



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
ALFRETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**PRESENTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR
COUNCILLOR GAIL DOLMAN**

19TH MAY 2015

Annual Report of Alfreton Town Council – May 2015

An address from the Town Mayor 2014/2015

I have been honoured to represent my home town of Alfreton as Mayor for 2014/2015, where I was born and raised. I only wish that my parents had been alive to witness it.

The most memorable occasion during my year as Mayor was organising and hosting the 2nd Christmas Event of Alfreton along with my Deputy Marlene Bennett and staff, which was again attended by thousands of local people who enjoyed visiting Santa, his Reindeer and listening to local entertainment whilst also enjoying the food and fair rides that were on offer. An event that will hopefully continue and thrive.

One of the first events which I attended as the new mayor for Alfreton was to open the mud kitchen at Alfreton Nursery, I was greeted by many enthusiastic children ready to serve me mud pie, which luckily was not on the menu when I was invited to celebrate the 100th birthday with Mrs Teece and her family at Providence Place, which was very humbling.

Another poignant event was the pilgrimage to Crich to lay a wreath something that this Council supports each year.

The W.I held an event in the grounds of Alfreton House to welcome the centenary baton through Derbyshire, this was attended by myself and other councillors and also local celebrity, Sally Pepper. The W.I served Cream Teas to other visiting groups and hosted an enjoyable afternoon.

I have really enjoyed visiting children in local schools and talking with them, I was asked to present the School Councillors with their welcome packs, something which made both myself and the children very proud. I have also visited the Special School, following the grant which was awarded to them and also Christ the King to thank them for the fantastic artwork displays that they did for the WW1 commemorations, another event which proved to be a success.

Woodbridge School also supported my Civic Event when their school choir sang some very popular songs and enjoyed the celebrations of the event. As too did Heage Brass Band. The service was attended by many family and friends for which I was very grateful as many had travelled a long way to be there.

I was delighted to be asked to open both the Air Ambulance shop and also the Claire Sales School of Dance along with attending Party in the Park along and many other local fayres and fetes

I thoroughly enjoyed the Buxton tattoo which was a joy to watch and Beating of the retreat at Chatsworth.

My chosen Charity for the year has been Marie Curie Cancer Care for which I have raised in excess of £1000, through donations and fund raising.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and my deputy for their continued support during my year as Mayor. I have had such a wonderful and exciting year and want to thank the people of Alfreton for letting me have this opportunity.

Councillor Gail Dolman

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS:

Alfreton Town Council met on 10 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 | 10 | 139 | 102 | 73% |
| Executive Committee | 4 | 28 | 23 | 82% |
| OVERALL | 14 | 167 | 125 | 75% |

Councillor P Holmes has not been included due to leave of absence and subsequent resignation, Councillor J Savage was included until 10th March 2015.

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

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



Local Council Award Scheme - Foundation

This replaced the Quality status which was previously attained, all quality councils had the option to receive foundation status without going through the accreditation process and at no cost. This status will expire at the end of December 2015. This allows the council to keep continuous accreditation in the scheme, whilst preparing the criteria for the new scheme, if they wish to do so.

LIAISON WITH ALFRETON POLICE

Alfreton Town Council continues to liaise with the police on many occasions. The police are invited to each council meeting to update the Councillors on any issues.

The Police regularly visit the Council Offices.

The Council has been actively involved in the local policing of the area throughout the year and wish to thank the Inspector and his team for servicing Alfreton.

CUSTOMER CARE

Alfreton Town Council has a Customer Care Policy

ACCESSIBILITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter – ‘cATCh UP’.

The Council continues to publish newsletters and articles as part of its commitment to communicate with residents,

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 **29** Planning Applications in the Town and passed on 2 objections and 2 observations 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

ALFRETON TOWN COUNCIL BALANCE AS AT 30/04/2015

Opening Balance

97808.54

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Precepts | 142260.00 |
| Precepts Support Grant(Capital Projects) | 30347.00 |
| Alfreton House & Properties | 15492.98 |
| Re-Instated Cheque's | 3935.00 |
| Key Deposit's Room 1 | 10.00 |
| Allotments | 558.00 |
| Refunds | 88.24 |
| VAT Refund | 7074.31 |
| Mayor's Charity GD | 545.00 |
| Bank Interest (Unity Bank) | 1.23 |
| Environment | <u>250.00</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>200561.76</u> |

