearance and appeal for residents, people who work in the town, and visitors, as well as helping the town get back on its feet after the coronavirus lockdown.

The Town Council is working hard to support our residents and local organisations through the pandemic. As well as liaising closely with Bradford Council, grant funds are available to local groups and schools.



Another initiative to regenerate the local area is the Town Council's funding of floral displays throughout the town and surrounding villages and provision of free plants to local horticultural groups and village societies. It's also working to re-provide public toilets in the town centre, has allocated £12,000 for a Changing Places facility, and has re-started its



Members of Action Stations, a group of volunteers supported by Bingley Town Council and other organisations, hard at work.

popular monthly farmers-style market, now in its third year.

The Council has also mapped all litter and grit bins in the parish, replaced dilapidated ones, and sponsors new bins where needed. To tackle litter, it's enlisted nearly 50 litter champions who, along with those who've taken part in the pre-Covid Council-organised community litter picks, have been loaned free equipment and removed over a thousand bags of rubbish from the parish. The Council is also working with the Canal and River Trust and Bradford Council to replace street signage to make it easier for visitors to find the famous Five Rise Locks on the Leeds-Liverpool canal.

In addition, the Council operates a grants scheme which has so far given nearly £60,000 to support many community organisations over the last four years, including several that are helping to regenerate the town and its amenities: these have included Action Stations, which has made huge improvements to Bingley and Crossflatts railway stations, and the Friends of

Bingley Pool who are working to keep open the facility by transferring it into community management.

As well as the grants scheme, as Bingley has a Town Council, the parish also now has access to money raised through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a charge raised on development. Bingley receives 15% of CIL which currently amounts to £19,267. Guided by residents' wishes, expressed in the consultation in September 2019, the Town Council is hoping to use this funding on Bingley Pool, parks and green spaces, and initiatives to combat climate change. Groups will need to apply for grants to receive this funding, the spending of which is governed by Government legislation.

At a strategic level, the Council is developing a Neighbourhood Plan, to help shape development in the parish until 2030.

**More details about many of these projects are covered elsewhere in this Annual Report newsletter.**

# How your money was spent 2019 – 2020

## Reserves

**£133,991**

## Receipts

**£208,535**

## Payments

**£141,601**

## Carried forward

**£200,925**

### Income

£

Precept	172,540
Council Tax Support Grant	10,263
Bradford Council Allotment	
Support Grant	2,865
Allotment rent	2,247
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	1,647
CAT contribution	1,000
CIL	16,536
Donations	250
Bank interest	1,188

**Total**

**208,535**

### Expenditure

Salaries and staff costs	52,430
Subscriptions	2,221
Office costs and administration	24,461
Elections	8,199
Seasonal, including Christmas lights	5,768
Neighbourhood Plan	2,473
Allotments	1,753
Emergency (including grit bins)	1,030
Green & Clean (including floral displays)	14,060
Tourism and Regeneration (includes market and Play in the Park)	6,603
Project management costs	4,467
Grants	18,136

**Total**

**141,601**

**Balance carried forward**

**200,925**

*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](mailto:townclerk@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

Phone  
07703 188660

### Grants to Community Groups

£

Action Stations	£500
Support for Incredible Edibles project and wooden planters	
Airedale Counselling	£1,974
Contribution towards counselling Bingley residents	
Bingley Chamber of Trade	£2,000
Contribution to Christmas Fayre	
Bingley Little Theatre	£2,000
Cinema screen and contribution to publicity materials	
Bingley Remembrance Group	£342
Provision of PA system for Remembrance Parade	
Bingley Sea Scouts	£1,680
Safety equipment, buoyancy aids and helmets	
Community Action BFD and District	£2,000
Replacement floor	
Cottingley Community Association	£1,800
Replace raised bed with stone wall at Cottingley Green	
Crossflatts Primary School PTA	£912
Specialist safety signage	
Crossflatts Village Society	£1,728
Items for local events, plus storage shed	
Eldwick Scout & Guide Group	£2,000
Contribution to new boiler	
Friends of Myrtle Park	£500
Materials for Easter Event	
Jerr Wood	£100
Donation to community event	
Plastic Free Bingley	£100
Room hire and T-shirts	
Time to Talk	£500
Contribution to counselling of Bingley young people	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,136</b>

# Grant funding – does your community group need help to cover additional costs of COVID-19?

The Town Council has funding through its donations and small grants schemes to help organisations that are incurring additional costs due to the pandemic. If you are in need of a grant to help you purchase PPE or sanitiser so that you can continue to run your activities or you need other equipment or support to instigate new ways of operating, please get in touch with the office.



