



Great Aycliffe Town Council

NEWSLETTER



9th June 2017

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Jed Hillary

This has been a wonderful year for me to represent the Town Council of Great Aycliffe in my role as Mayor. I had the pleasure to attending 131 engagements in addition to the formal civic duties. Meeting so many residents, some of who were celebrating special occasions, is one of the things that I enjoy the most about being the Mayor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone



who helped me raise £5,200 for my nominated charities:- The Rifles Care for Casualties, Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre and Aycliffe Village Hall Association. This included a generous donation from Barclays Bank. This annual report provides a brief summary of some key achievements from the past year and an overview of financial information.

SOME KEY THINGS WE DID LAST YEAR

The Council made **capital investment of nearly £221,000 in 2016/17** and the main capital works completed are listed below:

- Conversion works to St Oswald's pre-school office building.
- Golf complex and Moore Lane Heating Systems replaced.
- Replacement office computers, photocopier and telephone system.
- Replacement of Park Patrol vehicles and works machinery.
- Replacement play equipment in West Park and Byerley Park play areas.
- A new Scoot Track at Horndale Park.
- The purchase of wild flower meadow machinery.
- Play area safety surfacing repairs and footpath repairs.

Further details on the Council's recent capital spending and capital investment plans for the future are provided in the 2017/18 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and the 2017/18 Budget and 2016/17 to 2020/21 Medium Term Financial Plan.

In addition to the capital works the Town Council:

- ✓ achieved £213,500 savings across all service areas;
- ✓ once again achieved a clean bill of health with our finances and received an unqualified audit;
- ✓ provided and managed a wide range of special community events such as Fun-in-the-Parks; Santa Tours, Senior Citizens' Excursions; Christmas Lights; Firework Display and the Aycliffe Festival;
- ✓ assisted and supported other event organisers – 10K race; 3K Fun Run; Remembrance Parade and Community Enhancement Awards;

A message from the new Mayor, Councillor Wendy Hillary

It was an honour and a privilege to be appointed Mayor of Great Aycliffe at the Town Council's Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2017. I have chosen to raise funds for the MRI Scanner Appeal at Darlington Memorial Hospital and Bishop Auckland Hospital. My husband Jed and I are

looking forward to supporting and representing the town, businesses and community. If you would like me to attend any special event or occasion, please contact Sharna Stretch at the Town Council offices on 300700.

The **Capital Programme Budget for 2017/18 totals £255,500** and some of the key planned projects are:

- Widening of the Town Park access gate.
- Play area surfacing replacement (first year of a rolling programme of full replacement).
- Replacement roller door and separation tank cleaning at the depot
- Three replacement works vehicles; a multi-use mowing machine, compact tractor and a wood chipper.
- Computer replacements and website development.
- Replacement festive lighting (first year of a new rolling programme of full replacement).
- External lighting replacement for the driving range.
- Replacement of the small flat roof at the sports complex;
- Provision for ongoing drainage repairs at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.
- Replacement of the bar service lift at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.



- Internal CCTV improvements at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.
- Replacement shutters for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex function room door.
- An air conditioning unit for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex function room.
- New leisure equipment including bubble balls, targets and foam fencing equipment for use at the sports complex;
- Additional drainage works at Stephenson Way Cemetery.
- Refurbishment of the Remembrance Garden at West Cemetery.
- Provision for the on-going programme of footpath repairs.
- Further investment at St Oswald's pre-school (changing the office building into a possible second pre-school setting) including an outdoor play area fencing and surfacing.
- A provisional sum for the possible conversion of two squash courts into one multi-purpose room which could also be rented out to local fitness, dance or martial arts organisations.

