



## **KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL**

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### **2021/22 MAYOR'S REPORT**

#### **ELECTIONS**

In May 2021 I was elected Chairman and Town Mayor for the third consecutive year. The Town Council elected Cllr J Wells Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2021/22 and thanks were recorded to Cllr Coughlan for his support as Deputy Chair for the past two years and congratulated Cllr Wells on her election.

The 2022 Parish Council Elections have been uncontested and with effect from 9 May Kirkbymoorside Town Council welcomes Cllr Anthony Riby who joins Cllrs Jeanne Cossins, Joe Coughlan, Chris Dowie, Jill Wells, Trevor Shipley and myself. There are two vacancies and the Council may co-opt any person to fill the remaining two vacancies in accordance with Section 21(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1985.

#### **PRECEPT & FINANCES**

In November 2021 the Town Council agreed the budget for 2022/23 and resolved to retain the precept at £74,000. This equates to a 5.06% (£5.10) reduction on the council tax bill.<sup>1</sup> In the last 8 years the budget has incurred one increment of £500 only. The Town Council is proud to have maintained this precept level with no compromise to service provision.

#### **Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds available to Kirkbymoorside**

Details of the Section 106 Agreement dated 30 August 2013 have recently been disclosed to the Town Council and it was noted with disappointment that there are no monies available. Following are the covenants by North Yorkshire County Council:

- a) Education Contribution - £560,000 for expansion and improvement of the primary school;
- b) Highway Contribution - £75,000 for enhancement of existing No. 174 and 176 bus services;
- c) Travel Plan Contribution - £40,000 for travel plan co-ordinator; and
- d) Cycle Contribution - £10,000 for the provision of cycle stands in Kirkbymoorside Town Centre.

The CIL in respect of development at Wainds Field Planning Application 18/01313/MFUL amounts to £32,958.75. To date the Town Council have allocated £20,048.34 and there is a balance remaining of £12,910.41. The funds have been allocated to costs associated with commissioning of a Natural Flood Management Feasibility Assessment for Kirkbymoorside catchment, the refurbishment of all public seats and benches throughout the town, including the oak leaf table and seats at Ryedale View play area, the purchase of tree planters which will be installed on Market Place later this month, and replacement play equipment at Old Road play area.

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<sup>1</sup> Information verified by Victoria Malthouse, Financial Support Officer, Ryedale District Council

	Description	Minute
£670.80 + VAT	Refurbishment of Oak leaf table and seats at Ryedale View Play are and replacement picnic tables at Old Road and Ryedale View play areas - JT Atkinson (Duncombe Sawmill)	Minute 21058
£1,659.00 + VAT	Tree Planters - JT Atkinson (Duncombe Sawmill)	Minute 21058
£323.12 + VAT	Pots, planting compost and trees – RV Roger	Minute 21058
£1,052.57 + VAT	Bench Panels for refurbishment of all public seats/benches - JT Atkinson (Duncombe Sawmill)	Minute 21058
£5,600.00 + VAT	Natural Flood Management Feasibility Assessment for Kirkbymoorside catchment – JBA Consulting	Minute 21057 Minute 21076
£10,742.85 + VAT	Replacement of the existing 'Cantilever swing' and 'Junior swings' (which have been identified as needing replacement in 2022 by the annual play inspection report) at Old Road play area, with an 'Aero Tilt' and a 'Team Swing seat'.	Minute 21145
<b>£20,048.34</b>		

Community Infrastructure Levy funds from application 17/00849/FUL (£1,530.00), have been allocated to the cost of a new notice board on Market Place.

### Valuation of Council Assets

The valuation of the Moorside Room has been completed and the market value is represented at £125,000 and the Insurance Reinstatement value represented at £250,000. In this case, the cost of rebuilding in the event of total destruction is far in excess of the market value. This is because it is built in stone (rather than cheaper brick) and the complex nature of the site with its high ground level at the rear and the difficulty contractors would have in parking their vehicles when working on site.

The Council's Regalia has recently been valued at £7,725.

### GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022

£3000 awarded to Kirkbymoorside PCC to contribute towards the wild flower friendly ground maintenance of the churchyard and Millennium Garden,

£2,184 awarded to Next Steps Mental Health Resource Centre to cover the cost of rent for the Kirkbymoorside sessions.

£500 awarded to Moorsbus to cover the associated costs of one bus for two days service

£2,189 awarded to Kirkbymoorside In Bloom to facilitate the annual planting, installation and watering of hanging baskets throughout the town.

The Town Council continues to support the library financially 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.

## **PLAY AREAS**

A public consultation resulted in unanimous opposition to dogs in the play areas and signage was installed in Old Road and Ryedale View play areas requesting that dogs must be on the lead and keep to the public rights of way.

In June 2021 five suitably mature trees were planted in Old Road play area to remember the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and celebrate the response by the community.

