



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
ALFRETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**PRESENTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR
COUNCILLOR JOHN WALKER**

13TH MAY 2014

I would like to start by thanking the fellow members of Alfreton Town Council and staff who have worked with me to make this a successful year in office.

It has been a very busy but enjoyable year with many varied events, most accompanied by my wife Angela.

I remember fondly, my Civic Event held at the Watchorn Church in October and attended by many dignitaries from Derbyshire. Those who attended were privileged to hear Alfreton Male Voice Choir sing in the refurbished church, which was a magnificent sound. I was also invited to attend their event held with Greasley and Somercotes Male Voice Choirs. With Angela and the Deputy Mayor, I attended the Pilgrimage to Crich Stand with the Mercian Regiments in June, on a blisteringly hot day to lay wreaths in memory of those lost in conflicts.

I have been invited to many school events, Croft's Christmas Play, Woodbridge Christmas Dinner, Opening the Surestart Garden and Special Room at Leys and The Grange Christmas Concert and Year 11 Awards to mention but a few.

I have presented many grant cheques in my year as Mayor, Notts and Derby Youth Cricket League, Alfreton Cricket Club and Alfreton Swimming Club, Watchorn Youth Clubs.

I was asked along to the 100th Birthday Party at Normanton Lodge for a resident, which was a lovely afternoon.

I was honoured to be asked, along with players from Alfreton Town Football Club, to switch on the Christmas Lights for Alfreton, this event was hugely successful and plans are underway for a bigger event 2014.

My chosen Charity has been Diabetes UK. Angela and me held a coffee morning at the Christian Centre where all proceeds were for this cause. I presented a cheque for £2033.62 in April to Margaret Jones and Elaine Downs from Diabetes UK who were very grateful for the donation and will keep us informed as to how they intend to use the funds.

John Walker

Annual Report of Alfreton Town Council – May 2014

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS:

Alfreton Town Council met on 12 occasions last year.

Alfreton Town Council was served by the Executive and Planning Committees

Attendance was as follows:

	No. of meetings	Possible member attendances	Actual member attendances	Percentage attendance level
Full Council	12	165	121	73%
Executive Committee	5	40	37	93%
Planning Committee	1	8	5	63%
OVERALL	18	213	163	77%

Alfreton Town Council also had membership of the following outside bodies:

- *ACTS*
- *Alfreton & District Heritage Trust*
- *Alfreton Business Club*
- *Alfreton Community Association*
- *Alfreton Community Forum*
- *Amber Valley Access*
- *Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre*
- *Police Liaison*
- *Pubwatch*

‘QUALITY PARISH’ STATUS

Alfreton Town Council was successful in renewing its bid for ‘Quality Parish’ Status in June 2010 and continues with this certification pending a new national scheme.

LIAISON WITH ALFRETON POLICE

Alfreton Town Council maintains regular contact with Alfreton Police. Representatives from the police are invited to attend each meeting of the Town Council. Alfreton Town Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Inspector Graham Lammin and his Officers for

their work in Alfreton. There are regular meetings between Beat Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Officers of the Town Council. Alfreton Town Council have been actively involved in ensuring the town is serviced by local police.

CUSTOMER CARE

Alfreton Town Council has a Customer Care Policy:

ACCESSIBILITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter – ‘cATCh UP’.

As part of its commitment to communicate with residents, Alfreton Town Council publishes Newsletters each year. The Newsletter is called cATCh UP'. The Newsletters give information of Alfreton Town Council's activities and give contact details for Town Councillors and for the Town Clerk's Office.

Public participation

A period of 15 minutes at the start of each full Alfreton Town Council meeting is dedicated to public participation.

There are rules for participation at Council meetings. They are designed to be straightforward, simple and fair and allow business to proceed in a fair and orderly manner. Questioners must be on the Electoral Register for the Town of Alfreton.

A form must be completed a week before the meeting and can be found on the website.

