

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The following is a brief summary of the main focus and activities that the Town Council have been involved in over the last year during my time as Town Mayor and Chair of the Council.

Firstly, I would like to thank Ron Shinn who retired as the Town Clerk on 30th September 2015 after 17 year's service to the Council and the Parishioners of Edlington. I would like to wish Ron all the best for a long and happy retirement. Ron was succeeded by Simon Oldham as the new Clerk on 1st October, 2015 and Simon has commenced guiding the Town Council forward on the opportunities available to us with regard to new legislation and in particular the development of a Neighbourhood Plan which provides the scope and a platform to develop a longer term vision for securing improvements to amenities in the village and our local landscape.

Allotments - The Council has five allotment sites and Allotment Societies continue to aspire to develop their garden plots for the enjoyment of local individuals. A number of vacant plots are available and further information can be obtained by contacting the Clerk. The annual Allotment competition was again held in the Summer of 2015 and once again proved to be very popular and winners were invited to a presentation event in the Grainger Centre on Sunday 6th September, combined with a retirement presentation for the retiring Clerk. There are plans to stage the competition once again this year.

Burial Ground – Edlington Cemetery continues to be one of the best kept burial grounds in Doncaster. The Council have developed a new grave plan which earmarks the layout of future plots on the as yet unused area of land to the right of the Cemetery buildings.

Community Centre – The Grainger Centre continues to be available for community hire and is well used in the evenings. However, there is low level usage during the daytime and any interested Groups or individuals should contact the Clerk if they are interested or to discuss their requirements.

Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day – Cenotaph Garden – The Council organised its own Remembrance Sunday parade this year from St John's Church marching to the Cenotaph garden for a service presided over by Fr O'Connor and Fr Edmonds who read prayers. Armistice Day again proved very successful with the attendance of pupils from the local Schools and poems written by some pupils were read out and a talk by Councillor Don Astbury was provided on the reasons and history behind the event. Maroon rockets were supplied by Eddie Ackroyd to mark the start and end of the 2 minutes silence. The Council place on record it thanks to all those who attended and supported both of these commemorations.

Grants & Donations – The Council again supported a Christmas donation to the Churches and in addition provided funding support to Old Edlington Tenants &

Residents Association, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, St John's Ambulance, Balby Boxing Association and the Yorkshire Main Heritage Trust..

Gala – This year's Gala yet again proved to be a huge success and was again underwritten by the Town Council. The Council's thanks go to Councillor Maureen Patterson and Albert Phillips for their strenuous efforts in coordinating all aspects from the hiring of stalls, attracting participants to perform on the day as well as rides and refreshments. In addition, the Council are grateful to the other local volunteers who gave up their time to ensure pre preparations for the event and actions on the day were delivered to ensure a successful day and enjoyment for all.

Christmas Celebrations – The Council once again arranged the supply and erection of around 50 Christmas trees along Edlington Lane and provided additional illuminations in the Miners Memorial Garden as the focal point of the Town Council's Christmas celebration. A Carol concert was held and it is hoped to give greater publicity and attract a few more attendees at this coming year's event. A Christmas meal and party was held in the Grainger Centre for Senior Citizen's and was well attended with almost 70 attendees enjoying their dinner and bingo games thereafter.

Recreation Ground – The Rec continues to be blighted by littering and fly-tipping and vandalism to play equipment. The football pitch is used currently by 2 teams over the weekend and any other interested clubs should contact the Clerk to enquire about availability. The Town Council have made the decision to take back in house the grass cutting and strimming from DMBC and have commenced from the new financial year starting 1st April and hope to improve the appearance and amenity of the grounds and entrance way for the enjoyment of all parishioners.

Neighbourhood Plan – The Town Council has decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for our Town and have established a Steering Group comprising representatives from the local community and begun seeking local residents and the business communities views as to what should be included within it. This will be a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of our area over the next 10-15 years. Neighbourhood plans relate to the use and development of land and the associated social, economic and environmental issues. It may deal with a wide range of issues (like housing, employment, heritage, transport or social/recreational amenities) or it may focus on one or two issues that are of particular importance in a local area. We will be consulting further during the Spring and Summer and would welcome any views that you may have. We aim to finalise a draft plan by September and after input from the local community, it will be subject to a public referendum in which you will have the opportunity to vote in favour or against its formal adoption. If approved, it will form part of the statutory Planning Framework upon which future decisions on local development by Doncaster Council will be made.

New Council Website – The new Clerk has established a Town Council website which can be found at www.edlingtontc.org Have a look at what the Town Council is doing or news and events that are being published. Let us know if you would like to publicise any local community events or activities.

Tackling Eyesores in the Village – The Town Council has kick started trying to address a few eyesores and improve the visual amenity in the village by working with Doncaster Council Officers to secure improvements. The Town Council are attempting to improve the appearance of the burnt out shop on Main Avenue and are lobbying for something to be done or development to take place at Barnburgh House, the former Thompson/Dixon estate, former Ridings site and are seeking the installation of bollards placing out further up Edlington Lane on the opposite side of the road from Hill Top School to help protect the grass verges from damage rendered by vehicles parking on them. The Town Council are keen to work in partnership with DMBC and other agencies to secure improvements for the benefit of all parishioners in the village.

Events – The Town Council recently supported and promoted the Tour de Yorkshire event that passed through 5 Lane Ends on 30th April and encouraged the local community to come out and support the event.

For further queries or information on any Town Council related matter or business, please contact the Town Clerk Simon Oldham 01709 770552 or by email edlingtontc@gmail.com

Councillor Georgina Mullis

Town Mayor 2015/16