We also continue to provide our usual services such as:-

- ✓ An environmental centre at Moore Lane
- ✓ Held another successful Town Pride Environment Week working with the Youth Council, local schools and volunteers
- ✓ Manage 9 parks, all with play equipment and provide additional play areas at Scott Place, School Aycliffe and the Oak Leaf Sport Complex
- ✓ Continue to provide 6 football pitches, Mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches
- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Sports Complex - indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children's holidays courses, indoor/outdoor sports activities
- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Golf Complex – 18 hole golf course and an 18 bay floodlit driving range
- ✓ Continue to provide a limited supply of free dog poo bags
- ✓ Continue our partnership working with Durham County Council
- ✓ Worked with a range of partners to deliver a variety of events and services
- ✓ Manage Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery and provide grounds maintenance and burial service at St Andrew's Churchyard
- ✓ Provision and maintenance of Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden
- ✓ Maintenance of war memorial and flagpole
- ✓ Run a pre-school play setting at St. Oswald's Park – with a 'good' Ofsted rating
- ✓ Provide a range of civic events
- ✓ Provide 212 allotment plots in 5 different locations. Inc. 2 allotment sites with pigeon or poultry facilities
- ✓ Employ a Town Pride Team and a team of Park Patrol Operatives
- ✓ Provide public seats in many locations
- ✓ Provide a number of bus shelters with litter bins
- ✓ Grounds maintenance and environmental management at a number of key sites
- ✓ Assist Aycliffe Youth Council
- ✓ Provide a lorry park
- ✓ Encourage Community Empowerment through Customer Panel, Consultation and Open Days
- ✓ Provide small grants to local voluntary organisations
- ✓ Continue to support the preparation of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan
- ✓ Comment on planning applications

Public Referendum PLEASE VOTE - Thursday 22 June

The **Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan** will proceed to public referendum on Thursday 22 June. It is important that residents of the parish vote - a simple 'yes' you agree to the Plan and the policies contained within it, or 'no' you do not, is all that is required. The Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document which sets out the local policies which will govern the future development of the town and parish. The policies relate to key areas identified by parish residents as important, including landscape, environment, housing, heritage, retail provision and parking. The Plan is viewable at <http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/neighbourhood-plan-4/> or at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3285/Neighbourhood-Plan-submissions>

COBBLER'S HALL PROJECT PROGRESSING

The Town Council has completed negotiations to transfer the current play site to the Town Council by way of a lease. This will enable the refurbishment of the play area to proceed. Arrangements to obtain tenders, from appropriate suppliers, is our next step. Following receipt of the schemes the public will be invited to view their proposals and give their preference.

Town Council Targets for 2016 to 2017

AIM 1 - TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

- 1 Publish a Town Council Service Delivery Plan by 31st May each year
- 2 Publish an Annual Report
- 3 Provide a Member and Town Clerk training programme
- 4 Undertake an annual review of the Council Constitution, Financial Regulations and Council Policies to ensure compliance with current legislation
- 5 Undertake a review of all records and filing systems annually to comply with Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act
- 6 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication
- 7 Improve use of all media, including social media, to advertise the Council's services and facilities
- 8 Undertake research where appropriate for new policies and procedures
- 9 Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required
- 10 Continue to monitor energy consumption and reduce usage where possible
- 11 To continue the annual Performance and Development Appraisal Scheme for all staff with a view to being complete by September each year

AIM 2 - TO MANAGE THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND ASSETS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER

- 12 Produce annual statement of accounts by June each year
- 13 Achieve an unqualified external audit opinion
- 14 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the Accounts by 30.9.17
- 15 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year
- 16 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report to Council
- 17 Manage the financial impact of the localisation of support for council tax (LCTSS) and any future cuts to LCTSS funding
- 18 Ensure compliance with the Transparency Code/Openness of Local Government Regulations
- 19 Delivery the work set out in the Asset Management Plan via the capital programme and, a six monthly review is undertaken with Officers and Member Asset Management Group.
- 20 Quarterly budget control reports are presented to Policy and Resources Committee
- 21 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2018
- 22 Undertake a review of all Council risks every March and report to Council
- 23 Continue the programme of financial reviews of all

service areas

24 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for buildings, plant and machinery.