Access

Alfreton Town Council, as a service provider, is keen to ensure that its services are available to all residents and visitors to the Town. The office can be contacted in various ways (person, phone, email, letter).

PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

Alfreton Town Council has a Planning Committee, which considered **59** Planning Applications in the Town and passed on representations to Amber Valley Borough Council, the Planning Authority.

The Planning Committee is keen to ensure the growth of Alfreton as a vibrant shopping and residential town without compromising the quality of life of residents or the historical and conservation needs.

The Council is actively involved in the application for a 'Village Green' on the Outseat's Farm site.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

In 2013/14 Alfreton Town Council had reserves of **£84938**

The Town Council had an income of **£265633**

Made up as follows:

Precept + Support Grant	169164
Income from Alfreton House	11531
Re-instated Cheque	221
Income from Allotments	583
Mayor's Charity	1049
Personnel	2050
Income Shopmobility	2475
Vat Refund	10167

In the last year Alfreton Town Council spent **£184370**

On the following

Staffing costs	63673
Admin, Furniture, Equipment, Telephones	11824
Mayor's allowance (MB/SMC/JW)	3504
Alfreton House ,Properties / Utilities/Allotments	18996
Environment, Regeneration and Christmas Lights	36467
Grants and Sponsorship	18466
Motor vehicle	902
Newsletter and Website	1683
Outseats Farm	1266
Insurance	7344
Elections	6172
Special Events	2932
Bank Charges	351
Vat	10790

Which leaves reserves of **£97808** transferred to the next financial year.

The Town Council has **no** borrowings.

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY FUND

Using its Powers of Wellbeing, the Town Council has awarded, in 2013-2014, grants to: -

Payee	
Alfreton Male Voice Choir	£250.00
Alfreton Cricket Club	£1,500.00
St Martins PCC	£50.00
Mrs J Kettell. St Georges Day Parade	£200.00
Home Start Amber Valley	£596.00
Watchorn Methodist Church	£500.00
Notts & Derby Border Youth League	£950.00
Miners Arms FC	£200.00
D.U.W.C	£2,500.00
Age UK Derbyshire	£750.00
Firs Gardens Pensioners Group	£200.00
Friends of Woodbridge Junior School	£739.96
Alfreton Swimming Club	£500.00
A.D.A.S.C	£1,000.00
Alfreton Town Junior Football Club	£480.00
St Martins PCC	£100.00
Miners Arms FC	£200.00
Alfreton Male Voice Choir	£250.00
Alfreton Cricket Club	£4500.00
Total	£15465.96

Grant application forms are available on the website. Requests from the Community Fund are displayed publically.

The Town Council continues to sponsor Alfreton Town Football Club.

STAFFING

The Town Council employs the following staff:

Town Clerk – David Holmes (Part time)

Assistant Town Clerk – Tina Crookes (Part time)

Office Assistant – Sharon Bidwell (Part time)

Garden and Maintenance Operative – Steve Degg (Full time)

Office Availability

Alfreton Town Council can be contacted at:

Room 12, Alfreton House, High Street, Alfreton DE55 7HH.

The offices are staffed between 9-00 am and 12-30 pm Tuesday to Thursday, if you have a query you can call in to the office between these hours, no appointment necessary or you can write to us at the above address, we pride ourselves in answering correspondence speedily.

If you would prefer to ring our telephone number is 01773 520032 or e-mail us on alfretontc@aol.com.

The Town Council has a website which can be accessed at www.alfretontowncouncil.co.uk

ALFRETON STATION AND TRAIN SERVICES THROUGH ALFRETON

Alfreton Town Council has continued to monitor the Station in particular the need for disabled access. There has been correspondence regarding disabled access at Alfreton Station, with MPs, Network Rail and East Midlands Trains along with a Public Meeting held in June.

Following the comprehensive campaign Alfreton Town Council are pleased to confirm funds have been made available to update the station.

ALFRETON BUS STATION.

