

Hebden Royd Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT



May 2006 – April 2007

Town Mayor
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Ward

Deputy Town Mayor
Cllr Mike Elder

Chair of Environmental Renaissance
and Staffing Committees
Cllr David Young

Chair of Twinning Committee
Cllr Stewart Brown

Other Members of the Council

Cllr Rev James Allison
Cllr Peter Coles
Cllr Nader Fekri
Cllr Paul Monahan
Cllr Dr Michael Smith

Cllr Christine Bampton Smith
Cllr Mrs Joanna Beacroft-Mitchell
Cllr John Frederiksen
Cllr Mrs Leone Murty

Cllr John Beacroft-Mitchell
Cllr Robin Dixon
Cllr Gian Gabbi
Cllr Susan Press
Cllr Nigel Yorke

Clerk to the Council
Mr David Dempsey

Mayor's Secretary and Clerk's Assistant
Mrs Christine Jackson

Hebden Royd Town Council

The parish of Hebden Royd lies in the Calder Valley and includes the main population centres of Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd as well as surrounding rural areas, notably, Cragg Vale. The Town Council, whose members act in a voluntary capacity and are unpaid, has to respond to legislation but is the tier of government closest to the electorate and it seeks to serve by identifying and responding to local needs.

VISION STATEMENT:

The economic, social, and environmental well-being of those who live and work in Hebden Royd will be a major factor in all our decision-making.

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are committed to a better quality of life for all the people of Hebden Royd. We plan to achieve this in association with community groups and the public, private and voluntary sectors. Hebden Royd Town Council will therefore strive to:

- *Be open and accessible in all its decision-making*
- *Be accountable in all its council activities*
- *Be responsive to the needs of the community*
- *Promote equal opportunities*

Wherever possible, individuals and groups are encouraged to work in partnership with the Council to enhance the area to the benefit of the wider community.

Mayor's Report

In my Mayoral Year, 2006-07, Hebden Royd Town Council has made progress through the year supporting local community organisations to the tune of £54,000. Through the grant system, all local schools and groups including, the Local History Society, Girl Guides, Mytholmroyd Station Partnership, Walkers are Welcome, World on Your Doorstep, to name but a few, have benefited from financial support from the Council. The Arts Festival, Ground Floor Project, Mytholmroyd Community Centre, Royd Regeneration and both Junior and Senior Bands have been directly supported by the Council.

The Environmental Community Warden monitors the Hebden Royd Area working to improve the environment throughout the area. Schools took part in a potato planting project, providing a bucket potato and compost to each child, in a bid to encourage and develop an interest in the young learning about the environment. The Warden has, in addition to organising the annual Spring Clean-up, worked with the local community involving volunteers, consulting with them for their ideas and preferences to clear overgrown pieces of land, having first checked on ownership, throughout the Hebden Royd Area. Consultation throughout has proved much to everyone's satisfaction. An area of ground has been cleared on Midgley Road, Mytholmroyd in preparation for spring planting and Dodnaze Community Group have had planters placed on their Estate.

Another environmental improvement which has made a great difference is Banksfield Estate where a band of volunteers, including local children, parents and young offenders (who worked on two separate occasions) have undertaken a programme of planting. Royd Regeneration provided £300 for bulbs which prompted Pennine Housing to take an interest. Their gardener advised on the purchase of the bulbs, best value, and as a result 4000 bulbs were planted. The Pennine gardener provided help and advice to the volunteers on where to plant the bulbs so as not to interfere with the grass cutting programme.

Working with the co-operation of Calderdale Council the warden has introduced planters on the Marina and along Bridge Gate to improve the area, for residents and tourists alike. The Environmental Community Warden also reports traffic issues to the police such as parking problems, abandoned cars, and any problem within the Hebden Royd area. Youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour have given rise to some concern and the Warden is working with the police and other bodies to seek a solution to this problem.