200561.76

298370.30

298370.30

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Clerks Salary | 14398.43 |
| Assistant Clerk | 12793.94 |
| G/M Operative | 14661.95 |
| Office Assistant | 5496.84 |
| Pensions | 10454.61 |
| Work Clothes/Equipment/Training | 1706.42 |
| Admin/Furniture/Equip/Tel/PettyCash | 8846.29 |
| Mayor's Allowance JW 13/14 | 90.00 |
| Mayor's Allowance GD 14/15 | 2253.66 |
| Power of Wellbeing | 12496.73 |
| Properties | 14110.00 |
| Environment & Christmas Lights | 35848.68 |
| Motor Vehicle | 944.04 |
| Allotments | 1093.20 |
| Newsletter/Website | 1200.01 |
| Mayors Charity JW | 953.62 |
| Sponsorship | 3000.00 |
| Outseats/Eachwell Lane | 9.90 |
| Bank Charges (11 months) | 423.32 |
| Elections | 0.00 |
| Christmas Event | 2618.36 |
| Community Fund | 13500.00 |
| Capital Projects | 22999.62 |
| Balances | 650.00 |
| VAT | 13333.97 |
| Mayor`s Charity GD | <u>545.00</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>194428.59</u> |

194428.59

103941.71

9902.05

100007.23

Less Unpresented Cheques

-6185.49

103723.79

Plus Petty Cash in Hand

217.92

TOTAL

103941.71

BALANCE OF HSBC BANK ACCOUNT AS AT 31/03/15

BALANCE OF UNITY BANK ACCOUNT AS AT 31/03/15

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY FUND

Using its Powers of Wellbeing, the Town Council has awarded, in 2014-2015, grants to: -

| POWER OF WELLBEING FOR THE YEAR 2014/2015 BUDGET SET £16000.00 | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| ORGANISATION | AMOUNT GRANTED | DURATION OF GRANT |
| D.U.W.C | 2500.00 | 1 Year |
| 1401 Squadron ATC | 200.00 | |
| St Martins PCC | 50.00 | |
| Alfreton + District U3A | 480.00 | |
| Alfreton Party in the Park | 3000.00 | |
| Notts+Derby Youth Border | 1000.00 | |
| Home Start Amber Valley | 1000.00 | |
| 1st Riddings Brownies | 300.00 | |
| Alfreton Male Voice Choir | 906.75 | |
| Alfreton Male Voice Choir | 59.98 | |
| Rebecca Wardle | 200.00 | |
| Blueys | 200.00 | |
| Firs Friendship Club | 100.00 | |
| ADASC | 1500.00 | |
| Alfreton Rendezvous Group | 500.00 | |
| Alfreton Womens Institute | 300.00 | |
| Saturday Social & Activity Club | 200.00 | |
| TOTAL | 12496.73 | |
| COMMUNITY FUND | | |
| Alfreton Park Community School | 13500.00 | |
| Total | 13500.00 | |
| Sponsorship | | |
| Alfreton Town Football Club | 3000.00 | |
| Total | 3000.00 | |

Grant application forms are available on the website. Requests from 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

The Town Council met with representatives of Network Rail and East Midlands Trains in March 2015, where they were told that Alfreton is 1 of 3 stations approved for funding in the next years on the DfT Priority list, worked on hierarchy and needs which have been approved by DfT in their next 'round of funding'.

Surveys of station due to start in April 2015 to determine location of footbridge

Initial designs October 2015

Public meeting November 2015

Design period and start by March/April 2016

Complete by Dec 2016

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.

The Town Council have contacted Trent Buses to hold a public meeting in Alfreton regarding the re-routing of the 'Nines' buses along Grange Street.

TOUR OF THE TOWN

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 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, supported by the Police to ensure the safety of the public.

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 2014 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, refurbished to a new brighter LED display. 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 2015.

STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Officers carried out a Financial Risk Assessment

Financial Regulations were adopted in November 2014

A Health and Safety Policy and Rules were adopted in November 2014

Risk assessments were reviewed in March 2015

Insurance was reviewed in March 2015

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014/2015

| 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 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 Walker | 40 Ley Gardens Alfreton DE55 7GZ | 01773 831727 |
| S Walker | 5 Meadow Court, Priory Road, Alfreton DE55 7JF | 01773 830028 |
| W Webster | Birchwood Lane | |
| P Woodhouse | 36 Milton Avenue Alfreton DE55 7LA | 01773 836749 |