

Mayors Report for 2018-2019

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

This last year, as ever, has been a busy one and one in which we have seen many changes. Councillors P. Woolston and G. Whitehead have stepped down to pursue new overseas ventures [totally unconnected with Brexit !] and Councilor Ian Henderson has taken his well-earned retirement but has kindly offered his continued and very welcome advice to Council on an ad hoc basis. Whilst all three have been sadly missed we have been delighted to welcome new Councilors H.Cork and P.Walker to the fold in their stead.

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. This has now been confirmed by DMBC that it will not go ahead with the new housing in Tickhill. We continue to closely monitor the situation.

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. The Car park remains free as expressed in the wishes of the neighbourhood Plan, but still has to be maintained with the varying costs involved. Tickhill Town Council rigorously scrutinise every aspect of the budget plan for the year but even so we have to recognise a depletion in reserves Your Council is very much aware that all necessary expenditure has an inevitable cost to the electorate.

Lettings have stabilised at the Pavilion and we hope to continue to have regular bookings.

The Council's existing finances are no longer sufficient to meet current and future commitments, and therefore it has been necessary to make a modest increase the precept in real terms

STAFFING

This year we have witnessed a few changes, two caretakers have resigned. We welcomed back J.Wallace albeit on a temporary basis, also welcomed back was A.Nicholls for weekend and holiday cover. The Clerk M.Cannings-Clough, has now retired from that role but retains the role of Responsible Financial Officer. A new Clerk designate M.Booker was appointed in May, before being appointed Clerk in June, she enjoys the support by our retiring Clerk in this exacting role.

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 now seen that DMBC are preparing to implement new parking restrictions in Tickhill Town Centre, also new road signage to be put in place, we 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.

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.

Events

Tfest was a very successful event in the past years but did not take place this year, but the good news is it will be back next year at the Cricket Field. 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. The Scarecrow festival and the 1940's Day a big success as usual The Gala Day was well attended but sadly slightly over-shadowed by the World Cup Football in the late afternoon.

A big thank you to all involved.

Website

Six years ago, we introduced our first ever website. This has now been replaced with a newer much versatile website many thanks to Councilor I.Smith for all his time and efforts in taking this important project forward

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. 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 6 years.

Councilor Cannings is now ready to take things a little easier and will be looking to relinquish the role in the near future.

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 Margaret Cannings-Clough for her work as The Clerk to Tickhill Town Council, her tireless many unpaid hours at the Pavilion, and the true passion she has for the Community

The Young Person of the Year Award was received by Jack Cox
A special Mayor’s award was given to, Mr John Marsden particularly for his selfless service to the wider community in addition to his already weighty more formal responsibilities. A very well-deserved award.

Well done all, your achievements and dedication are very much appreciated.

The Awards were made in January 2019 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 outgoing and incoming 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 Jamie, Gillian and Andrea.

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 many meetings and surveys.