

Horsforth Town Council



Annual Report 2012

**Horsforth Town Council's Annual
Report for April 2011 to March 2012**

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1. Chairman's Comments

During the 12 years since the first election in 1999, Horsforth Town Council, through the 22 Councillors who serve the 5 wards, continues to serve the local community in matters of Community Affairs, Environment issues, Public Safety and issues to do with Planning and Licensing applications. Overview and management of Council matters is conducted by the Finance and General Purposes committee.

1. Present Situation

a) The Community Committee gave £2395 in grants to local organisations, and groups. The committee also made 3 Good Citizens awards to local residents for their work in the community. An editorial committee monitored the 4 editions of "Horsforth Matters", and due to financial constraints, postponed publication of the Horsforth Directory to 2013. 2 sub committees worked on the Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of HMS Aubretia in October 2012, and the celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee to be held in June 2012.

b) The Environment Committee continued its work in maintaining and clearing footpaths and ginnels. It also provided hanging baskets for the Spring and Summer seasons. With financial support from Leeds City Ward Councillors, the committee organised the Switch on of the Christmas tree lights. It also provided and maintained a planter with shrubs at the junction of Broadgate Lane and King Edward Avenue.

c) The Public Safety Committee works with the local Pub Watch, West Yorkshire Police (including the PCSO's) to monitor activities in the Horsforth area. The committee match funds 2 PCSO's working in Horsforth, and has paid for police overtime. Traffic Safety measures include monitoring of the use of the Speed Indication Device (SID) in particular hotspots, and the use of a laser speed gun. The committee also helped fund, proportionately, the traffic survey of the A65 by the Wharfedale and Airedale Review Development (WARD). It also helped fund a Crimestoppers leaflet on "Reducing Crime".

d) The Planning and Licensing Committee looked at 148 planning applications between April 2011 & April 2012. In 18 instances comments were made about the proposed applications. Most applications were mainly residential extensions. April 2012 saw the implementation of the Localism Act. The Committee will need to consider the implications for Horsforth.

e) Finance and General Purposes Committee manages the Council's budget and spending. It considers procedural issues and makes recommendations to the Full Council. This committee assesses the financial need of the Council and recommends to the Full Council, the level of Precept for the following year. On the recommendation of the Community Committee, the Finance and General Purposes Committee makes additional grant funding to local organisations and groups, above the level authorised by the Community Committee. This committee also monitors the Council's progress to Quality Council Status.

2. Changes

a) The Council propose to amalgamate the Community and Environment committees in 2012-2013 to provide a more structured, integrated and financially rigorous approach to community matters.

b) The committee will oversee the maintenance of the new Diamond Jubilee garden, next to the Old Library. The Garden includes a Children's mosaic, seating and a town notice board.

c) Due to financial constraints and to provide best value, the Council will bring the publication of Horsforth Matters "in house".

d) To finance Horsforth Matters, the element of the Community budget which covers this publication will be viaed to the Administration budget to cover the cost of an Assistant to the Town Clerk. The duties of the Assistant will include publicity and media, and the upgrading of the Council website. In these terms the additional post will be cost neutral.

e) The Planning Committee will consider the implications of the Localism Act, and the need, if any, for developing strategies to continue to protect Horsforth from further invasive development.

Jude Arbuckle

Chair

Horsforth Town Council

2. Committee Reports

2.1 Environment Committee

The Committee had three main areas of service to deliver in 2011/2012:

- ❖ Providing the Christmas lights.
- ❖ Providing and maintaining the hanging baskets and other floral contributions in town.
- ❖ Clearing 27 public rights of way.

This year the Christmas lights were provided and installed by Leeds City Council. Town Street, Station Road, The Old Ball Roundabout, New Road Side and Alexandra Road all had lights which were turned on at about 4.30pm every evening.

As usual March and June saw the arrival of the hanging baskets and other floral displays across Horsforth. A programme of bulb planting along verges was continued by the Horsforth in Bloom Committee.

A long standing contract is also in place with a local company to clear and maintain 27 public rights of way in the town. Leeds City Council maintains the remainder. These were cleared twice this year in late spring and in autumn.

A planter with shrubs and flora has been provided for the traffic island at the junction with Broadgate Lane and King Edward Avenue. Work to tidy the Old Ball roundabout is to be carried out shortly.

Leeds City Council have contracted a new company to carry out the ground maintenance, Horsforth Town Council will be monitoring this contract.

Councillor Geoff Kneeshaw
Chair of Environment Committee.