## The following grants have been awarded in recent months:



- **Crossflatts Primary School PTA – £912**  
To provide six specialist road safety signs.








- **Down Syndrome Training & Support Service – £2,000**  
Towards the cost of new carpets at the charity's premises at the Pamela Sunter Centre, Whitley Street, Bingley.








## New Bingley hub

The work to convert the former public toilet block in Jubilee Gardens began on 18 May and is expected to finish by the end of August, when it will result in a new office for the Town Council and two standalone, accessible toilets.

Despite the pandemic, the contractors, Building Projects Group, have made excellent progress. After the initial strip-out and internal works, the most obvious changes are the new windows and doors and the larch cladding, which will darken over time. At the time of writing, much of the



flooring is in place and final fittings are awaited for the toilets. Some external decoration is needed and signage and maintenance contracts are under consideration. It is hoped to have a small-scale formal opening of the new premises in early October.

## Incinerator permit objection



Photo: Courtesy Maia Fascone

Bingley Town Council objected strongly to the Environment Agency's decision that it's ' minded to' grant a permit for the operation of a municipal waste incinerator at Marley, near Keighley. As well as filing its objections with the EA, the Town Council wrote to all other town and parish councils in the Bradford district drawing attention to the decision and urging them to take action. The company that wants to build and operate the plant was also invited to a Town Council meeting to talk about their plans but no response has so far been forthcoming. Bingley Town Council is extremely concerned about the adverse impacts of the proposed waste incinerator on air quality, noise and health in the Aire Valley and further afield, as well as the way the EA's consultation has been carried out during the pandemic.

# Bingley market restarts

Bingley Town Council was thrilled to be able to reopen the monthly market on Saturday 1 August, Yorkshire Day.

A beautiful August day saw many shoppers browse and buy the excellent goods on offer. There were new stalls - East Morton Table Top Preserves, Swillington's Organic Sausages, The Crusty Pie Company and Rita's Indian Street Food Kitchen - as well as old friends such as Yorkshire Blankets, Wood's Brownies, Higher Ground Coffee, Kevin the Cheeseman and Carol, the florist. The Friends of Bingley Pool also had a stall to raise awareness and recruit members.

At the next markets, we expect to host more returning stallholders and hope that live



entertainment, including favourites like The Heaton Hillbillies, Cornell Daley, Dave Prater and Theo Leleux, will soon be permitted to join us to brighten our Saturday.

COVID-19 distancing and hygiene measures were in place and observed by visitors.



## Bingley's Neighbourhood Plan *Update*

**Work on Bingley's Neighbourhood Plan was paused due to the pandemic but is now back on track.**

The Plan is being developed to establish a vision for the parish for the next ten years and to help deliver the community's aspirations and respond to needs. A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document that will be incorporated into the district planning frameworks and must be used by City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC) when determining planning applications. An agreed Plan will also mean that Bingley will benefit from 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy charged on development in our parish.

The Plan is nearing completion now, thanks to work over the last two years by residents and Town Councillors who form the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, established by the Town Council. Thanks too to all the residents who took part in the initial consultation on the plan last September.

As well as thousands of pounds of government grant funding for the development of the plan, Bingley Town Council secured technical support to enable infrastructure specialists AECOM to create a masterplan for the parish and a design code for the town centre. The Town Council will be working with AECOM on these for the rest of 2020.

It's hoped the draft Plan will be considered by CBMDC in 2021 as well as a six week statutory consultation with residents. After comments have been considered, a formal independent assessment will be carried out by a Government appointed inspector. The next stage is a residents' referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. If supported, the Plan then becomes law and will carry significant weight in how planning applications are decided.

The latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan is on the Bingley Town Council website.



Markets in 2020:

**5 September  
3 October  
7 November  
5 December**

# Floods in February



On February 9, Bingley suffered flooding after a week of extremely heavy rain. Affected areas were: Aire View Avenue; Ash Grove; Beckfoot Bridge; Bradford and Bingley Sports Club; Castlefields Lane; Ferrand Lane; Grange Park Drive, Harden; The Malt Shovel and Beck Cottage; Harecroft; Ireland Bridge; *The Brown Cow*; *The White Horse*; Riverside Court; St Ives Equestrian Centre; Stonegate; and Crack Lane and Woodside Crescent, Wilsden. Seven domestic properties were affected. The River Aire flooded at various points, but many of the problems were caused on higher ground by run-off from the moors.