This month in Old Road play area the existing 'Cantilever swing' and 'Junior swings' (which have been identified as needing replacement in 2022 by the annual play inspection report) will be replaced with an 'Aero Tilt' and a 'Team Swing seat'. Making use of the existing play surfacing offers the most cost effective solution, saving in the region of £5-6k on the cost of ground prep and full surfacing.

Vandalism at the Basketball Court has necessitated remedial repairs. In September 2021 the curved gallery fence was damaged costing £131.94 to repair. In March 2022 the basketball post was pushed over necessitating repairs costing £480 + VAT.

Remedial repairs at both Old Road and Ryedale View play areas, due to wear and tear, has cost approximately £2000.

You may have noticed the two new seats at the skate park 'In Memory of Charlie Cornick'. The Council is greatly appreciative of Jemma and Darren at Kirby Mills Garage who initiated this fitting memorial. Thanks go to 'Charlie's Friends' for volunteering to carry out the works to remove and dispose of the old benches and prepare suitable hardstanding upon which the memorial seats have been installed. The new seats, in Charlie's favourite colours of pink and black are a fitting memorial and will be appreciated by so many.

## **FLOOD RISK**

The Town Council has been engaged in discussions with associated agencies including the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority), Yorkshire Water, Ryedale District Council, and riparian landowners.

In 2021 the Town Council commissioned JBA Consulting to undertake a catchment assessment project, which would involve 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.

Most recently a meeting was held on 28 March involving participation by the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority), the Town Council and riparian owners. The Flood Risk reports for Kirkbymoorside catchment<sup>2</sup>, together with commitment by Ravenswick Hall Estate to implement NFM increases the likelihood that the project will satisfy Environment Agency criteria for support. The clerk is in the process of obtaining contact details for land owners that will be invited to participate in the project by means of the implementation of NFM throughout the catchment. Liaison with the associated agencies is ongoing and a further reports will be made available at the next appropriate meeting of the Town Council.

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<sup>2</sup> Flood Risk Mapping Studies (2003); Rye Catchment Flood Alleviation Studies (2019); and River Dove Natural Flood Management Potential Assessment (2021)

## **PLANNING**

In July 2021 outline planning application for 43 residential dwellings on Swineherd Lane (Planning Application 19/00772/MOUT) was re-submitted to the Planning Authority. The Town Council's submission represented the concerns raised by members of the public and reiterated concern about the potential impact of this development on the existing sewage/pipe systems, particularly if it is to be connected to the network that joins the storm pipe feeding into the River Dove in Kirkby Mills.

The Town Council has requested attendance to the Ryedale District Council Planning Committee meeting in order to make representation in respect of this planning application. To date the application has not been scheduled for consideration by the Ryedale District Council Planning Committee.

The Town Council has made separate representation to the Planning Authority to highlight its frustration trying to represent the community's concerns when responding to Planning Applications only for the matters that are raised, particularly with regards to the impact on the local infrastructure, to go unacknowledged. The communication enforced a real sense of concern about the number of issues that development is causing the town.

## **PARKING & TRAFFIC**

Despite the 20mph speed limit coming into force in November 2021, speeding on West End and Westfields continues to be an issue raised by residents. The 20mph roundels are still awaited. NYCC Highways Authority have been chased for details of the installation.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the Community Speed Watch scheme if they have concerns about speeding on their road. Details are available from the Town Clerk.

### **Parking in Town Farm Car Park**

At the last Annual Town Meeting I reported that the Town Council had been actively pursuing Ryedale District Council to determine the feasibility of an arrangement for subsidised parking in Town Farm car park in order to realise the ambition for free parking in Kirkbymoorside. At that time it was the District Council's intention to extend the period of free car parking across all of RDC car parks to three hours, to be introduced as soon as practicably possible. However, in May 2021 the Ryedale District Council Policies & Resources Committee recommended not to implement the extended three hours free car parking across Ryedale. Ryedale District Council are now working on the implementation of actions to deliver the Car Parking Strategy and one of the proposed actions is to provide an element of free car parking in each market town so there is a consistent offer across Ryedale

Despite this outcome, the Town Council have every intention of raising the same issue regarding Town Farm car park with the new unitary authority.

### **20's Plenty for Us**

The Town Council agreed support of the campaign for a 20mph speed limit on roads in areas where people live, work and play in North Yorkshire. Currently arrangements are in progress to gather supporting data for application to North Yorkshire County Council Highways Authority for 20mph speed restrictions on Piercy End, Market Place and High Market Place in Kirkbymoorside and also Grey Lane in Keldholme.

## **STREET FURNITURE**

The bench outside 'Something Special' on Market Place was very generously donated to the town by 'Moors Gateway Rotary'

Later this month tree planters will be installed on Market Place, outside Routhwaite & Woodhead and Age Concern, on the cobbled area outside Peter Illingworth Estate Agents at 16 Market Place (with permission of the Memorial Hall Committee), At the corner of Church Street outside Corner Cafe and next to Pump Hill opposite Children in Distress.

The project to refurbish all the public seats and benches throughout the town has been completed.

Two post mounted bins have been installed on Kirby Mills Industrial Estate.