Alfreton Town Council is responsible for the sweeping of the bus station and cleaning of the shelters. The Grounds and Maintenance Operative carries out the sweeping and contractors undertake the specialist cleaning which the Town Council pays for.

TOUR OF THE TOWN

On Saturday 15th June 2013 the Town Council toured the Town to monitor facilities and environmental areas. Local residents were invited to participate and meet with Councillors on their route and give their input. There was a set of objectives for the Tour of the Town followed by a report. Many objectives have been resolved or are receiving attention.

PROPERTIES:

Alfreton House

Alfreton Town Council maintains and manages Alfreton House which is the oldest property in Alfreton. Due to the age of the building increased running costs are incurred by The Council. The building is used for all Council Meetings and events, along with rooms within the house being let to commercial tenants. The Council Chamber is let out at an affordable rate. CCTV has been installed along with an updated alarm and security system.

War Memorial

Alfreton Town Council is responsible for the War Memorial on King Street. The Town Council has installed an interpretation board near the War Memorial. The sand boxes have been replaced on the Memorial.

Alfreton Town Council organised alongside the Royal British Legion, a parade and church service for Remembrance Sunday. This was attended by over 2000 people and was a very successful event. Road closures were in place, support by the Police to ensure the safety of the public.

House of Confinement.

Alfreton Town Council has responsibility for the area of land adjacent to the House of Confinement on King Street. In March 2011 the Town Council undertook refurbishment of this area with new paving, a raised bed planted with roses and new seating . An interpretation board has also been installed. The rose bed has been supported by the Rotary Club.

Watchorn Bus Shelter

Following the Tour of the Town, Alfreton Town Council undertook a maintenance exercise of the bus shelter, sanding and repainting the woodwork.

ALLOTMENTS

Alfreton Town Council is the owner of 4 Allotment Sites. They are under the management of individual allotment associations. Alfreton Town Council will continue to support those associations so that they can offer allotments at a reasonable rent.

SUMMER AND WINTER PLANTING SCHEMES

The Town Council provides and maintains planting schemes throughout the Town, particularly the grounds of Alfreton House and the House of Confinement. The Garden and Maintenance Operative also maintains the planters at Alfreton Railway Station, Alfreton Grange Arts College, opposite the Watchorn Church on Derby Road and at the War Memorial site.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND SWITCH ON EVENT

In 2013 the Town once again had an attractive set of Christmas Lights which included a traditional Christmas tree with a modern lighting display on the High Street and a modern artificial Christmas Tree at Alfreton House.

A Christmas Lights Switch On Event was held at Alfreton House raising money for various charities which was very successful, another event is planned for 2014.

STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Officers carried out a Financial Risk Assessment on 2nd April 2014

COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCILLOR	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO
M Bennett MBE	11 Birch Close Alfreton DE55 7ET	01773 834414
P Bennett	54 Ellesmere Avenue Alfreton DE55 7HW	01773 835867
J Brown	Our House The Green Fritchley,Belper DE56 2FW	01773 853472
M Brown	Our House The Green Fritchley,Belper DE56 2FW	01773 853472
G Dolman	47 Alfred Street Alfreton DE55 7JD	01773 835065
J Gdula	28 Cressy Road Alfreton DE55 7BR	01773 834206
P Holmes	8 Pease Close Alfreton DE55 7FS	01773 831158
P Hunt	50 Prospect Street Alfreton DE55 7GY	01773 835732
M Kerry	12 Chatsworth Close Alfreton DE55 7PH	01773 521811
S Marshall-Clarke	28 Cressy Road Alfreton DE55 7BR	01773 834206
A Richardson	43 Firs Gardens Alfreton DE55 7FU	01773 835508
J Savage	7 Oakland Street Alfreton DE55 7GT	07906 715434
J Walker	40 Ley Gardens Alfreton DE55 7GZ	01773 831727
S Walker	5 Meadow Court, Priory Road, Alfreton DE55 7JF	01773 830028
P Woodhouse	36 Milton Avenue Alfreton DE55 7LA	01773 836749