2.2 Community Committee

It doesn't seem a year ago since our last AGM. But from a very busy committee which seems to work from one large event to another, I think I can safely say that a normal year without any external event would be welcome.

List of Grants awarded

❖ Horsforth Churches Together – Hope in the Park	£150
❖ Friends of Horsforth Children's Centre	£295
❖ Horsforth Cricket Club (Juniors)	£500
❖ Broadfield Community	£150
❖ 9 th Airedale Scout Group	£200
❖ Girlguiding Horsforth	£200
❖ Horsforth Mini Bus Fund	£300
❖ Horsforth Beer Festival	£300
❖ Cragg Hill & Woodside Residents Group	£300
Total grants Awarded	£2,395

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is new to the Community Committee as it allows certain Horsforth Groups to come yearly and get support from the Town Council.

In 2012 the council has already sponsored;

❖ Horsforth in Bloom	£500
❖ Friends of Hall Park, Bands in Hall Park	£500

The standing orders of the Town Council set out the criteria by which all grants can be made. The number of grants, in the past year from May to 2010 to March 2011, is 17.

All these have been made within the budget set by the Full Council. As with the other committees, the Community budget for next year is capped.

Breakdown of the Community Budget:

❖ Grants	£5,000
❖ Sponsorship	£3,000
❖ Award Scheme	£100
❖ Civic Reception	£200
❖ Special Project	£2,000
❖ Contingency fund	<u>£1,700</u>
	<u>£12,000</u>

Also this year we broke with tradition by awarding three “Good Citizen” awards.

These were awarded too:

Joan Relph an active member of Horsforth in Bloom.

Jan Hardy Post Mistress at Alexandra Road Post Office for going beyond her official duties to her customers.

Dr Brian Boffey who is a volunteer mini bus driver with a range of social origination’s in Horsforth. For those who don’t know Dr Boffey invented Jelly Tots.

At the moment the Community Sub-Committee is hard at work with the Queens Diamond Jubilee. And so ends another very eventful year.

Sylvia Whitlock
Chair of Community

2.3 Public Safety & Traffic Committee

This year we have been working with West Yorkshire Police to reduce crime, anti social behaviour and people's fear of crime. West Yorkshire Police have held regular workshops in the library for residents to call in and discuss any issues or problems they may have.

Funding has been provided for the provision of two Police Community Support Officers, (PCSO's), to work in Horsforth and provide a higher police presence on the streets.

PCSO's have worked at reducing the speed on Horsforth roads by deploying the speed indication device which helps to deter drivers from speeding and making our roads unsafe.

This year the Committee used some of its budget to purchase police overtime to carry out random Speed Checks using laser speed guns. This was a great success with the speed hot spots being targeted. Drivers were soon taking notice and curbed their speed in those areas.

This year the Committee has contributed to WARD (Wharfedale Airedale Review Development) in respect of road surveys and to Crimestoppers to assist with cost in respect of producing crime leaflets.

The Committee continues to work closely and meets regularly with the Horsforth Pub Watch Group. This group has had a good deal of success with a firm network of publicans now enlisted as members and playing an active part in our neighbourhoods.

Councillor Ian Scott
Chair of Public Safety & Traffic Committee

2.4 Planning & Licensing Committee

From April 2011 to March 2012 the Planning Committee looked at 148 applications. These covered a wide variety of requests.

- ❖ Residential
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Library
- ❖ Change of use – Residential
Non Residential
- ❖ Time Extensions
- ❖ Illuminated Signs
- ❖ Licensing Hours
- ❖ Air Conditioning
- ❖ Communication Casts
- ❖ Large Developments
- ❖ Lighting
- ❖ Sports
- ❖ Shop/Commercial Development

Within each category the numbers were as follows:

Type of Application	Number of Applications
Residential	105
Education	2
Change of use - Residential	1
Change of use – Non Residential	8
Time Extensions	1
Illuminated Signs	7
Licensing Hours	1
Air Conditioning	1
Communication Masts	1
Large Developments	1
Lighting	0
Sports	1
Shop/Commercial Development	8

From these applications the Planning Committee made comments on 16.

From all the applications 12 were within the 3 conservation areas.

Type of Application	Comments	Conservation Area	No Comments	No Docs
Residential	11	2	83	10
Education	0		2	1
Change of use Residential		1	1	
Change of use Non Residential	2	3	6	
Time Extensions			1	
Illuminated Signs		1	7	
Licensing Hours				
Air Conditioning			1	
Communication Masts			1	
Large Developments	1			
Lighting				
Sports			1	
Shop/Commercial Development	2	5	6	

Applications during the past year are very similar in number to the previous 12 months. The diversity of these applications again is consistent with other years. However the influences of the Localism Act have encouraged some residential developers to anticipate the implementation of the Act. During the year, there was 1 medium scale residential application, a large scale residential appeal which went to the Government Inspectorate, and in the very near future, a further appeal for development within one of the Conservation areas.

