

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

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 and this cleared the process of assessment by a designated Independent Examiner last December and we are hoping to go forward to Referendum in the next 3-4 months. Regrettably this has been delayed, but please look out for further publicity when the Referendum date is published. If a “Yes” vote is secured (51% of those who turn out and vote), our Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory planning framework that Doncaster Town Planners have to have regard to, when determining future applications in Edlington.

Auburn Road Community Woodland Project –The Town Council have established a Community Steering Group which continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis to look to take forward our vision for a community woodland/recreational area. Over the last 15 months, significant site clearance and landscaping works have been undertaken and an access gate/fencing gifted by Holme Hall Quarry. A free tree pack has been donated by the Woodland Trust and planted and grant funding of £10000 from the Trust and £2500 from DMBC Environmental fund has largely been spent on the project. The next phase has commenced which includes a formal pathway through the site. Further work will be carried out on this during the Summer and additional bids are shortly being prepared to tap in to other sources of grant funding to further progress the overall project vision to help bring this to reality. It is a long term project for delivery within the next 5 years or so.

Look out for further updates on the Town Council's website
<http://edlingtontc.org/neighbourhood-plan/country-park> or Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/EdlingtonTC/>

Royal Estate – The Town Council continued to make representations to the Police and DMBC on behalf of local residents on the Royal estate who have suffered from escalating crime and anti-social behaviour. Inspector Dan Mcknight is very supportive of the Town Council and attends our monthly meetings to appraise the Council of the actions they are taking and the successes that have been achieved. A year ago on 30th March, 2017 the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones and the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, Sioned Mair-Richards attended a public meeting here in the Grainger Centre to listen to local residents concerns and feedback on what they were experiencing and committed to find a way forward to put more resource in place to address these matters as far as they were reasonably able. In addition, a community engagement day was organised by the Town Council and held on 11th August, 2017 and advice & other Officer support was provided by partner agencies. The Town Council will continue to lobby those agencies to put appropriate measures in place in an attempt to alleviate the worst effects and agreed

an alternative strategy for tackling crime and ASB which was presented to DMBC and the South Yorkshire Police. One of the negative outcomes of the Town Councils proactive campaign was an attack on my home which took place over three nights resulting in almost £4000.00 of damage to my property the perpetrators have still not been brought to justice.

Allotments - The annual Allotment competition was again held in the Summer of 2017 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 13th August, 2017. This years' competition is currently under preparation and will likely be slightly different and aimed to coincide with our Festival on Saturday 28th July with allotment holders and other keen home gardeners invited to bring their produce along for judging on the day as part of the celebrations to be conducted at the Yorkshire Main Welfare Ground. 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 established a formal car park for visitors just over 12 months ago, 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. A formal Cemetery entrance sign was erected during 2017. A formal set of Burial Ground regulations were also adopted last year as well as a policy on the location of benches within the Cemetery grounds to ensure that these are of sufficient quality and can stand the test of time. In addition our burial and memorial fees remain competitively priced. The fees are reviewed annually and the new schedule from 1st June, 2018 can be found on our website at <http://edlingtontc.org/cemetery>

Community Centre – The Grainger Centre continues to be available for community hire and is well used in the evenings with the exception of Wednesday's which remains available for hire. There remains very 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 coordinated a very successful Remembrance Sunday parade this year involving several Cadet Groups (Army, Police, Fire, St John's Ambulance and others) and the Chesterfield Chevrons marching band, from Hill Top Centre marching down Edlington Lane via St John's Church to the Cenotaph garden for a service presided over by Fr Edmonds who read prayers. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire was once again 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 who took the lead at

this years' event by singing prominent war songs, including "White cliffs of Dover; Run Rabbit; and We'll meet again". The Town Council wishes to place on record its thanks to all those who attended and supported both commemorations.

Grants & Donations – A formalised grants policy and criteria was established by the Town Council last Summer and the Council again supported a Christmas donation to the Churches and in addition provided funding support to Old Edlington Tenants & Residents Association, Hilltop Parent Activity Team, St John's Ambulance and Hilltop and Victoria Academies Exceed Learning Partnerships.. The amount of grant awarded overall was £1600.

Gala – This year's Gala was held on 24th June, 2017. It proved to be a huge success and was again underwritten by the Town Council. The Town Council's thanks go to Debbie Tuby the overall organiser and the Gala Organising Committee members for their efforts in coordinating all aspects of preparations 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. This year, Edlington Town Council will replace its traditional Gala for one year only, with a Festival (Saturday 28th July, 2018) to commemorate a once in a lifetime, 100-year centenary that marks the end of the 1st World War and women over the age of 30 who occupied a house (or were married to someone who did) could now vote.

