

Mayor's Report 20 May 2013

Since the Council meeting in April I have attended three engagements as Mayor. In April I attended The Mayor of Malton, Jason Fitzgerald Smith's Civic Service at St Mary's Church Old Malton.

On Sunday 5 May I started the 10K Run. The event is a wonderful showcase for Kirkbymoorside and it was good to see so many shops open and a wide variety of local organisations involved in the event.

On Thursday 9 May the Town Meeting was held and was attended by approximately 25 members of the public. A number of issues that concern people in the town were raised including car parking and dog fouling. The Town Clerk is following these up and they will be agenda items at future meetings.

My second year as Chairman and Town Mayor has been as busy and varied as the first.

It is almost a year since the Jubilee celebrations in the town. Looking back I feel that they were a great example of what we can achieve in Kirkbymoorside when people work together and I hope that in the future there will be more occasions when we do that.

During the year I have represented the Town Council in working with the County Council to raise the profile of Church House and maintain the library opening hours. A celebratory week was held in September 2012 and in November the library was named as the county's library of the month because of the increased number of borrowers and books on loan.

I feel I must mention my great disappointment and frustration at the decision made by Ryedale District Council to withdraw their staff from the library earlier this year. I believe it is a huge step backwards and hope that the time will come when they recognise this and rectify the situation.

I want to thank the 23 volunteers who have come forward for training and who are working in the library on Monday morning and on Thursday afternoon and evening for a total of 8 hours a week. Hours when the library would otherwise be closed.

I am delighted that the front office service provided for the Town Council by the county is working so well and hope that people are now more used to accessing the Town Council's services here.

After a number of setbacks work is now continuing on the Community Led Plan and I am looking forward to seeing the result of the most recent questionnaire. It will be useful information for the town council in our dealings with the County and District Councils and other organisations.

Staff changes during the past year have resulted in increased work for councillors in a range of areas. I want to thank Councillor Brampton for his work as temporary RFO at the end of last year and at the start of this year and also for the help he has given Lisa since her appointment as Town Clerk.

Colleagues who are members of the staffing committee and the appeal panel have been involved in much more work than is usual I and I want to thank them for all they have done during the past year.

I also want to thank members of the staffing committee for all their work during the recruitment process.

I am sure that all councillors will agree with me that Lisa has settled in very well as our new Town Clerk and is a real asset to the council and the town.

Mayor Chris Dowie.