AIM 3 - TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 25 Deliver the Council's programme of special events
 - Fun in the Parks
 - Aycliffe Festival
 - Senior Citizens Trips
 - Firework Display
 - Santa Letters
 - Santa Tours
 - Christmas lights
- 26 Undertake a review of the Santa Tours to ensure volunteers and members of the public are safe and as much, as possible, of the Town has a visit from Santa
- 27 Help co-ordinate and deliver the Aycliffe Festival, providing assistance, financial support if required, training and publicity and undertake a review as soon as possible following the event
- 28 Construct a new play area at Cobbler's Hall, subject to lease being completed
- 29 Undertake a review of activity usage and explore the possibility of any new activities that could be implemented at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex

AIM 4 - TO PROVIDE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AS APPROPRIATE IN GREAT AYCLIFFE

30 Ensure the continuous improvement of the service and obtain at least a 'good' and aiming for 'excellent' Ofsted Inspection

AIM 5 - TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF AYCLIFFE BY MANAGING AND DEVELOPING PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES

- 31 Works & Environment Manager to arrange to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities
- 32 Undertake the works arising from the survey of trees on Town Council land in accordance with the Tree Policy and prioritise any work needed
- 33 To continue to monitor the health and condition of the trees on Town Council land
- 34 Commission The Groundwork Trust to undertake a Hydrology and Ecology report on the lakes at West Park and investigate ways and means to implement any recommendations
- 35 Undertake landscaping improvement works as required
- 36 Works and Environment Manager to organise and help deliver public countryside events
- 37 Complete at least 5 targeted Himalayan Balsam removing

working parties along The Burn

38 Improve and increase the planting, including additional plant species, in the wildflower meadows

39 Undertake maintenance and management of specific Durham County Council environmental areas as per the management agreement

40 Undertake a limited snow clearing and gritting service for Durham County Council (DCC) as per the winter maintenance agreement for the benefit of residents

41 North Agnew Plantation – to undertake footpath improvements if/when woodland transferred to GATC

AIM 6 – HELP AND ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

42 Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by:

- Organising the election process –
 - Holding at least 8 meetings a year -
 - Helping to organise at least 1 project a year
- 43 To continue partnership working with DCC and build on the existing initiatives
- 44 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups to hold a Town Pride Environment Week
- 45 The Works and Environment Manager, the Town Pride Team and Park Patrol Officers to work with DCC Officers
- 46 The Works & Environment Manager and Town Pride Team to work with DCC Officers and Tidy Britain to ensure that the Great Aycliffe Parish has a targeted **Anti-Littering campaign**, in addition to the work already scheduled by DCC
- 47 Work in partnership with residents and friends groups to improve our parks, play areas and environment areas

48 Hold an aims and target meeting each March to discuss progress on existing targets and new targets with the Customer Panel Group

AIM 7 - ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY

- 49 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel
- 50 To promote the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan and vote in the referendum
- 51 Hold a Parish Meeting
- 52 Hold an Allotment AGM
- 53 Hold 4 allotment representative meetings
- 54 Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services

AIM 8 - TO RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MAKE THE CASE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE

55 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

31st May 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	29th Nov. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.
31st May 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	29th Nov. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
7th June 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	6th Dec. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
14th June 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	13th Dec. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
12th July 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	17th Jan. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
12th July 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	17th Jan. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
19th July 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	24th Jan. 2018	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
26th July 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	31st Jan. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
6th Sept. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	28th Feb. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
6th Sept. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	28th Feb. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
13th Sept. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	7th Mar. 2018	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
20th Sept. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	14th Mar. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
18th Oct. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	11th Apr. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
18th Oct. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	11th Apr. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
25th Oct. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	18th Apr. 2018	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
1st Nov. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	25th Apr. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

* The Recreation Committee will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

16th MAY, 2018 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.
23rd MAY, 2018 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (*)**

The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend.
 "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

