



## **KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL**

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### **2022/23 MAYOR'S REPORT**

In May 2022 I was elected Chair and Town Mayor. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Holroyd for his role as Town Mayor for the past three years.

Cllr Shipley resigned from the Office of the Town Council in November 2022 creating a Casual Vacancy in addition to the pre-existing Ordinary Vacancies from the uncontested election in May 2022. At the meeting in March 2023 Cllr Holroyd expressed his intention to resign following the meeting on 17 April 2023.

At the Ordinary meeting on 17 April 2023 the Town Council received applications to the vacancies and resolved to co-opt four new Councillors, in accordance with Section 21(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1985. I am delighted to welcome Jean Illingworth, Andrea Moffat, former District Councillor Tony Riby and Simon Woodhams to the Town Council. Now with eight council members the Town Council has only one Casual Vacancy.

### **PRECEPT & FINANCES**

The Town Council agreed the budget for 2023/24 and resolved to increase the precept from £74,000 to £79,400. This is only the second time in ten years that the budget has been increased.

Included in the budget are the costs associated with annual planting, installation and watering of the In Bloom hanging baskets, which would remove the necessity for In Bloom to submit a funding application for the same.

It should be noted that the annual donation to the cost of Christmas lighting, very generously made by a member of the public, also includes the associated energy costs for the annual lighting display.

### **GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022/23**

The Town Council has an annual grant budget for allocation to groups and charities for projects that benefit the local community. In 2022 /23 the Town Council awarded the following grants:

- £3000 awarded to Kirkbymoorside PCC to contribute towards the cost of grounds maintenance of the churchyard and Millennium Garden;
- £1,225 awarded to Friends of Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School for costs associated with purchase and installation of defibrillator;
- £500 awarded to Moorsbus to cover the associated costs of one bus for two days service;
- £450 awarded to Kirkbymoorside Environment Group to contribute towards the cost of printing local shopping guide; and

- £200 awarded to John Stockton Educational Foundation to contribute towards administration costs.

The Town Council continues to offer financial support to the following:

- the Kirkbymoorside Community Library by paying a licence fee to occupy the office at Church House thereby contributing to the cost of rent of the building, in addition to contributing to the cost of utilities and cleaning;
- In Bloom by paying for the annual planting, installation and watering of the hanging baskets;
- Ryedale Community Foodbank by contributing towards the cost of rent for the Kirkbymoorside project

## **PLAY AREAS & SPORTS FIELD**

The Town Council carried out a public consultation inviting young community members to determine their preferred play equipment from the options available. The result of which was the installation of two single swings and a 'Multiverse' play unit at Old Road play area. A separate public consultation demonstrated support of the local community for CCTV which has been installed and covers both the play area and skatepark at Old Road. The CCTV is monitored by Scarborough Borough Council and is accessible by the Police.

At the sports field the Town Council contributed £750 to Kirkbymoorside Bowling Club towards the cost of works to facilitate disabled access to the premises.

The Town Council submitted an application to Ryedale District Council for the CIL Funding in respect of the project to redevelop the cricket and football changing facilities and storage at the sports field. The application has been recommended to North Yorkshire Council for final determination. The outcome has yet to be determined.

## **20MPH**

The Town Council continues to pursue the feasibility of a reduced speed limit in the town for the length of Piercy End from the A170 roundabout to the top of High Market Place. A consultation has been undertaken by NYC Highways & Transportation on the proposal for 20mph in the town centre, the outcome of which has not yet been determined.

## **PARKING IN TOWN FARM CAR PARK**

For the past few years the Town Council has been trying to determine the feasibility of entering into an arrangement with Ryedale District Council in order to offer free parking in Town Farm Car Park. Unfortunately, much to the Town Council's frustration, Ryedale District Council were not receptive to the proposal. With the formation of a new unitary authority with effect from 1 April 2023, the Town Council has every intention of raising the same issue regarding Town Farm car park with the North Yorkshire Council.

## **FLOOD RISK**

Since 2020 the Town Council has been engaged in discussions with associated agencies including the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire Council (Lead Local Flood Authority), Yorkshire Water, Ryedale District Council, and riparian landowners. In 2021 it commissioned JBA Consulting to undertake a flood assessment project, involving a full hydrological review of the catchment upstream of Keldholme/Kirkby Mills and provision of recommendations for Natural Flood Management flood mitigation options/highlight potential location. This report has been fundamental in demonstrating the need for flood risk mitigation in the area. As a result the Environment Agency and Yorkshire

Wildlife Trust have embarked on a project to implement NFM within the catchment and have made several successful funding bids to guarantee the project.

On 25 April at the Kirkbymoorside Fire Station there was a Community Engagement event for Kirkbymoorside and the surrounding area. The event was attended by representative of North Yorkshire Council's Flood Risk Management Team and Resilience and Emergencies Team, the Environment Agency, JBA Consulting and Fire and Rescue.

## **PLANNING**

The Town Council has repeatedly raised concern about the number of houses being built in Kirkbymoorside with no accompanying development of the local infrastructure to support the increased population.

The outline planning application for 43 residential dwellings on Swineherd Lane (Planning Application 19/00772/MOUT) was re-submitted to the Planning Authority in January 2023. The Town Council's concerns specifically related to the potential impact of this development on the existing sewage/pipe systems, as identified in the aforementioned flood risk report. The latest submission by the developer include a modified drainage strategy which is approved by Yorkshire Water and the Lead Local Flood Authority. The Outline Planning Application was recommended for Approval at the meeting of the Planning Authority on 28 March 2023. It is sincerely hoped that the properties in Keldholme and Kirby Mills are not affected by this development.

