

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

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.

Neighbourhood Plan – The Town Council have put a lot of effort in to generating and consulting upon a draft Neighbourhood Plan over the last 12 months aimed at improving Edlington over the next 10-15 years and beyond. This has involved the creation of a project steering group with community representation from Polypipe, St Thomas Wharton Community College, Hillside Drive Tenants and Residents Association, Town Councillor representation and external support from a Project Consultant from Yourlocale and DMBC Planning Team. Consultation included a questionnaire delivered to all households via the In-Focus magazine in March, St Thomas Wharton Community College event and at the Gala in June and a consultation evening held at the Grainger Centre in December. As a result, the Town Council have submitted a draft Edlington Neighbourhood Development Plan and supporting documents to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council for examination under Part 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Further statutory consultation is taking place and will conclude on 12th May, 2017 after which it is hoped to be able to go to Referendum in July or September when all Edlington parishioners will have the opportunity to vote to support the Plan and subject to this receiving a simple majority in support, this would form part of the formal statutory Local Planning Framework upon which future decisions in the Village must have regard. The draft plan can be viewed on our website <http://edlingtontc.org/neighbourhood-plan>

Auburn Road Community Woodland Project –The Town Council have established a Community Steering Group tasked with developing a vision to bring some former dis-used densely overgrown allotment gardens adjacent to the Auburn Road Allotment site and the Martinwells Lake, back in to community use.

The Steering Group is embarking on a long term project (over the next 5 years and beyond) to look to open up this land for community use as a form of Country Park which might encompass new pathways, a cycle route, new tree planting schemes and recreational amenity with picnic benches. An initial start-up grant of £1000 was awarded by the Woodland Trust in September 2016 which enabled the Group to commission a Landscape Master Plan. In addition, the Woodland Trust have also approved a Woodland Support grant of £10000 which enabled phase 1 of the project to commence in January/February 2017 involving clearing away a large swathe of brambles in this overgrown area and the safe removal of any hazardous material found to be present.

The Steering Group held its inaugural meeting on 19th September, 2016 and includes representation drawn from the Town Council, Friends of Martinwells Lake, The Auburn Road Allotment Association, Yorkshire Main Heritage Trust, The Hill Top

Associates, Edlington Community Organisation and Yorkshire Main Community Centre.

A free tree pack of 105 saplings has been donated by the Woodland Trust and will be planted in the near future. The Steering Group have also approved the felling of some non- native conifer trees on site and have arranged disposal of surplus debris from the site. Members of the community can find further information on what is happening and updates on progress either via the dedicated facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EdlingtonCommunityWoodland> or on the Town Council's website <http://edlingtontc.org/neighbourhood-plan/country-park>

Royal Estate Multi-Agency Task Group – Following representations made by local residents on the Royal estate who have suffered from escalating crime and anti-social behaviour over many months, the Town Council have lobbied the statutory agencies (Doncaster Council, the Police and Fire Service) for action to be taken to combat this culminating in the establishment of a Multi-Agency Task Group. The Group has met on 3 occasions since October 2016 and Members of the Council have also arranged for the attendance of Dr Alan Billings, the South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner at a meeting to discuss these matters as well as arranging a public meeting which was held on 30th March, 2017 in which local residents had the opportunity to outline their experiences to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones and the Assistant PCC, Sioned Mair-Richards who were accompanied by a range of Council and Police Officers. The Town Council will continue to lobby those agencies to secure arrests and to put appropriate measures in place in an attempt to alleviate the problems being experienced.

Allotments -. The annual Allotment competition was again held in the Summer of 2016 and once again proved to be very popular and winners in the categories of best kept and most improved allotments at each of the four sites, were invited to a presentation event in the Grainger Centre on Sunday 21st August, 2017. The competition will be held once again this Summer. There remain some spare plots, so if anyone is interested in an allotment garden, please contact the Town Council Clerk (contact details at the end of this report).

Burial Ground – Edlington Cemetery continues to be one of the best kept burial grounds in Doncaster. The Council have recently established a formal car park for visitors by tarmacking and line marking an area at the side of the former mortuary building. Improved access in to the site has also been created, off Edlington Lane. There are plans for a formal Cemetery entrance sign to be erected later during 2017. A formal set of Burial Ground regulations have been adopted as well as a policy on the location of benches within the Cemetery grounds. In addition our burial and memorial fees remain competitively priced. For further details visit <http://edlingtontc.org/cemetery>

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 in conjunction with the Hill Top Centre coordinated a Remembrance Sunday parade this year involving the Chesterfield Chevrons marching band, from Hill Top Centre marching down Edlington Lane via Yorkshire Main Community Centre to the Cenotaph garden for a service presided over by Fr Edmonds who read prayers. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire was in attendance representing Her Majesty the Queen and in conjunction with the Town Mayor, undertook a post parade inspection of Youth cadets from the Army Corps, Police and St John’s Ambulance and awarded a plaque to the best dressed Cadet and Cadet Group. Armistice Day again proved very successful with the attendance of pupils from the local Schools and poems written by some pupils were read out. The Town Council wishes to place on record it thanks to all those who attended and supported both 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, Edlington Swimming Club, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Regiment Appeal, Edlington Community Organisation for its “Edlo by the Sea” event and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The amount of grant awarded overall was £1200.