(***) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council's area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2017/18

- (a) **Youth Council** - Councillors J. Atkinson and D. Atkinson together with the Corporate and Policy Officer.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils** - Councillors R.S. Fleming, M. Iveson and the Town Clerk.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association** - Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association** - Councillors K. Henderson and Mrs. B.A. Clare.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee** - Councillors J.P. Hillary, B. Hall and the Town Clerk.
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum** - Councillors R.S. Fleming and M. Iveson and the Town Clerk.
- (g) **Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre** - Councillor J.D. Clare.
- (h) **Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society** - Councillor I. Gray.
- (i) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve** - Councillor I. Gray.
- (j) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway** - Councillor D. Hardaker.
- (k) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** - Councillors J. Atkinson, I. Gray, B. Hall and the Corporate and Policy Officer.
- (l) **Crime and Community Safety Task Group** - Councillors M. Iveson and M. Ashcroft.

GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Council considered applications for Grants and the following were agreed and paid out over the year 2016/17.

• Oakleaf Golf Section	£300	• Great North Air Ambulance	£200
• County Durham School Benevolent Fund	£200	• Durham Cathedral - Holocaust Memorial	£200
• Learning Library	£200	• Great North Childrens Hospital	£64
• Oakleaf Golf Club	£50	• Durham Cathedral	£250
• Rotary Club - Model Railway Exhibition	£100	• Newton Aycliffe Sports Club	£500
• Rotary Club - Sponsored Community Jaunt	£100	Total	
• Woodham Village Association	£600		

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017 / 2018

Members on Committee

COUNCIL (All Members) **Councillor Wendy P. Hillary (Mayor)**, **Councillor John Clark (Deputy Mayor)**

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, D.G. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson and P. Symons.

RECREATION COMMITTEE (26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, D.G. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson and Mrs. S.A. Symons.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE (26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson, P. Symons and Mrs. S.A. Symons.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS from the Policy and Resources Committee

SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP (8 Members)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, A.M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and K. Robson.

GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (Members chosen as necessary from appropriate Committee)

MEMBER APPEALS PANEL (Members chosen as necessary from Personnel Sub-Committee)

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE (14 Members + Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, W. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and K. Robson.

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (4 Members + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio) Cllrs J.D. Clare, J. Clark, G.C. Gray, J.P. Hillary and P. Symons.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (8 Members + Mayor as ex-officio) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, A.M. Chandran, G.C. Gray, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP (11 Members) Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, A.M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and P. Symons.

CHARGES WORKING GROUP (Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Clark, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE (6 Members) Councillors A.M. Chandran, J.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and K. Robson.

PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Members + Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy & Resources) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathryn Beetham, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. S.A. Symons.

WORKING GROUPS from the Recreation Committee

GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP (1 Member + Chair and Vice-Chair of Recreation)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, D.A. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)

FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP (3 Members + Chair & Vice-Chair of Recreation)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathryn Beetham, B. Hall, D. Hardaker and J.P. Hillary.

SANTA TOURS WORKING GROUP (1 Member + Chair & Vice-Chair of Recreation and Policy)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

SUB-COMMITTEE from the Environment Committee

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE (11 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor)

Councillors P. Bergg, A. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J. Clark, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, J. Hillary, Mrs. W. Hillary, M. Iveson and K. Robson.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2016/17 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Surname	Forenames	Title	Total Payment	Allowance	Subsistence Mileage Claim
Adam	Edward M.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Ashcroft	Martin	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Atkinson	Derek George	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Atkinson	James	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Bergg	Peter John	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Blenkinsopp	William M.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Bowman	Thomas R.	Mr	£88.30	£88.30	
Chandran	Arun	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Clare	John Duncan	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Clare	Barbara Anne	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Clark	John Joseph	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Collinson	Neil	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Dalton	Maria	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Dalton	Michael	Mr	£0.00	£0.00	
Davies	Peter Lewis	Mr	£854.90	£854.90	
Fleming	Robert Stuart	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Gray	George C.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Gray	Ian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Haigh	Sandra	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Hall	Brian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Henderson	Keith	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Hewitson	Irene	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Hillary	Wendy P.	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Hillary	Jeremy Paul	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Iveson	William	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Iveson	Sarah Jane	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Iveson	Malcolm	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Kjenstad	Paul Einar	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Raw	Valerie M.	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Robson	Kenneth	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60	
Wheeler	Christopher A.	Mr	£706.40	£706.40	