The replacement notice board will be installed on Market Place this month.

## **MANOR VALE WOODLAND**

Works have recently been carried out by Andrew Hall, NYCC Public Rights of Way Field Officer to the steps leading from the golf course road to Neville's Castle in Manor Vale.

The Environment Group volunteer's work to help maintain the wood and promote the diversity of plant and animal life continues with regular coppicing, hedge laying and hay making sessions.

The offer of free tree planting by the Ryedale Lions Club was recently agreed by the Manor Vale Management Committee. In early April they planted 150 trees (with stakes and protectors fitted) of mixed native species including oak, alder, silver birch and blackthorn. There will be continued involvement by the Ryedale Lions who will work with the Environment Group assisting with managing this stretch of woodland. Additionally, a forester will periodically check the tree plantings and replace any failures as well as strimming around the base of these trees to ensure they are provided with maximum water and nutrients.

## **THE MOORSIDE ROOM**

Last year remedial repairs and refurbishment were carried out to the exterior window frames and notice board.

Over the past 12 months The Moorside Room has been the venue for social gatherings including birthdays and funerals. There are weekly exercise classes, and it is hired for meetings by variety of organisations. It remains a popular venue for exhibitions including North Yorkshire Open Studios.

Kirkbymoorside Youth Club started their sessions on Friday 4 March, and are now held every Friday (except bank holiday weekends and school holidays) from 6.30pm to 8pm. The Sessions have been very popular and are going from strength to strength with 35 attendees on 22 April.

## **PATH FOR EVERYONE**

Last year the Town Council agreed to work in partnership with Ryedale Cycle Forum and Kirkbymoorside Environment Group by allocating a bank account for the administration of project funds. Further collaboration has been agreed to identify and pursue additional funding opportunities. To date the Council's application submitted to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire was successful and the project was awarded £20,000 from the AJ1 Project Road Safety Fund, which was match funded by the allocation of £20,000 from the Town Council's reserve funds.

## **RYEDALE FOODBANK**

The Ryedale Foodbank is now open in Kirkbymoorside at the Methodist Church Schoolroom and the Town Council is proud to support this community initiative by contributing to the cost of rent.

## **CHRISTMAS**

Thanks to receipt of a very generous donation, the Town Council was able to substantially improve the town's Christmas decorations with the addition of motifs mounted on the lighting columns for the length of Piercy End, Market Place and High Market Place and icicle lights adorning all the commercial properties throughout the town centre.

The generous donation of the cost of the town's additional Christmas lights was received with much appreciation on behalf of the whole community.

The Main Christmas tree on Market Place and in the Churchyard was once again kindly gifted to Kirkbymoorside by Holt Farms. Thanks on behalf of Kirkbymoorside community for this very generous arrangement. Thanks also to the organisers of the Christmas tree scheme and everyone who put a tree up in the bracket outside their house, which adds to the Christmas decorations for all to enjoy, and sets Kirkbymoorside apart each year.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 Best Dressed Christmas Window as follows:

1st Place 'Essential Beauty' at 3 Market Place

2nd Place 'The Post Office' 1 High Market Place.

## **JUBILEE**

The Town Council has allocated funds for the purchase of bunting and decorations and to cover the costs associated with management of a temporary road closure to allow a Jubilee Parade, led by Kirkbymoorside Brass Band from the sports field, departing at 11.30am, to Market Place via Old Road and Howe End.

The event will include:

Jubilee Fair at Old Road play area on 4 June organised by Friends of Kirkbymoorside School

'70 Years of Kirkbymoorside' exhibition by the Kirkbymoorside History Group in the Memorial Hall on 4 & 5 June

'Open Studios' exhibitions in the Moorside Room on 4 & 5 June and 11 & 12 June

Flower Festival organised by All Saints Church

Shop window 'Treasure Hunt' organised by the Rainbows and Brownies

Fancy Dress competition

Best Dressed home and garden competition

Queen's portrait competition

Queen's Sheet Quiz organised by the Kirkbymoorside Horticultural Society

Community Fridge opening on Saturday morning to offer supplies for local street parties

Competition prizes include tickets to Castle Howard, Dalby Forest and Flamingo Land, and prizes contributed by Marshalls Aerospace & Defence Group and Rack Systems.

Sylatech is making a considerable contribution by manufacturing a commemorative medal, in partnership with the History Group and supported by the Town Council. Production has been calculated to allow a medal to be made available to all children in Kirkbymoorside aged 2½ to 12 years. A limited number of medals will be available for purchase upon application to the History Group.

The Council commends Kirkbymoorside History Group their initiative to embark upon 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.

### **COMMUNITY AWARD**

There are two recipients of this year's **Community Award**. Congratulations to Helen Gundry for her involvement in the Environment Group and commitment to both public transport and the 'Path for Everyone' project and to John Warriner, nominated by friends and fellow members of the Bowls Club for his many years of unpaid work 'giving members one of the best greens in Yorkshire!'

Thank you.

Nick Holroyd

Kirkbymoorside Town Mayor

3 May 2022