Preparations are underway and the festival will involve a march through the community at 10.30am to the old pit head, where a commemoration and service of dedication will take place, with the laying of wreaths and unveiling of memorial plaques. This is to pay respects to the 1200 miners from the Yorkshire Main Colliery, who marched from the site to the theatre of war many sadly not returning.

Afterwards, it is planned for the festival to continue on the Yorkshire Main Welfare ground from 12noon where a multitude of themed activities and events are planned during the day, including amusements, stalls, exhibitions and activities for people of all ages. The day will be themed on the Miners, Soldiers and Suffragettes and we are encouraging as many people who attend to dress in attire from the period. We will also be paying tribute to the community who supported the war effort which extended long after the war finished. Local Clubs and the Tumbler, will also be providing entertainment following the closing of the Festival.

Look out for further details as we get closer to 28th July.

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 on Monday 18th December, 2017 in the Miners Memorial Garden and proved hugely popular with over 70 people in attendance and excellent contributions and singing from pupils at the Hilltop Academy who made their own special contribution to the concert. A Christmas meal

and party was held in the Grainger Centre for Senior Citizen's and was well attended with almost 60 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 Town Council do not have a limitless pot of funds to throw at repairs and so would urge all local parishioners to respect the facilities on offer and to report any incidences of crime or anti-social behaviours that they witness to South Yorkshire Police or the Town Clerk. The football pitch is now once again being used regularly on Sunday's by the Warmsworth Lions Junior Football Club and The Sheffield District Junior Sunday Football League (SDJSFL) recently awarded two finals to be played on The Rec which took place on Sunday 22nd April. Any other teams interested in hiring the pitch should contact the Town Clerk, to check availability.

Town Council Website – The Town Council have established a new facebook page which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/EdlingtonTC/>

Additional Town Council information/news can be found on the website 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 continue to lobby the statutory authorities to address a few eyesores and improve the visual amenity in the village by working with Doncaster Council and others to try to secure improvements. We were successful last year in having the front of the burnt-out shop on Main Avenue boarded to improve its appearance and having the rear secured by a wall to prevent the dumping of waste material and continue to press for something to be done or development to take place at Barnburgh House and the former Ridings Care Home site. 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.

Other engagement and activity instigated by the Town Council – During the last twelve months the Town Council has also :-

- Undertaken a consultation exercise with the residents of Hillside Drive who have encountered ongoing parking problems on the road especially around School drop-off/pick-up times and as a result, representations have been made on their behalf to the Highways Authority requesting the majority of respondents preference be instigated for parking restrictions (single yellow lining) to be put in place between Monday – Friday 8am - 9.30am and 3pm - 4.30pm
- Acquired a small piece of St Leger Homes land immediately at the rear of the Edlington Community Organisation premises for a nominal sum of £1 for use as an additional overflow car parking space in addition to the spaces currently available to the side of the Memorial garden. Plans are in place to regulate the use of this via the supply of bollards

- Arranged to share ongoing maintenance responsibility with St John's Church for the upkeep of the former War Graves site at the rear of St Peter's Church/White House paddock and facilitated a tree survey on the condition of the trees located on the site. As a consequence, having obtained Conservation Area Consent, two damaged trees are to be felled later this Spring
- Participated in the St Leger Homes consultation on the future use of community centre buildings within Edlington and their viability going forward given their current usage levels
- We continued to lobby Doncaster MBC throughout the year with regard to the proposed new build on the former Thompson / Dixon Road site and improved street lighting in the area

Retiring Members & New Co-optee Appointments – Within the last year, Councillors Ray and Georgina Mullis and Bob Johnson have retired as Members of the Council after varying lengths and distinguished service to Edlington. The Town Council would like to place on record its thanks to each of them and wish all the very best for the future. Following an advertisement and a recruitment exercise, the Town Council are pleased to announce that they have been replaced by Keri Anderson and Linda Smith as co-opted Members and a further vacancy is to be filled in the near future.

On a sadder note, the Town Council lost one of its valued employees last Christmas with the sudden passing of David Booth who had provided exemplary service to the Town Council over the last few years. The Town Council offered its condolences to David's partner and family.

In conclusion, 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. I found it a great honour and a privilege to represent the proud residents of our community and extend my personal thanks for the support I have received during the term of office.

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 Frank Arrowsmith

Town Mayor 2017/18