



Councillor Charlie Kay (left) hands over to the new Mayor of Bishop Auckland Town Council, Councillor Dave Fleming

A Message from the Outgoing Mayor, Charlie Kay

It has been a great honour to serve as Mayor of Bishop Auckland Town Council for the past year. During this time the Council has continued to work in partnership to make Bishop Auckland an even better place to live, visit and do business. We have also continued to work with and support local community organisations in the work that they do to enhance the lives of local people.

My term of office has been a time for celebration for the town, with events held to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch Relay.

This report sets out the activities of the Town Council over the past year and its financial position.

This report not only marks the end of my term of office as Mayor, but also my term as a Town Councillor. The recent elections have returned a new Council to take Bishop Auckland forward. Some have returned to serve another year and their experience is essential for the ongoing development of the Town Council. There are also some new people representing the Town and they will bring fresh ideas and impetus to the role.

I wish each and every one of them my sincere best wishes for the future. I should also like to forward my congratulations to Councillor David Fleming for being elected Mayor for 2013/14 and wish him every success.

Food Festival Goes from Strength to Strength

Bishop Auckland Food Festival was held on for the first time over two days, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April 2013.

This was a great success with an estimated 15,000 people making the most of the sunny spring weather to visit the Festival. The numbers attending provided a major boost for local shops and businesses in the town.

Stalls offering produce from County Durham and further afield were located in Auckland Castle grounds, the Market Place and Newgate Centre. There were also numerous stalls offering art and crafts.

Included in the attractions on offer were demonstrations and talks by the Fabulous Baker Brothers, John Waite winner of the 'Great British Bake Off', Masterchief finalist Dean Edwards and Coronation Street star turned award winning cheese maker Sean Wilson.

The Town Council is a major sponsor of the Festival. It is hoped to build on this success in future years.



Allotments

The Town Council is responsible for 9 allotment sites within the Council's area. These are located at:-

- Broken Banks
- Edge Hill ^(A)
- The Pollards ^(A)
- South Church Lane
- Toronto
- West Mills
- West Mills Race
- Woodhouse Close ^(A)
- Tindale Crescent ^(A)

Sites marked ^(A) are run with the help of Allotment Associations. South Church Lane is fully self-managed.



Allotment sites are run on a self financing basis with income from rents being used to cover running costs such as water rates, occasional skip hire and maintenance of internal infrastructure. A capital scheme is carried out each year at one of the sites to make improvements or to resolve particular problems.

Work was carried out at The Pollards in March 2013 to resolve flooding issues and to improve the internal road. The invoice for the work was received after the year end accounts were completed and therefore the cost is not reflected in the financial summary on page 6.

Allotments provide an excellent opportunity for people to grow their own produce and at the same time get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Produce grown can contribute to a healthy balanced diet. It is also a social activity.

Allotments come in a variety of shapes and sizes and the size. The size of the plot will determine the amount of rent charged. The standard charge is 42p per square meter, but a 50% discount is applied if over half of the plot is cultivated and maintained.

Anyone wishing to rent an allotment should contact the Town Council. Contact details are shown on page 8.

PEST at its Best!

The Town Council's Parks and Environmental Support Team (PEST) carry out environmental support work in the town centre and recreation grounds to supplement the work carried out by Durham County Council.

The Team are contracted from Groundwork Trust and consist of a supervisor who works with apprentices and trainees to support them in accessing employment by providing work experience and helping them gain qualifications.

In 2012 the PEST team worked in partnership with the County Council to gain a Green Flag Award for the Town Recreation Grounds. The Team have continued to work with County Council colleagues to keep the park clean and tidy and well maintained.

The PEST team is again working towards the Green Flag status this year.



Mayors Diary 2012/13

May 2012

- Elected Mayor - British Heart Foundation nominated charity

June 2012

- Launched photographic and art competition between St. Wilfrids and Etherley Lane Primary Schools
- The Fifth Annual Youth Awards Competition Presentation evening
- Planted Royal Oak Saplings with pupils from local schools as part of the Woodland Trust's Jubilee Woods Project.
- Unveiled new park bench in the Town Recreation Ground donated to the community by the Town Council in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch Relay through Bishop Auckland
- Official Opening of Black Paw Brewery by the Right Reverend Justin Welby, Bishop of Durham.
- Official opening of Music & Arts Festival

July 2012

- Presentation of "The Sylvia Woods Awards" at Cockton Hill Infants School
- War on the Line event at Stanhope

August 2012

- Opening of Summer Fayre at Barrington Lodge Care Home
- Opening of Bishop Auckland Town Team's Care Show held in the Market Place.
- Presentation of trophies and certificates to the winners of the Bishop Auckland in Bloom Competition

November 2012

- Judged Etherley Lane and St. Wilfrid's Schools Photographic and Arts Competition with Helen Goodman M.P
- Laid wreath on behalf of the Town Council at the War Memorial at the Remembrance Sunday Service.
- Christmas Tree switch on. Holly & The Ivy carol service in the chapel at Auckland Castle
- Official opening of the new Ladbrokes Betting Shop

December 2012

- Presented prizes to winners of children's Christmas Painting Competition

January 2013

- Attended the Lord Lieutenants Awards Ceremony at the Eden Armoury

March 2013

- Drew winning tickets for the Town Team's Christmas Street Lights Appeal Christmas Raffle
- Presentation of bouquet at 65th wedding anniversary

April 2013

- Drew winning tickets for the Town Teams' Christmas Street Lights Appeal Easter Raffle on the Sunday of the Food Festival.