Any subsistence figures are for Conferences – As per approved Members Allowance Scheme

MEMBERS ATTENDANCES

5th MAY 2016
TO
4th MAY 2017

Councillor	Att.	Apol.	Poss.
Adam E	39	0	39
Ashcroft M	48	3	53
Atkinson DG	24	7	31
Atkinson J	56	3	63
Bergg PJ	28	10	39
Blenkinsopp W	32	5	39
Chandran AM	50	1	51
Clare Mrs BA	33	9	43
Clare J	33	6	39
Clark J	32	14	48
Collinson N	32	7	39
Dalton Mrs M	50	3	54
Dalton MA	42	14	58
Davies PL	11	0	12
Fleming RS	56	5	61
Gray GC	45	1	46
Gray I	44	0	44
Haigh Mrs S	31	11	46
Hall B	66	2	68
Henderson K	18	1	40
Hewitson Mrs I	24	11	39
Hillary JP	43	7	50
Hillary Mrs WP	44	4	49
Iveson M	46	16	63
Iveson Mrs SJ	29	21	51
Iveson W	31	8	39
Kjenstad P	23	2	32
Raw Mrs VM	46	3	51
Robson K	45	6	53
Wheeler C	14	28	48

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDALE & COBBLERS HALL WARD



John D. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Ian Gray
Lab - Tel. 313770



Brian Hall
Lab - Tel. 314105



Dorothy Bowman
Ind - Tel. 308094



Irene Hewitson
Ind - Tel. 318763



Peter J. Bergg
Lab - 07432 070717

WOODHAM WARD



Barbara A. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Paul Symons
Ind - 07496 180442



Mary Dalton
Lab - Tel. 320499



Sally Symons
Ind - 07495 705413



Sandra Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318303



Keith Henderson
Lab - Tel. 319542

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR

AYCLIFFE CENTRAL WARD



Jim Atkinson
Lab - Tel. 310791

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE



Bill Blenkinsopp
Ind - Tel. 788893



Valerie M. Raw
Lab - Tel. 311447



Kathryn Beetham
Lab - 07826 258822

SIMPASTURE WARD



David Hardaker
Lab - Tel. 314442



John Clark
Lab - 07972 170190

WEST WARD



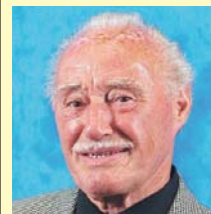
Eddy Adam
Lab - 07900 701966



Kate Hopper
Lab - 07837 917138



Arun M. Chandran
Ind - Tel. 313224



George C. Gray
Ind - Tel. 314934



Martin Ashcroft
Lab - 07811 403986



Ken Robson
Ind - 07443 046804

SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S WARD



Robert S. Fleming
Lab - Tel. 310025



Wendy Hillary
Lab - Tel. 313273



Malcolm Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759

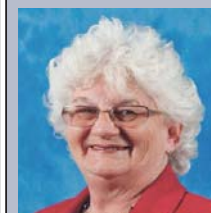


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Annual Report on the Council's Finances

1. Introduction

Welcome to this annual report on the Council's finances which we hope you will find informative and of interest.

This report sets out the Council's spending plans for this year; 2017/18, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's financial performance over the last year; 2016/17, including the outcome of the annual audit inspection.

2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to be raised from council tax to fund all of the services it provides for the year ahead.

The Budget covers the financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March.

The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget each year.

