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Dear resident...

Welcome everyone to the 2022 Annual Report of the Town Council. It has been a steady year with minimal changes of Councillors until just before the May 2023 elections when Councillor Ros Dawson resigned and Councillors Dale Barton and Lewis Kirdale did not restand. Thanks to each of them for the time and effort they expended on behalf of Bingley.

All 16 Town Councillor positions were up for election on 4 May 2023. 14 candidates stood, all were elected unopposed, so no ballot was required. We have one new Councillor, William Gentleman, and are working to fill the two remaining vacancies by co-option.

Council Activity Highlights

These are covered in detail in this report, but highlights for me are:

- Maintaining the precept for this coming year at last years' level.
- Continuation of litter picks, with a stalwart group of people turning out in all weathers to clean up Bingley. Provision of summer and winter bedding plants to local groups for village planting. All driven by Councillor John Goode, who has been unflinching in his mission to ensure the parish is green and clean.
- Christmas lights were provided for main shopping areas in the parish with Christmas trees for the market square, Eldwick and Gilstead.
- The Changing Places toilet was opened in March, completing the provision of public toilets for all the townspeople.
- Continuation of work on our Neighbourhood Plan.
- Play-in-the-Park events were held across the parish providing free days out for families.

During the year we stopped our monthly Farmer's Market as we were struggling to get stalls and consequently, footfall. These have now been taken over by the Artisan Market which is held in the Market Square every Saturday. Please continue to support the market as the numbers of stalls and footfall are directly related – we won't get one without the other.

Regeneration Update

Whilst the Bingley Levelling-Up Bid was not successful, Bradford do have some thoughts on what could be done to improve the town centre with development centering on the Town Hall and Pool. However, how this could be delivered remains under consideration. There is a possibility

of a third round of Levelling-Up funding, but no indication of what might be eligible, and doubtless with a prolonged timescale. A social enterprise has made a development proposal, but its needs appear to conflict with public procurement law. We remain supportive of the aim of Friends of Bingley Pool – to ensure that Bingley retains a community swimming, health and well-being facility.

Priestthorpe Annex – 1887 Alfred Sharpe Trust Fund

The charitable trust has been set up and is overseen by Bradford Council. The fund has been split into six amounts of £30k, ringfenced for Beckfoot, Hazelbeck, Myrtle Park, St Joseph's, Trinity All Saints and Eldwick schools; the seventh amount, a £40k discretionary fund, is open to applications that further the educational advancement of adults and children. In all cases the applicant must be sited within the original Bingley Improvement District. Application forms are available from the Ward Officer at Shipley Area office. Applications are evaluated by a panel consisting of the three Bingley Ward Councillors, one Councillor from Bingley Rural Ward, and the Chair of Bingley Town Council.

So far, seven applications have been received and four have been approved:

- £2,070 for Downs Syndrome Training & Support Services from the discretionary fund for the provision of Learning Support Packs.
- £30,000 for Myrtle Park Primary School for the set-up of the 'reading for pleasure project' which will provide modern books to engage pupils in reading and the desire to read; provision of books for class libraries and the provision of iPads for two classes of children to support learning and provide access to digital technology.
- £10,000 for Trinity All Saints Primary School for an outdoor learning space and shelter to enable delivery of early years foundation skills to pupils.
- £30,000 for Hazelbeck Special School for the provision of a new sensory room which will provide a safe and calming environment that stimulates the senses and supports the development of cognitive, social, and emotional skills for pupils.

Best wishes,
Cllr Philippa Gibbons
Chair,
Bingley Town Council



Changing Places Toilet now open

Bingley's new Changing Places Toilet was officially opened on Saturday 4th March. The facility is in the centre of Bingley alongside the accessible toilets in Myrtle Place.



Carers and people with disabilities now have the freedom and confidence to visit our town knowing there is a suitable facility nearby which has equipment such as hoists, a shower, adult-sized changing bench and plenty of space for wheelchairs or mobility aids.

The Changing Places facility was partly funded by a grant of £20,000 from the Government's Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, generous donations from two local companies, Sovereign Health Care and Don Whitley Scientific Ltd, and the remainder was raised by the Precept over a period of four years.

The Town Council would like to thank the members of the Changing Places Working Group for their commitment to this cause, including Darryl Smith, Fiona Dunne, and current and former councillors Steve Williams, Lewis Kirdale, Mick Taylor, Mark Truelove and Abdul Malik.

