

Mayors Report for 2017-2018

Welcome to all those present at what is the third meeting of electors in our mammoth term of 6 years.

This last year has been a busy time and we have seen many changes. Both Councilor B. Keith and the Pavilion Manager J. Wallace stepped down and have been sadly missed. We now welcome Councilor I Smith to the fold and M. Gore as temporary Pavilion Manger.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan and the issues related thereto continues to take up much of the time for all Councilors who this year have also been working on the housing needs survey. This is the result of DMBC announcing the possibility of 165 houses being built potentially impacting both on possible infill and, indeed our Green Belt.

Tickhill Town Council wishes to ensure the residents of Tickhill, get what they need, not simply accept what DMBC or any developer propose.

Finance

Prudent control has continued to be exercised over the Council's finances with small savings made in many areas of budgeted expenditure, but due to the levy of DMBC of back dated business taxes not only on the Pavilion (which is a not a for profit letting environment) and the free car park, Tickhill Town Council finds themselves in a situation where the reserves have been heavily depleted. The plumbing to the pavilion has at last been upgraded to comply with the need for Legionella testing and the Buttercross has been repaired. Also, CCTV has been installed at the Pavilion in the hope of combatting antisocial behavior. All necessary expenditure but with an inevitable cost to the electorate. Lettings have stabilised at the Pavilion and we hope to continue to have regular bookings despite a small increase on the hourly hire fee.

The Council's existing finances are no longer sufficient to meet current and future commitments, and therefore it has been necessary to increase the precept.

STAFFING

This year we have witnessed a few changes with the caretakers and Pavilion Managers, and we now welcome Mark to the fold as temporary Pavilion Manger.

The Clerk has continued to give her fullest support but will be retiring from the position of Clerk by the end of the calendar year but retaining the role of Responsible Financial Officer. The council will look to employ a clerk

designate from May with a gradual, systematic handover of the role of clerk to that of Clerk and Pavilion Manager. The position will be advertised in the forthcoming month.

Neighbourhood Management Team.

Richard Marshall continues to cover our area and does so with the utmost diligence and his time is split with other areas when required. Neighbourhood management is now more hands on within the community, something Tickhill has been able to achieve. A big thank you is to be extended to Richard for his continued hard work and dedication. We will endeavor on our part to keep up communications and work with the very much, although reduced, successful and committed team. We give them our full support.

Traffic and Parking

We have at last seen the introduction of the 20mph speed zone at St Mary's school and Estfeld school areas, but drivers seem to disregard the need for consideration when dropping their children off at school. Other areas still leave a lot to be desired, but the council will keep pushing for improvement. Parking on pavements and grass verges is a problem and we continually seek a solution.

Christmas

As usual our Christmas festivities in the Town were a huge success and late night shopping proved to be its usual hit! Our annual Carol service was well attended with numbers increasing; we hope it will continue to go from strength to strength. The new Carol sheets were provided with support from a private donation from a local church. However, as the demand for Council support to so many initiatives by other grants and donations this will not be available in the next financial year.

Planning

Planning can be contentious, but our Neighbourhood plan continues to play an important part in our considerations. This enabling legislation has given us the power to decide the destiny of our own small Town but still needs the consent of DMBC who are however obliged to take our views into account!

Members of the Public are reminded of the opportunity to attend council meetings and inform the council of any developments which they may not approve of or even wish to support.

Tfest/Tickhill Together

Tfest was a very successful event and has put Tickhill on the map again this past year. A big thank you is to be extended to all the organisers who have given up their time and effort to stage this wonderful event.

Tickhill Together continue to thrive as a group giving us late night shopping, The Scarecrow festival and the 1940's Day.
A big thank you to all involved.

Youth Hub.

Thanks are to be extended to all those concerned for the forming of a Youth Hub which in turn has revitalized the what was known as the Institute. The newly named Tavern has provided a new venue and it is with the Tickhill Town Council's blessing that it continues to thrive.

Website

Five years ago, we introduced our first ever website. The resignation of Councilor Keith has provided the need to reflect on the best use for such a tool and now the council must look at what alternatives there may be. The old website could be difficult to update but published the minutes of the Council meetings, planning information etc., and it is the Council's intention the council to address the situation {as soon as possible.}

Tickhill in Bloom

The Tickhill in Bloom Group continue to give us delightful flower beds throughout the year and we must give a special thanks to the group. It is hoped they can continue with their sterling work. This year sees the award of the Silver Gilt. Thank you, Gillian, Margaret M and all the dedicated team you keep our Town looking lovely!

Litter Picker

The Volunteer Litter Picker has now been picking litter for almost 5 years. Thank you to Councilor Cannings for all his hard work and his continued dedication to the "Cause".

Awards

This year the Community Award was received by Karen Holmes for her work at The Hub and Young Person of the Year Award was received by two persons Sian Howells-White and Ella Ward.

The Alison Award for 11-25yr olds for Achievement was given to Charlotte Mickley.

Well done all, your achievements and dedication are very much appreciated. A special Mayor's award was introduced this year and was given to Lesley Nicholson for her sterling work at the Community library.

The Awards were made in December at the Mayors Reception; the afternoon was a huge success and was attended by Caroline Flint.

Thanks

I must thank all my Councillor colleagues and our indefatigable Clerk for their advice, expertise and continued commitment to the community over the last year. We could not possibly exist without them. All Councillors carry out their duties to their fullest potential and without remuneration or expenses, so thank you all.

We also thank our Borough Councilors for their continued commitment to our community.

Our staff at the Pavilion, as ever, have played a major role this year with their hard work and co-operation. It is not the easiest of work but fulfills a vital role in the community. Huge thanks to Andrea, Gillian and Sharon and Mark.

Finally I would also like to thank all residents who support the Council in so many different ways - particularly the members of the Advisory Committee – and to all those who contribute to our meetings and surveys.