The **Revenue Budget** funds the day to day running costs of the Council's services such as salaries and goods and services, and the net cost, after deducting any income receivable from fees and charges and grants, is met from the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill.

The **Capital Budget** funds major one off investment in the Council's fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is funded from the Council's Balances and Reserves and any external grants that may be available.

3. 2017/18 Revenue Budget

The 2017/18 Revenue Budget was developed on the principle of maintaining services whilst keeping the required increase in council tax as low as possible.

Additional budget provision needed to be made for the following:-

- The 2017/18 local government pay award and increases at the lower end of the salary scale linked to the National Living Wage;
- An increase in the employer's pension contribution rate for all staff in the Local Government Pension Scheme;
- Increases in business rates arising from the 2016 revaluation;
- The cut to the Council Tax Support Grant funding;
- A fall in golf membership and sports complex income;

Service Area	2017/18 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	70,850
Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	457,750
Capital Financing Charges	30,900
St Oswald's Pre School	153,000
Community Events	127,350
Sports Complex	661,650
Golf Course and Driving Range	239,100
Environment and Open Spaces	86,750
Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	221,450
Works and Depot	202,500
Street Equipment	6,850
Cemeteries	77,100
Allotments	22,300
Contingency Sum	45,500
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,403,050
Capital Programme Investment in Council Assets	255,500
Contribution to Capital Reserves	25,000
Total Planned Revenue and Capital Spending	2,683,550
Less Income	
Council Tax Support Grant	(191,750)
Pre-School Funding and Fees	(92,750)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(415,000)
Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(180,000)
Cemeteries and Allotments Fees and Charges	(45,500)
Feed In Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(11,000)
Other Income	(10,800)
Investment Income	(2,750)
Total Income	(949,550)
Less Use of Council Balances - Capital Programme	(255,500)
Less Use of Council Balances - Council Elections	(25,000)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,453,500

-Inflation and other unavoidable increases in running costs; and

-An increase to the contingency budget to provide scope to meet the significant budget pressures faced in future years.

However, these increases were offset by savings, assisted by the positive financial situation in the 2016/17 financial year. Savings included:-

- Growth of 65 properties in the Council Tax Base
- Savings in staffing costs from flexible retirements and reduced staff cover;
- A reduction in audit fees following the move to limited assurance audit;
- Savings on the Council insurance contract;
- An increase in pre-school funding;
- A significant increase in cemeteries income following the Council decision to increase cemeteries fees and charges by 25%; and
- Various other budget reductions and efficiency savings.

In overall terms, the Council's 2017/18 Net Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept has increased by £42,350 or 3% from £1,411,150 to £1,453,500.

This increase in the Precept will ensure that all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe next year, whilst continuing to provide a firm foundation, and some surplus resources, to meet the challenges, spending commitments and funding cuts that lie further ahead.

The above table provides a summary of the Council's 2017/18 spending plans:-

4. 2017/18 Council Tax

The 2017/18 Band D Town Council Tax is **£221.89 per year**.

This represented an increase of 1.99% on the 2016/17 Council Tax.

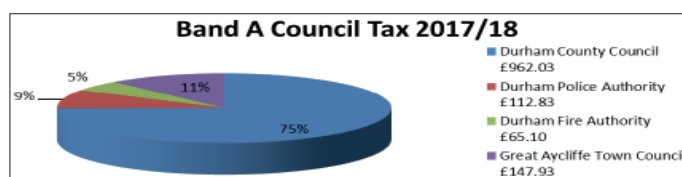
However, it is important to note that more than half of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and therefore pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax.

The 2017/18 Band A Council Tax is **£147.93 per year which equates to £12.32 per month or £2.84 per week. This equates to an increase of £2.89 per year.**

A breakdown of the 2017/18 Council Tax is shown here demonstrating that only **11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:-**

5. 2017/18 Capital Programme Budget

The Council will continue



to make capital investment in order to deliver the Council's Asset Management Plan and invest in community assets.