In addition to the Environmental Community Warden, who joined the staff last year, the Council has engaged the services of a Project Officer. The Project Officer has secured funding from the Calderdale Community Safety Partnership towards the regeneration of Calder Holmes Park in the centre of Hebden Bridge, to which this Council has committed £30,000. Calderdale MBC is making a similar contribution, showing that partnership working is beneficial to the area and that together, we will have a park to be proud of once again. Renovation of the play area is also planned as is the creation of a car park off Station Road. Funding for Environmental projects, including expansion of the hanging basket scheme, has been secured from the Rural Target Fund with the promise of more in the next financial year. Central Street has also become one of her projects with Calderdale now involved and after many years things are now looking quite positive for regeneration of a very neglected, run down part of Hebden Bridge.

The biggest changes for many years have taken place in Hebden Bridge through the traffic review, another example of partnership working, this time with significant funding provided by Yorkshire Forward which enabled a 'quality' scheme. Despite some negative reporting in the local press, the pedestrianised areas have proved extremely popular, with pavement cafes changing the appearance almost beyond recognition. The spring edition of Town Talk contains photographs and more information on this subject. A traffic review for Mytholmroyd is imminent with safety issues on New Road and Burnley Road a priority.

The routine work of the Council in reacting to legislation and making comment to Calderdale Council on planning applications, two hundred this year, has been maintained as has the attention to matters in the interest of the residents of Hebden Royd where the district council has control. The Council and its staff are fully committed to working for the community and are seeking Quality Parish Status in recognition of the service offered. When we are awarded Quality Parish Council Status, it will enable us to work on a more equal footing with other bodies.

The Council has 18 members, three of which are also members of Calderdale Council

Committees

The Council operates with four committees, Staffing, Environmental Renaissance, Parks and Footpaths and Twinning, dealing with the main business of the Council overseen by the Full Council.

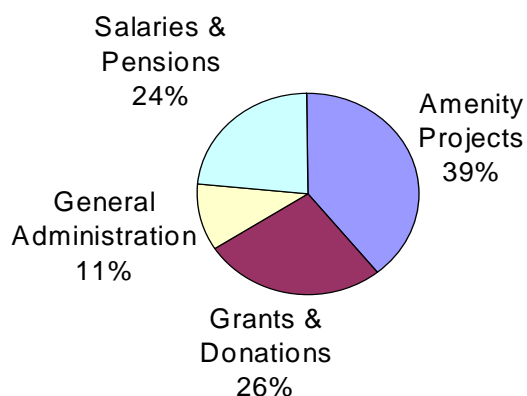
Member	Committees	Possible	Actual	%
J T Allison	TWINNING	27	20	74
C Bampton Smith*	ENVIRON REN.	31	24	77
J C Beacroft-Mitchell	PARKS	31	19	61
Mrs Beacroft-Mitchell	ENVIRON REN. TWINNING	27	4	15
S Brown	STAFF, TWINNING	41	37	90
P S Coles*		27	17	63
R Dixon	PARKS	35	24	69
M Elder	PARKS, STAFF, TWINNING	41	33	80
N Fekri*	PARKS,	27	16	59
J Fredericksen	TWINNING	29	20	69
G Gabbi	ENVIRON REN	31	22	71
P Monahan	PARKS, STAFF	31	25	81
L Murty	PARKS	27	20	74
S Press	PARKS, TWINNING	33	25	76
M A Smith	STAFF	31	16	52
E Ward	ENVIRON REN.	41	39	95
N J Yorke		27	21	78
D Young	ENVIRON REN. PARKS, STAFF	39	39	100

* also member of Calderdale Council

These figures do not show other meetings attended by members on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, casework or other tasks undertaken by ward members.

The Council will have held twenty seven meetings this year plus fourteen committee meetings as well as working parties and some community public meetings. The possible number of meetings depends on the committees to which a member is assigned and the record is summarised above.

Council Expenditure 2006/07 Total Expenditure £208,822



The precept for the year, the amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was set at £162,872 plus a grant of £7,865. This works out at £50.64 per year for a Band D household or £0.97 per week. The vast majority of dwellings in Hebden Royd are Band A paying £33.76 or 65p per week.