



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
ALFRETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**PRESENTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR
COUNCILLOR MARLENE BENNETT MBE**

17TH MAY 2016

I am privileged once again to have been Mayor for my home Town of Alfreton. I have served this local Council since inception in April 1984 and am proud to be the only member to have this accolade. I also serve on the Borough Council of Amber Valley.

I have attended many events in my Mayoral Year, Crich Memorial, The Beating of the Retreat at Chatsworth, the Brass Festival in Bolsover and many Civic Services of my fellow Councillors to name but a few.

I have been invited to attend and open various events; Woodbridge junior School, Swanwick Primary School Open Day, Carol Concerts at South Wingfield and Somercotes and Dementia Friends at the Leisure Centre and the opening of the Amber Valley Crematorium and Maple Mews. I am always delighted to be part of such Community activities.

The Town Council has a strong relationship with the Football Club who they continue to sponsors and have been invited to many occasions at their grounds along with presenting the sponsorship cheque to them.

A most sombre event which I attended was the playing of the Bugle at Alfreton Fire Station which signified the commemoration of the Last Post Ceremony which is held every evening at 6p.m. at the Menin Gate, Ypres, a co-ordinated task across the Country, I only wish that this had been attended by more people.

The Town Council are always involved with the Party in the Park event which I attended and enjoyed being a part of the fun and games taking place, it is always nice to be amongst the people with whom I represent.

I have to say my most memorable event was the Christmas Lights Switch On which the Council organise where I switched on the lights for 2015 with no other than Rammie himself!

Councillor Marlene Bennett MBE

Annual Report of Alfreton Town Council – May 2016

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS:

Alfreton Town Council met on 11 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	11	165	118	72%
Executive Committee	3	27	26	96%
Planning Committee	2	24	15	62%
OVERALL	16	216	159	74%

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

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

Local Council Award Scheme - Foundation

This status expired at the end of December 2015. The Council have made no decision on the Award Scheme and await the outcome of a report produced by a student on an MBA course to make a further decision.

LIAISON WITH ALFRETON POLICE

Alfreton Town Council continues to liaise with the police and met with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner in March to improve their relationship. The police are invited to each council meeting to update the Councillors on any issues.

The Police also 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 Complaints Procedure.

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. The Council adopted a Communication Policy which aims to establish a protocol for effective communication of the Town Council's activities and pertinent information to the media and members of the public.

The Town Council now have a Facebook page.

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 **62** Planning Applications in the Town and passed on 1 objections and 6 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 MATTERSThe Town Council has **no** borrowings.**ALFRETON TOWN COUNCIL BALANCE AS AT 31/03/2016**

Opening Balance		103941.71	
INCOME			
Precepts	142909.00		
Precepts Support Grant(Capital Projects)	22599.00		
Alfreton House & Properties	15601.88		
Christmas Event (Mayors Charity)	80.00		
Personnel	3242.43		
Bank Interest (Unity Bank)	323.76		
Vat Refund	8821.57		
Rm 1 Key Deposits	10.00		
TOTAL	193587.64	193587.64	297529.35

Clerks Salary	15224.21		
Assistant Clerk	14234.19		
G/M Operative	15753.72		
Office Assistant	5883.92		
Apprentice	445.20		
Relief Staff (Capital Projects)	1325.00		
Pensions	11388.56		
Personnel	306.10		
Administration	5998.24		
Insurance	7447.21		
Mayors Allowance G Dolman	181.00		
Mayors Allowance M Bennett	2459.78		
Grants	12679.85	*M.a.d.e paid twice in error see refunds	
Properties, Alfreton House + Utilities	18818.97		
Environment & Christmas Lights	37943.72		
Motor Vehicle	513.97		
Allotments	515.00		
Newsletter/Website	637.94		
Sponsorship	3000.00		
Outseats/Eachwell Lane	0.00		
Bank Charges (HSBC)	135.06		
Elections	6951.53		
Christmas Event	5136.20		
Balances	307.08		
Environment (Capital Projects)	1500.00		
Community Fund	10052.00		
VAT	10801.88		
Unity - Top up card & Petty Cash	3353.87		
Reinstated Cheques	-490.00		
Refunds	-1175.43	*	
Mayors Charity	80.00		
TOTAL	191408.77		-191408.77
			<u>106120.58</u>