The Town Council would also like to acknowledge and thank Bradford Council and Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK) for all their help and support along with Astor Bannerman and Healthmatics for this marvellous facility.

Bingley Town Council Events Diary

August 2023		
Fri 4 - Sun 6	pm	Bingley Weekender.
Fri 4	11am-3pm	Play in the Park at Myrtle Park.
Sun 6	2pm-4pm	Guiseley Brass Band Concert at Myrtle Park Bandstand.
Tue 8	6.30pm	Planning Committee meeting, The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.
Wed 9	6.30pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.
Fri 11	11am-3pm	Play in the Park at Crossflatts Rec.
Sat 12	10am-12pm	Community Litter Pick - meet at Bingley Rugby Club entrance, Wagon Lane.
Fri 18	11am-3pm	Play in the Park at Cottingley Rec.
Fri 25	11am-3pm	Play in the Park at Eldwick Rec.
Tue 29	6.30pm	Full Council meeting, Eldwick Memorial Hall.

September 2023		
Fri 1	11am-3pm	Play in the Park at Myrtle Park.
Sun 3	2pm-4pm	Bradford Band Concert at Myrtle Park Bandstand.
Tue 12	6.30pm	Planning Committee meeting, The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.
Wed 13	6.30pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.
Tue 26	6.30pm	Full Council meeting - location tbc.
Sat 30	10am-12pm	Community Litter Pick - location tbc.

October 2023		
Tue 10	6.30pm	Planning Committee meeting, The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.
Wed 11	6.30pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.
Tue 24	6.30pm	Full Council meeting - location tbc.

Cottingley - new raised beds



During the year 2022-23, Bingley Town Council commissioned the work to refurbish three raised flower beds on Cottingley Green, the funding for which was covered by the Town Council's CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) pot.

Cottingley Community Association Gardening Group and residents of Cottingley have expressed their gratitude to the Town Council for this work, as this major investment has eliminated the need for any on-going structural maintenance, and

without it they would have been unable to sustain the cost of repairs, due to the rapid deterioration of the wooden structures. The volunteers of Cottingley Community Association Gardening Group can now safely continue their work, to maintain the appearance of this widely appreciated and well used space, for both residents and visitors to enjoy.



How your money was spent 2022 – 2023

Opening balance

£164,307

Receipts

£286,292

Payments

£282,349

Carried forward

£168,250

Income

£

• Precept	237,457
• Bradford Council Allotment Support Grant	2,552
• Allotment rent	2,544
• Grants/donations (Includes £9,035 insurance received for damage to Hub building, £20,000 Changing Places grant, Locality grant of £5,203 towards the Neighbourhood Plan and £4,000 grant from Bradford Council for Cottingley)	39,073
• Toilet cash	1,990
• Bank interest	2,676

Total

286,292

Payments

• Salaries and staff costs	102,125
• Payroll admin costs	664
• Training	1,606
• Recruitment	192
• Bank charges	184
• Audits	1,160
• Travel and subsistence	250
• Subscriptions	3,650
• Insurance	2,433
• Running costs: office	8,030
• Other office and administrative costs	2,830
• Room hire	714
• Running costs: toilets	21,696
• Changing Places facility (Includes £20,000 grant received to contribute towards this cost)	39,838
• Repairs and maintenance (Includes £9,035 towards cost of damage to building, covered by insurance)	10,400
• PWLB loan repayment	10,226
• IT support	4,230
• IT equipment	2,770
• Newsletter/publicity	3,024
• Seasonal (including Christmas lights) (Includes spend of £4,000 grant for Cottingley)	13,694
• Neighbourhood Plan (Includes Locality grant of £5,203)	12,365
• Allotments	5,266
• Emergency (including grit bins)	400
• Green & Clean (including floral displays)	21,394
• Tourism and Regeneration	703
• Grants to local groups	12,505

Total Expenditure

282,349

Balance carried forward

168,250

Small amounts of rounding have been allowed in these figures.

Grant funding

The Town Council has a Grants Policy which supports local organisations and voluntary groups in the parish.

The following grants were awarded in 2022-23:



Bingley Five Rise Frocks (Women's Institute) – £250

Towards the cost of the restoration of the Jubilee Stone.



Friends of Prince of Wales Park – £250

Towards the cost portaloos at the carnival of fun and games held in July 2022.



Bingley Chamber of Trade – £1,303.50

50% of costs towards the Yorkshire Day event.