Councillors have attended a variety of training courses to do with the Localism Act and to do with different aspects of local government. During the year, local residents, and representatives from several different organisations, have given presentations to the Committee. We hope to have officers from Leeds City Council Planning Department speak to us about how Leeds will development the city's areas of responsibility under the new legislation and how Horsforth can, and will, be involved.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the Councillors and all contributors to the Planning Committee for their considered input, and to the Town Clerk for his tolerance with the vagaries of modern technology and the digressions of the Committee.

Kate Arbuckle
Chair of Planning and Licensing Committee

2.5 Finance & General Purpose Committee

The Finance & General Purposes Committee, better known as F&GP, deals with the general business of the Council. This Committee makes recommendations to the whole council on any actions that the whole council may need to make.

This committee looks at the Council's income and expenditure. It also discusses grants over £300 that are referred by the Community Committee.

F&GP also works out the budget for the following year. It advises the whole council the figure that the Council will need to pay for those projects and items that will be part of the services provided for Horsforth. Once agreed, this figure becomes the Precept – the amount that each household will pay in the forthcoming year.

This year, F&GP recommended that the budget of each committee remains capped, and that any increase in the precept is kept to a minimum. The current increase is 2%.

Jude Arbuckle
Chair of Finance & General Purpose

3. Finances

Income and Expenditure

2010/11	Income	2011/12
101,493.94	Precept	102,002.00
1,378.60	Bank Interest	892.03
	Grants received	22,700.00
	Other income	80.00
<u>102,872.54</u>		<u>125,594.03</u>
	Expenditure	
5,700	Grants from Reserves	140.00
5,914.93	Building & Property	363.60
32,542.88	Environment Committee	23,791.99
24,106.37	Community Committee	13,458.28
17,791.19	Public Safety Committee	26,735.00
00.00	Planning Committee	178.58
26,678.05	Staff Salaries, PAYE/NIC/Pen	29,899.52
1,015.28	Stationary	1,243.55
100.00	Advertising/Website	752.16
1,178.23	Miscellaneous Expenses	742.81
392.50	Office Equipment /Lease	400.00
00.00	Office Equipment Purchase	1,217.07
2,100	Rent/Rates	00.00
500.00	Utilities	00.00
00.00	Travelling	00.00
148.03	Postage & Carriage	96.48
426.32	Telephone	440.08
1,932.75	Audit & Accountancy Fees	2,060.25
1,380.00	Membership Fee	1,423.00
00.00	Equipment Hire	00.00
885.69	Insurance	854.72
5,403.67	Hall Park Bye Election	00.00
00.0	2011 Elections	15,239.95
13,000	Seating	00.00
1,700.00	Horsforth Mosaic	00.00
1,500.00	Office Legal & Survey Fees	00.00
00.00	Room Hire	381.00
00.00	Staff & Councillor Training	535.60
<u>144,395.89</u>	Total Payments	<u>119,953.64</u>
	Balances Held	
45,881.44	Current Account	45,445.46
<u>52,472.56</u>	Term Deposit	<u>50,892.03</u>
<u>98,354.00</u>	Total Balances Held	<u>96,337.49</u>

4. Councillor and Town Clerk Contact Details

Elected Members on the 5th of May 2011.

WARD	COUNCILLOR	CONTACT DETAILS
BROADFIELDS	Jonny Collett Conservative	Tel. 0113 258 4595 Email. jonathan.collett@btinternet.com
	John Garvani Labour	Tel. 0113 258 0988 Email. admin@horsforthtowncouncil.gov.uk
	Serena Glover Liberal Democrat	Tel. 0113 281 9799 Email. glover.serena@yahoo.co.uk
	John M Hardcastle Liberal Democrat	Tel. 0113 258 7451 Email. jacastle77@aol.com
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	Dawn Collins Conservative	Tel. 0113 250 2987 Email. dawn@zigzaglighting.co.uk
	Simon Ellis Labour	Tel. 0113 258 0988 Email. admin@horsforthtowncouncil.gov.uk
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	Geoff Kneeshaw Liberal Democrat	Tel. 0113 258 4894
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	Ted Hanley Labour	Tel. 0113 258 0988 Email: admin@horsforthtowncouncil.gov.uk
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