The **Capital Programme Budget for 2017/18** has been set at **£382,500** and includes provision for building maintenance works, replacement works vehicles and machinery, computer hardware, improvements at the sports complex, footpath and safety surface repairs, and a new park in Cobblers Hall.

The Capital Programme Budget will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves and external capital grants and contributions.

6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at **£1.145 million at the 31st March 2017**. This is better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget last year, as well as a land sale and lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget.

This is considered to be an adequate level of reserves to fund capital spending commitments for the foreseeable future and to provide some protection against future revenue budget pressures and possible cuts to funding.

7. 2015/16 and 2016/17 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2015/16 and 2016/17 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2015/16 £	Service Area	2016/17 £
62,867	Members and Civic Expenses	62,944
416,010	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	384,991
19,997	Neighbourhood Plan	1,318
29,872	Capital Financing Charges	30,478
173,206	Pre Schools	146,491
111,682	Community Events	114,542
615,806	Sports Complex	638,365
237,594	Golf Course and Driving Range	237,728
204,326	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	207,915
251,897	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	241,772
72,831	Cemeteries	85,995
21,454	Allotments	23,989
4,000	Contingency Sum	7,999
47,507	A167 Lights Commuted Sum	-
21,718	By Elections	7,376
2,290,767	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,191,903
	Less Income	
(228,899)	Council Tax Support Grant	(220,765)
(7,521)	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	-
(141,765)	Pre Schools Funding and Fees	(96,628)
(420,083)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(416,771)
(185,774)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(179,883)
(24,450)	Cemeteries Fees	(35,473)
(6,292)	Allotments Rents	(6,248)
(25,204)	Other Income	(24,340)
(81,701)	Use of Balances	(8,694)
(6,644)	Investment Income	(5,375)
(1,128,333)	Total Income	(994,177)
1,162,434	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,197,726
186,116	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	213,424
1,348,550	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,411,150

The financial position and spending of the Council is continuously monitored and controlled in order to help achieve the most efficient use of public resources and, as can be seen above, this prudent management of the Council's spending has resulted in significant savings being achieved in both 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Spending in 2016/17 was **£213,424 or 15% under the level of Precept** and was made up of the inclusion in the Revenue Budget of the £25,000 contribution to Earmarked Capital Reserves, as well as efficiency savings, increased income and other under spending on the Revenue Budget of £188,424.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget will be set aside in the Council's Earmarked Reserves to provide for further investment

in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

8. 2015/16 and 2016/17 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2015/16 and 2016/17, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

2015/16 £	Investment Area	2016/17 £
25,737	Council Building Works and Improvements	42,693
45,120	Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	45,054
31,972	Information Technology and Office Equipment	19,500
72,966	Parks and Play Area Improvements	80,179
18,983	Golf Course Safety and Irrigation Improvements	-
6,710	Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Bridges, Footpaths)	30,153
-	Street Equipment (Bus Shelters, Bins, Fencing)	3,478
201,488	Total Capital Investment	221,057
	Funded by:-	
29,042	Capital Contributions	24,500
172,446	Use of Council Balances	196,557
201,488	Funding of Capital Investment	221,057

9. Annual Audit Report

The Council is subject to an annual audit by its external auditors and the overall opinion on the financial standing of the Council is set out in an Annual Audit Report.

The auditors looked at three main areas of the Council finances last year:-

1. Statement of Accounts
2. Annual Governance Statement
3. Value for Money

The Council is pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the audit inspection in 2016/17.

This means that the external auditors consider that:-

- The Council's Statement of Accounts presents fairly its financial position;
- The Council is well managed and governed with sound strategies, policies, procedures, systems and internal controls;
- The Council's finances are in good order and it is well placed to meet the challenges that lie ahead;
- The Council secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and delivers value for money services to the local community.

This was a very positive Audit Report for the Council and has been achieved as a result of the hard work and commitment of all councillors, management and staff.