Bingley Remembrance Group – £500

Towards supporting the annual Remembrance Sunday event.



Bingley Little Theatre – £2,000

Towards supporting a back-up projector for the Community Cinema run for the parish residents of Bingley.

Eldwick Juniors Football Club – £1,764

Towards the cost of new LED flood lights to replace the old flood lights.



Bingley Chamber of Trade – £3,816.50

50% of the costs for the Christmas lights switch-on event.



Eldwick and Gilstead Horticultural Society Allotments – £425

Towards the purchase of equipment to maintain all hedging on allotment site at Warren Lane.



Bingley Music Town Group – £492.40

Start-up grant to help cover the costs of meetings and publicity and promotional material.



Friends of Myrtle Park – £1,703.99

Towards the cost of 20 new stackable chairs for the Park Hub.

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

Email
townclerk@bingletowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone
 07529 222679

The Town Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups

Bingley Town Council currently has four Committees:

- Events, Marketing & Communications Committee
- Finance & General Purposes Committee
- Planning Committee
- Staffing Committee

and one Sub-Committee of the Finance & General Purposes Committee:

- Emergency Support Sub-Committee

It also has one Working Group, which reports to the Full Council:

- Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

The membership of the Committees, Sub-Committee and Working Group is as follows:

- **Finance & General Purposes Committee**
 Councillors Fenton, Gentleman, Gibbons (Vice Chair), Goode, Heseltine, Truelove, Williams and Winnard (Chair).

- **Planning Committee**
 Councillors Clough (Chair), Drucquer, Fenton, Gentleman, Gibbons, Heseltine (Vice Chair), Miah and Truelove.

- **Staffing Committee**
 Councillors Clough (Vice Chair), Gentleman, Gibbons, Malik, Truelove and Winnard (Chair).

- **Emergency Support Sub-Committee**
 Councillors Clough, Drucquer, Fenton and Heseltine.

- **Events, Marketing & Communications Committee**
 Councillors Carney (Vice Chair), Druquer, Forrest, Gibbons (Chair) and Goode and non-councillor members Chris O'Neill, Jane Stone and Lynne Williams.

- **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**
 Councillors Drucquer, Forrest, Gibbons (Vice Chair), Heseltine, Truelove and Williams (Chair), and non-councillor members John Dekker, Andrew Quarrie, Tony Urwin, Martyn Weaver and Lynne Williams.



Groups and organisations that have received grant funding from Bingley Town Council include Bingley Five Rise Frocks (WI); Friends of Prince of Wales Park; Bingley Little Theatre; Eldwick Juniors FC; Bingley Music Town Group and Friends of Myrtle Park.

Bingley Christmas Lights

Bingley Town Council has, as promised, all but completed its task of installing Christmas lights in the villages around Bingley, with the exception of Micklethwaite which will be installed for Christmas 2023.

We trust that the installation of the Christmas trees in Gilstead and Eldwick bring cheer to these villages and makes them feel part of the wider Bingley community. We have also supported the Christmas decorations in Cottingley. A big thank you to



Bradford Festival Lights and its subcontractor Charlestown (installer of the lights) for its support in making it all happen. A big thanks also goes to all Councillors for their continued help and support throughout the year.

GREEN & CLEAN REPORT 2022 - 2023



The main areas covered by Green & Clean this year were litter, plants and floral displays.

Litter



Bingley Town Council continued to host regular community litter picks throughout the Parish in 2022/23. In a list of residents suggestions, 40% highlighted litter as a concern.

Bingley Town Council would be unable to continue its work towards improving the appearance of the whole of Bingley Parish without the continued support from our many volunteers, who attend our organised events, along with our army of Green & Clean Champions, who litter pick in their own local area, when it's convenient to them.

Litter pick information is

posted on the Bingley Town Council website and Facebook page, prior to each event.

Plants & Floral Displays



Twice a year, around twelve local community groups benefit from the distribution of FREE bedding plants, provided by Bingley Town Council. This allows them to create superb displays around the Parish for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors.

Bingley Town Council has commissioned contractors to supply and water the hanging baskets, tubs, tiered and barrier planters, owned by the Council.

Green & Clean Forums



In January, Bingley Town Council successfully hosted its first Green & Clean Forum since Covid. Thanks go to Richard Dawson, a local architect and a passionate environmental campaigner for Bingley, for his excellent presentation on energy efficiency in the home.