BALANCE OF UNITY BANK ACCOUNT AS AT 31/03/16

		107461.53
Less Unpresented Payments		-1505.00
		105956.53
Petty Cash in Hand		153.80
Top up		
Card		
balance		10.25
TOTAL		<u>106120.58</u>

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY FUND

The Town Council has awarded, in 2015-2016, grants to: -

Payee	£
M.A.D.E	£1,000.00
Alfreton Male Voice Choir (Les Dorey) Banner	£39.85
1401 Squadron ATC	£200.00
DUWC	£2,500.00
Alfreton Cricket Club	£1,500.00
Alfreton & District U.3A	£200.00
Party in The Park	£3,000.00
Alfreton Saturday Club (Re- issued)	£200.00
Friends of Woodbridge	£540.00
Pentrich Revoluton Group	£500.00
Alfreton Park Special School	£500.00
ADASC	£1,500.00
TOTAL	£11,679.85
COMMUNITY FUND	
AVBC Skate Park	£10,052.00
TOTAL	£10,052.00

Grant application forms are available on the website.

The Town Council continues to sponsor Alfreton Town Football Club for £3000.00.

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)

Cormac Molumby – Apprentice (Part-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

The Town Council also has a facebook page



ALFRETON STATION AND TRAIN SERVICES THROUGH ALFRETON

Network Rail and East Midlands Trains held a drop-in event at Alfreton Station in September 2015, many Councillors attended to hear more about future plans for the new footbridge and station building. The Town Council met with Network Rail and East Midlands Trains regarding the proposed improvements under the Access For All Scheme.

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' The barrow crossing closed due to significant risks and will not be opened as an interim solution, current solution of travelling to Chesterfield or Nottingham will be the only solution.

Timescales

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 along with the Apprentice carries out the sweeping and contractors undertake the specialist cleaning which the Town Council pays for. The Town Council have met with Trent Buses and held a public meeting in June regarding the re-routing of the 'Nines' buses along Grange Street, this continues to be monitored.

TOUR OF THE TOWN

This is carried out annually and gives the public the opportunity to meet with their elected Members. The Tour of the Town was carried out in June 2015.

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. The Town Council has replaced windows in the building and installed a new kitchen.

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.

House of Confinement.

Is managed and maintained by the Council. A process was identified including an indemnity, for access to the property for members of the public.

Watchorn Bus Shelter

This is managed and maintained by the Council.

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 very 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 2015 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 2016.

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

Insurance was reviewed in March 2016

COUNCIL MEMBERS**MEMBERS OF ALFRETON TOWN COUNCIL CONTACT LIST**

<u>COUNCILLOR</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Mrs.M.Bennett	11, Birch Close, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7ET	01773 834414
Mrs.P.Bennett	54, Ellesmere Avenue, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7HW	01773 835867
Mrs.G.Dolman	47, Alfred Street, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7JD	01773 835065
G Gdula	28, Cressy Road, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7BR	01773 834206
Mr P Hunt	50 Prospect Street Alfreton, Derbys DE55 7GY	01773 835732
Mary Kerry	12 Chatsworth Close, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 7PH	01773 521110
S.Marshall- Clarke	28, Cressy Road, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7BR	01773 834206
Kat Moss	9 Furnace Row,Somercotes	07971 880130
Cheryl O'Brian	15 Colin Street Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 7HT	01773 830240
A.Richardson	43, Firs Gardens, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7FU	01773 835508
Josh Smith	28 Connaught Court, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7EJ	07824 775813
J.Walker	40, Ley Gardens, Alfreton, Derby' s DE55 7GZ	01773 831727
S.Walker	5, Meadow Court, Priory Rd, Alfreton, Derby's DE55 7JF	01773 830028
Keith Wood	3 Ley Gardens Alfreton Derby's DE55 7LA	07941 620772
Philip Woodhouse	36 Milton Avenue Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 7LA	01773 836749