Gala – This year’s Gala held on 25th June, 2016 yet again proved to be a huge success and was again underwritten by the Town Council. The Town 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. Maureen and Albert are now taking a back seat and “semi-retiring” after several years coordinating gala preparations and this years event will be coordinated by Debbie Tuby with assistance from Town Councillor Bob Johnson 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 proved to be popular with over 50 people in attendance. 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. Repairs to the safety surfacing have been carried out after large chunks were ripped up by youths and it had to be closed for a short while during the late Summer and Autumn period, on safety grounds. Having re-opened, this is a valuable asset for local children so please respect it as the Town Council have very limited funds for its upkeep and ongoing maintenance. As Town Mayor, I was proud to officially re-open the Play area on Wednesday 19th April. The

event attracted an excellent attendance of around 60 children who were supplied with a complimentary ice-cream. My thanks also go to Edlington Community Organisation for their support with publicity and preparations for this event and for providing a gazebo and barbecue refreshments on the day. The football pitch has not been in use over the 2016/17 season and is available to let for the next season commencing in August/September 2017. Please contact the Town Clerk if you are interested in hiring the facility.

Town Council Website – The Clerk has established and developed the 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 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. We were successful in having the front of the burnt-out shop on Main Avenue boarded to improve its appearance and lobbied for something to be done or development to take place at Barnburgh House, which was demolished in August 2016 and has been fenced off to improve security and protect against fly-tipping. The Town Council will continue to work in partnership with DMBC and other agencies to secure improvements for the benefit of all parishioners in the village.

Retiring Member – Don Astbury & New Co-optee Appointment – Don Astbury retired as a Town Councillor in January 2017 after several years' service to the Parish of Edlington. The Town Council would like to place on record its thanks to Don and wish him all the best for the future. Following advertisement and a recruitment exercise, the Town Council are pleased to announce that Rob Reid has been co-opted on to the Council to the role vacated by Don and Members look forward to working alongside Rob to pursue improvements for Edlington.

Finally, I would like to report that during my year in office as Town Mayor it has been a pleasure to have been invited and attended the following events as Mayor representing the Town Council:-

- Queen's 90th birthday party celebration event at ECO 11/6/17
- Opening of the Hill Top Sensory Allotment/Community Garden 18/6/16
- Edlington Victoria Primary School Summer Fayre 21/6/16 and judged their Cake competition
- YMHT Annual Miners Memorial Event (Miners Memorial Garden) and Mass held at St John's 24/6/16
- Edlington Gala 25/6/16
- Battle of the Somme – 100th Anniversary Commemoration Service 1/7/16
- Martinwells Lake event 2/7/16
- York Farming Museum re opening of the Gin Race following its relocation 4/7/16
- DMBC Civic Mayors Annual Service & Parade 10/7/16
- St Thomas Wharton Community College Tea Party 12/7/16

- Allotment competition prize giving event held at the Grainger Centre on 21/8/16
- the “Edlo by the Sea” event held at ECO on 28/8/16
- the ECO Christmas Fayre on 4/12/16
- the Edlington Swimming Club presentation evening on 10/12/16
- School Pyramid Heads meeting on 24/1/17 along with the Deputy Mayor
- received the presentation of an old Edlington Pit Check found in Rossington by Mr Graham Mcguigan in the Summer of 2016 which he had agreed to donate to the Yorkshire Main Heritage Trust (YMHT) who have handed the Check to the Town Council for display in the Grainger Centre
- Scarborough Barracks Opening Evening on 23/2/17 and the Old Coldstream Corps of Doncaster Drum Practice 4/3/17
- A Visit to the Caphouse Mining Museum in Wakefield, in conjunction with Yorkshire Main Heritage Trust, former miners and their families

I would also like to express my appreciation for the advice and support I have received from fellow Town Councillors and Simon Oldham, the Town Clerk during the last year which has greatly assisted in enabling me to perform the duties and responsibilities required of the Town Mayor.

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 Joan Briggs

Town Mayor 2016/17