At the end of May, John Scott from Bradford Council gave a presentation on the introduction of Bradford's Clean Air Zone. The talk highlighted the necessity to improve air quality and the misunderstandings surrounding the scheme. This was followed by a positive discussion session, where attendees raised a number of environmental issues, along with some possible solutions.

Thank you from BTC



Many thanks to Richard and John for giving up their Saturday mornings to speak at our Green & Clean Forums. And to all the volunteers who have attended our litter picks throughout the year, and to all our Green & Clean Champions who continue to do an amazing job.

And to the members of our local voluntary/community groups: please keep up the good work. You're making an invaluable contribution to a Greener Cleaner Parish.

Bingley Precept Information

The precept is what residents pay on top of council tax to keep the Town Council operating. It enables us to provide services and projects which enhance Bingley as a place in which to live, work and visit.

Last year the precept was increased to £237,457 (which equated to £27.79 per Band D property annually, and was a rise of 25.9%). This year, the Town Council agreed at the budget meeting in January 2023 not to increase the precept in 2023-24: this was set at £238,242, which is £27.74 for a Band D property, and is a 0.19% decrease on last year's figure.

Our full budget for 2023-24 can be found on the Town Council's website. If anyone has any questions regarding the budget for 2023-24 and the precept, please contact the Town Clerk on: townclerk@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk.

The following projects will be supported by the precept this year:

- **Operating costs to subsidise the public toilets in the town centre, including the new build Changing Places facility.**
- **Provision of grants to local groups and voluntary organisations.**
- **To facilitate the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan.**
- **Provision of plants to local groups around the parish.**
- **Provision of Christmas trees and Christmas lights in the parish.**
- **Provision of Speed Indicator Devices in the parish.**

Bingley Neighbourhood Plan *Update*

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Bingley is almost complete. The document is now in an illustrated, readable format and we have completed the required Policy Map and it is ready for approval by the Council.

The next step in the long path to approval will be the formal consultation, known as the Regulation 14 Consultation, and this will take place soon. It is envisaged that it will probably take most of the new municipal year to complete the

necessary consultations with the public, Bradford Council, the regulatory bodies and independent examiner prior to its adoption.

The Regulation 14 Consultation will involve a survey, and postcards will be posted to all residents of Bingley Parish giving details of how to comment. There will also be several open days organised at the Hub and hard copies of the documents will be made available to read.



Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

The Town Council is currently liaising with Bradford Council to arrange for three Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to be placed around the parish, and to agree their locations. These will be funded by the Town Council.



Play in the Park – Summer 2023

Bingley Town Council covered the cost of six Play in the Park events around the parish in the summer of 2022.

These events are facilitated by Bradford Council and offer free entertainment for local families.

We are now pleased to announce that, after last year's success and popularity, Play in the Park is returning this summer with six more dates.

There will be fun and games for all ages including rounders, mini-golf, swing ball, bouncy castles and much more to keep kids entertained throughout the summer holidays from 11am to 3pm on the following days:

- **Friday 28th July 2023**
Gilstead Recreation Ground
- **Friday 4th August 2023**
Myrtle Park
- **Friday 11th August 2023**
Crossflatts Recreation Ground
- **Friday 18th August 2023**
Cottingley Recreation Ground
- **Friday 25th August 2023**
Eldwick Recreation Ground
- **Friday 1st September 2023**
Myrtle Park

Bring a picnic and spend the day enjoying some quality time with your loved ones and free entertainment.



Contact your Councillor

Robert Beckwith – Crownest - Independent

07504 697043 robert.beckwith@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Maureen Carney – Crossflatts & Micklethwaite – Independent

07707 326560 maureen.carney@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Howard Clough – Cottingley – Conservative

07939 023377 howard.clough@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Rachael Drucquer – Bingley Central and Myrtle Park – Green Party

07708 507679 rachael.drucquer@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Andrew Fenton – Priestthorpe – Independent

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Michael Forrest – Crownest – Independent

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Bill Gentleman – Priestthorpe – Independent

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Philippa Gibbons – Crossflatts and Micklethwaite – Independent

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John Goode – Cottingley – Independent

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David Heseltine – Eldwick – Conservative

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Ashraf Miah – Cottingley – Independent

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Mark Shaw – Gilstead – Independent

07582 101479 mark.shaw@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 Bingley Town Council, please email enquiries@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk or call the Town Clerk on **07529 222679**