Diamond Jubilee

Royal Oak Saplings

To commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, the Mayor had the privilege of helping pupils from local schools to celebrate this event by planting a Royal Oak Sapling as part of the Woodland Trust's Jubilee Woods Project.



Commemorative Park Bench – Town Recreation Ground

The Mayor unveiled a new park bench in the Town Recreation Ground, which was donated to the community by the Town Council in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch Relay through Bishop Auckland in June 2012.



Olympic Torch Celebrations

Thousands of visitors flocked to Bishop Auckland to see the Olympic Torch Relay as it passed through the Market Place, Newgate Street and Cockton Hill.

The Town Council in partnership with Bishop Auckland Town Team put on a programme of events to keep everyone entertained pending the arrival of the torch.



Fortunately, the weather stayed fine and there was a carnival atmosphere in the street. The event was attended by the Mayor and Helen Goodman M.P.

Above: Lyndon Longhorn carries the Olympic Torch along Newgate Street.

Left: Ian Richardson passes the Olympic Flame to Kieran Maxwell

Bus Station Toilets

The Town Council contributed £1,500 to the refurbishment of the County Council owned public toilets in Bishop Auckland Bus Station.

Hanging Baskets

The Town Council contributed £1,200 towards the provision of extra hanging baskets in Newgate Street.

Youth Awards 2012

The Town Council runs an annual Youth Awards competition aimed at helping new or established groups to fund projects that will enhance the experience, skills and creativity of young people aged between 5 and 20 within the town.

Three awards of up to £2,000 were available in 2012. Applications were received from 10 organisations.

The winners were:

Green Dragon Martial Arts

£1,975 was awarded to Green Dragon Martial Arts to run a project aimed at giving young people the knowledge, confidence and ability to recognise potentially threatening situations that presented a risk to them, their friends or family and to understand how to deal with these situations in a safe and confident way.

The project also sought to help young people that had experienced these types of situations as victims of crime, or encountered threatening behaviour. It would also help them deal with the emotional experience and help them understand and overcome fear.

Bishop Auckland Tennis Club

Bishop Auckland Tennis Club was awarded £955 to run a Tennis Programme to promote good health and

develop social skills through sport. The programme, aimed at young people aged 14 to 19, would raise aspirations and show how they can fulfil their potential.

The programme would also teach transferable skills that could be applied to other situations such as school work and employment.

Let's Get Cooking – King James 1 Community Association

King James 1 Community Association was awarded £1,400 for their 'Let's Get Cooking' programme, which aimed to help young people gain a qualification in food safety, gain confidence in catering and increase employment opportunities in the catering sector.

A book of recipes would also be produced to promote healthy eating among young people

Runner up prizes of £75 were presented to the 7 other entrants to support their projects.

The three winners will give presentations at this year's ceremony explaining how the funding helped their projects.

This year's ceremony will be held on Friday 7th June when the 2013 winners will be announced.

Music and Arts Festival 2012

29th June – 1st July 2012

Thousands of pop and opera fans braved the rain to enjoy a three day feast of entertainment at Bishop Auckland's Music and Arts Festival sponsored by the Town Council.

Despite torrential rain and flash floods more than 6,000 people went to see top name performers including X Factor winner Joe McElderry and former Squeeze, Mike + The Mechanics and Roxy Music vocalist Paul Carrack.

The Tyneside singer, who won ITV's X Factor in 2009 and Popstar to Opera Star 2011, made a guest appearance at Bishop Auckland College's Proms. The Proms concert, which ended the event, also included performances by the Hurworth Concert Band, St John's School Orchestra and the Cobweb orchestra with guest violinist Min-Jin Kym.



The Silence

Paul Carrack appeared on Saturday as part of a full line up from 12noon to 10pm. Pop rock five piece band 'The Silence', who had toured Europe and recorded in the US, headlined on the opening night, Friday.