## **STREET FURNITURE**

At the request of the family and Kirkbymoorside History Group a bench 'In Memory of Robin Butler' has been installed on Piercy End.

New post mounted bins have been installed on West Lund Lane and Market Place. Bins have been replaced on Crown Square at the rear of the Memorial Hall, on the public footpath leading from West End to Feversham Drive and outside the Primary School on Westfields.

Several requests have been submitted to the Town Council office with regards to the installation of bins on the Manor Woods estate. However, the developer, Countryside Properties, is solely responsible for this area and the Town Council has no authority to install street furniture on the estate.

## **THE POUND, MANOR VALE LANE**

The Pound on Manor Vale Lane has been radically transformed from a neglected and overgrown plot to an exhibition space. The Kirkbymoorside History Group approached the Town Council and proposed that it might be of local interest to have some information displayed outlining the historical usage of the site and the role of Kirkbymoorside on the movement of cattle from Scotland into England. The proposal also included the installation of some structures to represent the animals that would be corralled in the Pound. The Town Council instructed the necessary ground works to clear the site followed by the installation of a suitable ground membrane topped with gravel. Local metalwork artist Mike Bennet at MUST Forge was commissioned to create three steel structures of a cow, a sheep and a pig which now stand proudly within the gated pound, accompanied by an information panel. The display is a vast improvement and provides a site of historical and aesthetic interest.

## **MANOR VALE WOODLAND**

Works have recently been completed to maintain the steps and replace the hand rails on the path leading from the golf course road to Neville's Castle in Manor Vale. The works have been instructed by Andrew Hall, North Yorkshire Council Public Rights of Way Field Officer. Maintenance works throughout the woodland are ongoing in accordance with the Management plan. There are a

number of trees that are showing signs of failure and others that have succumbed to Chalara Ash Dieback. Where the trees pose a risk, for example where they are located next to the golf course road and there is the potential for damage to walkers and motorists, they will require felling. However, where possible, a conservative and sympathetic approach to woodland management is practised.

### **THE MOORSIDE ROOM**

The Moorside Room continues to provide an ideal venue for a variety of uses including family reunions, christenings, meetings, rehearsals, and art classes. Last weekend it was the first aid base for the 10k event and it will again be the venue for the 2023 North Yorkshire Open Studios exhibition in June.

There has recently been an issue with the drainage from the disabled toilet, which transpired to be a collapsed drain. Works were carried out on 21 April involving North Yorkshire Council lighting engineers as the location of the fault was in close proximity to the lighting column.

### **CHRISTMAS**

The two town Christmas trees on Market Place and in the Churchyard are gifted each year by Holt Farms. Additionally, receipt of an annual donation made to the Town Council covers all the costs associated with the enhanced Christmas lighting. Thanks on behalf of Kirkbymoorside community for these very generous contributions.

There is a considerable amount of effort that goes into making the town look so festive each year. Thanks to the organisers of the Christmas tree scheme and everyone who displays a tree in the bracket outside their house, which adds to the Christmas display for all to enjoy, and sets Kirkbymoorside apart. The logistics, planning and time involved in the installation and removal of all the lights should not be underestimated. Thanks to all the participants and the local businesses for supporting the icicle lighting scheme.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Best Dressed Christmas Window as follows:

1st Place: 'Charlotte Elizabeth's Little Luxuries', Crown Square

Runners Up: 'Something Special', Market Place and 'Cafe Williams', West End.

### **QUEEN'S JUBILEE**

2022 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and we enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 5 June with a wonderful parade through the town led by the Kirkbymoorside Town Brass Band. The event included: a Jubilee Fair at Old Road play area organised by Friends of Kirkbymoorside School; the Kirkbymoorside History Group's '70 Years of Kirkbymoorside' exhibition in the Memorial Hall; 'Open Studios' exhibitions in the Moorside Room; and a Flower Festival organised by All Saints Church. There were also plenty of competitions including a shop window 'Treasure Hunt' organised by the Rainbows and Brownies, Fancy Dress, Best Dressed home and garden competition, Queen's portrait competition, and a Queen's Sheet Quiz organised by the Kirkbymoorside Horticultural Society.

Sylatech collaborated with Kirkbymoorside History Group, to manufacture a bespoke commemorative medal. The Town Council supported the project by contributing towards the material costs. The project allowed availability of a medal to all children in Kirkbymoorside aged 2½ to 12 years.

The Council commends Kirkbymoorside History Group their initiative for undertaking such an ambitious project to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and offered thanks to Sylatech for their very generous involvement and for making the project a reality.

## **PROCLAMATION**

In September we mourned the death of Her Majesty and welcomed the new reign of King Charles III. The reading of the Proclamation presented another opportunity to bring people together and reflect on what it means to serve your country and community.

## **FREEDOM OF THE TOWN AWARD**

Kirkbymoorside has its own hero in the form of Tatyana Heard representing England and the Red Roses in the Women's Rugby Union World Cup and the Women's Six Nations Championship. On 3 March 2023 it was my pleasure to award Tatyana 'Freedom of the Town'. 'Freedom of the Town' is the highest honour that a Council can bestow. Tatyana is the first recipient of such an award by Kirkbymoorside Town Council. Although the Freedom itself carries no special privileges and is purely an honour it reflects the eminence of the person on whom it is conferred and is a recognition of the significant achievement and positive representation of the town. In this case significant sporting achievement.

## **COMMUNITY AWARD**

There are two recipients of this year's Community Award. Congratulations to Pam Towler for setting up and then running the Christmas tree scheme for 40 years and to Sean Kay who has provided Karate classes at the Memorial Hall for the last 23 years.

Thank you.

Jill Wells

Kirkbymoorside Town Mayor

2 May 2023