Bingley Town Council Emergency Response Group and Bingley Flood Response Facebook Group met at Bingley Fire Station and organised the many volunteers for sandbag distribution and communications with affected areas. Bradford Metropolitan District Council supplied Floodsax and sandbags.

The Town Council Emergency Support sub-committee has produced a responsive and flexible Emergency Plan for the district and this is being updated in the light of the floods and the pandemic.

# Bingley Pool Update

## New transfer date

As a result of the pandemic, Bradford Metropolitan District Council has agreed to extend the deadline for the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Bingley Pool to the Friends of Bingley Pool (FOBP) until September 2021.



This is excellent news for Bingley. The Friends, who are leading and responsible for the CAT and will be running the pool, continue to make progress. This includes recruiting trustees with relevant expertise and knowledge of managing and developing sports facilities, and developing plans to make Bingley Pool the fantastic community amenity the people of Bingley want and deserve.

Bingley Town Council has ongoing dialogue with the trustees of FOBP and previously provided a grant of £5,600 to cover costs of an electrical survey of the building and a consultant's feasibility study. FOBP are aware of the Town Council's grant scheme and budgetary process, and the Council's commitment to supporting efforts to keep open the pool.

## Bingley's Green & Clean Champions – 48 and counting!

One of the concerns residents reported even before Bingley Town Council came into being in 2016 was the amount of littering in the parish. The Council moved quickly to take action on this and ran its first community litter pick in Myrtle Park in August 2016. To date, over 1,000 bags of rubbish have been removed from Bingley's streets.

It also quickly became clear that there was an appetite from some people for greater involvement, and so the Green and Clean Champion scheme began. Individual volunteers are equipped with their own litter picker, gloves and supply of refuse sacks and left to do as much or as little as they choose – there is no compulsion or expectation. Some people



Some of our Green & Clean Champions!

incorporate litter picking into their walks, others go out to clear their own patch on a regular

basis. Over the past few months, demand has grown as more people have discovered the green spaces and paths local to them.

Bingley now has an amazing 48 Champions and the Council is very grateful to all of them for all the work that they do to keep Bingley beautiful. We don't have enough space to mention them all by name, and we would want to recognise other residents who are not part of the scheme but have been litter picking independently for many years. To celebrate their achievements, here are some photos of Champions either in action or champing at the bit!

**Interested in becoming a Green and Clean Champion? Please contact the Town Clerk.**

# Hope you've enjoyed this newsletter!

This annual report newsletter is being delivered to every household in Bingley parish – including all homes in Bingley, Cottingley, Crossflatts, Eldwick, Gilstead and Micklethwaite. If you know any household that hasn't received one, please let the Town Clerk know. The newsletter will be available to pick up in shops and community venues too.

It's always a pleasure to talk about all the progress in Bingley and this newsletter is just one of the many ways Bingley Town Council enables residents to keep in touch with what's happening at the Council and the many organisations it supports – and for residents to ask questions and share their views and ideas.

## Here's how to keep up to date with our work and share your views:

### • Bingley Town Council meetings

All are held in public (via zoom at the moment) and anyone can attend and participate (20 minutes is allocated for public comment and participation at the start of each meeting).

### • Bingley Town Council website

All documents including agendas, minutes, policies, financial information and news updates are available on the Town Council's website: [www.bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

### • Monthly e-newsletter

Subscribe via the website to the monthly e-newsletter. Currently, we have over 600 subscribers but we'd love to reach thousands. If you already subscribe please enlist a family member or friend.

### • Facebook

All the latest Council news is posted on its Facebook page, [@BingleyTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/BingleyTownCouncil), plus links to minutes of the full Council meetings and agendas.

'Like'  our page for updates.

### • Twitter

[@bingleycouncil](https://twitter.com/bingleycouncil) is also used to post information. At the moment, it's concentrating on sharing messages to tackle Covid-19.

• **Noticeboards** Key information is also pinned in community noticeboards around the parish.

• **Monthly market** Councillors are always on hand at the markets run by Bingley Town Council on the first Saturday of each month (except January).

• **Contact the Clerk or your Councillor** Details of office opening hours are on the website and Facebook page.



## Contact your Councillor

**Dale Barton** – Crow Nest – Liberal Democrat  
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**Ros Dawson** – Priestthorpe – Independent  
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**Rachael Drucquer** – Crossflatts & Micklethwaite – Green Party  
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To contact the Town Clerk at Bingley Town Council, please email [enquiries@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 07703 188660