Financial Summary

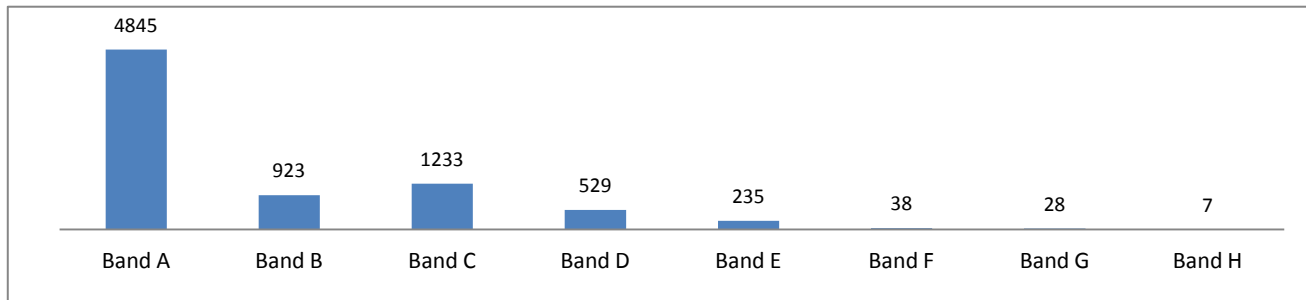
| | Total Budget 2012/13 £ | Actual 2012/13 £ | Budget 2013/14 £ |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Where the money comes from | | | |
| Council Tax Payers | 119,800 | 119,800 | 111,078 |
| Use of reserves | | | 9,100 |
| Local Council Tax Support Grant | | | 23,969 |
| Allotments | 14,532 | 14,532 | 15,000 |
| Total Income | 134,332 | 134,332 | 159,147 |
| Where the money is spent | | | |
| Rent, Utilities, Insurances, Admin | 10,600 | 15,498 | 12,000 |
| Allotments Account | 14,532 | 7,961 | 15,000 |
| Bishop Proms | 6,000 | 4,218 | 6,000 |
| Bp. Auckland in Bloom | 900 | 816 | 1,000 |
| CAB | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Capital Budget | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Christmas Events | 8,000 | 4,212 | 10,000 |
| Civic & Approved Duties | 500 | 225 | 1,000 |
| Community Football | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Council Elections 2013 | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Events (Markets) Budget | 0 | 0 | 5,000 |
| Floral Displays | 1,000 | 263 | 300 |
| Food Festival | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Members Allowances | 6,000 | 5,350 | 6,000 |
| Membership/Training | 2,050 | 2,583 | 2,200 |
| Music Festival | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| P.E.S.T. | 21,700 | 14,452 | 8,200 |
| Remembrance Day Ceremony | 500 | 295 | 500 |
| Salaries | 51,900 | 51,990 | 61,000 |
| Skatepark lighting bills | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| Support & Sponsorship Fund - Community Fund | 4,500 | 2,886 | 5,000 |
| Support & Sponsorship Fund - Donations | 3,500 | 3,209 | 0 |
| Town Team | 10,125 | 9,153 | 0 |
| Train Station | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Youth Awards | 7,700 | 5,600 | 6,000 |
| Youth Forum | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 176,006 | 149,710 | 158,700 |

| Council Employees | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Total at the beginning of each year (Full Time Equivalent) | 1.85 | 2.25 |

Council Tax 2013/14

| | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Cost per Year | £19.36 | £22.24 | £25.41 | £28.59 | £34.94 | £41.30 | £47.65 | £57.18 |
| Cost per Month | £1.59 | £1.85 | £2.12 | £2.38 | £2.91 | £3.44 | £3.97 | £4.77 |

Properties in each Council Tax Band



Community Grant Awards

| | |
|--|--------|
| Woodhouse Close Playgroup | £500 |
| King James Youth Project | £499 |
| Cockton Hill Infants' School (Breakfast Club) | £250 |
| Bishop Auckland Community Netball Club | £500 |
| Auckland Hospital Radio | £499 |
| Four Clocks Youth Project | £338 |
| Cultivate 4 Life | £300 |
| St. Mary's Junior Under 16 Squad | £50 |
| Great North Air Ambulance | £50 |
| Bp. Auckland Schools Football Association | £250 |
| St. John's Catholic School | £100 |
| University of the First Age (National Citizen Service) | £500 |
| The Bishop Press | £2,000 |
| County of Durham School Benevolent Fund | £35 |
| The Friends of The Durham Miners' Gala | £24 |
| Daisy Arts | £200 |

TOTAL £6,095

In addition to the above awards the Town Council also made financial donations to the Citizens Advice Bureau to help them continue their important work to support people in Bishop Auckland.

Councillors Allowances Claimed

In accordance with the Local Authorities (England) Regulations 2003 actual allowances paid to Councillors for the 2012/13 financial year are shown below.

| Councillor | Basic Allowance | Civic Dignitary Allowance | Travel Expenses |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Anderson, Alan | £440 | | £52.83 |
| Fleming, David A. | £440 | | |
| Golightly, Ann | £440 | | |
| Huntington, Richard | £440 | | |
| Kay, Charlie (Mayor) | £440 | £440 | |
| Laurie, Barbara A. | £440 | | £17.61 |
| Lee, June | £440 | | |
| Lethbridge, John | £440 | | |
| Wilson, David | £440 | | |
| Zair, Lesley G. | £440 | | |
| Zair, Samuel | £440 | | |

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

The Town Council has a total of three employees.

David Anderson (right), was appointed as Town Clerk in December 2012 and brings with him over 30 years local government experience.

Linda Goldie, the former Town Clerk, is continuing as Assistant Town Clerk on a part-time basis. Whilst Linda's main activity will be events, she will also provide a degree of continuity.

Michael Armstrong (left) provides important administrative support to ensure everything runs smoothly and efficiently.



TOWN COUNCILLORS

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