



Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER



31st May 2019

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Mayor Councillor John Clark

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 of attending 66 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 enjoyed the most about being the Mayor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me raise £2,415 for my nominated charity the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.

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 investments of **£463,000 in 2018/19** and the main capital works completed, or nearing completion, are listed below:

- Replacement of skate park ramps / Town Park;
- Computer Replacement;
- Office Equipment;
- Golf Shop roof covering replacement;
- Driving range light replacement with LED Floodlights;
- Replacement of St. Oswald's Pre-School flooring, installation of a window to the Manager's office and installation of a fire alarm system;
- Various replacement works vehicles and machinery, comprising, rotary gang mowing unit, greens mower, leaf collecting machine, wood chipper, seeding machine, 3 golf buggies and golf tees mower;
- Building repairs to Simpasture Pavilion;
- The ongoing programme of play area surfacing replacement;
- The installation of a hard standing staging area and path upgrade at the Town Park;
- Hedge removal at Stephenson Way Cemetery;
- Festive Lighting;
- Remembrance Seating at St. Clare's;
- Tables and chairs for large events;
- Cobblers Hall play park;
- Aycliffe Village play area junior play replacement; and
- Replacement rose beds in 'Sheila's Garden' – St. Oswald's Park.

Further details on the Council's recent capital spending and capital investment plans for the future are provided in the 2019/20 Annual Report and 2018/19 Annual Return and the 2019/20 Budget and 2019/20 to 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Plan.

In addition to the capital works the Town Council:

- ✓ achieved £260,000 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 Mary Dalton

I was honoured to have been elected at the Annual General Meeting on the 15 May 2019 to serve as the Mayor of Newton Aycliffe for the coming year and will endeavour to always promote our great town to the best of my ability, and respect and follow the wishes of the people who have voted for me to represent them on the council.

I have chosen to raise funds for the 'SSAFA' during my year in Office Group'.

If you would like me to attend any special events or occasions, please contact my Secretary, Sharna Stretch at the Town Council Offices on 01325 300700.

The Capital Programme Budget for **2019/20** totals **£276,500** and includes provision for the following planned projects:

- Building Maintenance Works;
- Works Pick-Up Vehicle;
- Computer Hardware, software and website development;
- Christmas lights renewal;
- Play area surfacing repairs;
- Driving Range equipment;
- Building Works – Sports Complex;
- Complex kitchen / cellar equipment replacement;
- Bowls Hall carpet replacement;
- Bar furniture replacement;
- Sports Hall floor sand and reseal;
- Litter and dog bins and public seats;
- Footpath repairs.

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

- ✓ Manage 9 parks, all with play equipment:
Town Park West Park
Moore Lane Park Aycliffe Village
Simpasture Park Byerley Park
St Oswald's Park Woodham Park
Horndale Park
- ✓ Provide additional play areas at Scott Place, School Aycliffe, Cobblers Hall Play Area and the Oak Leaf Sport Complex. Plus four Multi Use Games Areas, a BMX Track, a Scoot Track and a Skate Park
- ✓ Provide 5 football pitches, Mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches
- ✓ Provide a rugby pitch
- ✓ Run the Oak Leaf Sports Complex - indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children's holidays courses, indoor/outdoor sports activities
- ✓ Run the Oak Leaf Golf Complex – 18 hole golf course and an 18 bay floodlit driving range and practice putting area



- ✓ Manage Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery and provide grounds maintenance and burial service at St Andrew's Churchyard
- ✓ Run St Oswald's pre-school play setting – with a 'good' Ofsted rating and Tot's in the Park
- ✓ Provide and manage a wide range of special community events – Firework Display, Fun-in-the-Parks, Santa Tours, Senior Citizens' Excursions and Christmas Lights
- ✓ Assist and support other event organisers – 10k race, 3k Fun Run, Remembrance Parade, Junior Cross Country, Annual Indoor Bowls Competition, Cyclo Cross Competition and Community Enhancement Awards
- ✓ Provide a range of civic events
- ✓ Provide and continue to maintain Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden
- ✓ Maintenance of war memorial and flagpole
- ✓ Provide 212 allotment plots in 5 different locations. 2 allotment sites with pigeon or poultry facilities
- ✓ 3 Bee keeping plots
- ✓ Provide an Environmental Centre at Moore Lane
- ✓ Encourage interest in the environment of Great Aycliffe through the Works and Environment Manager and his team who work with the community and schools
- ✓ Employ a Town Pride Team
- ✓ Crime prevention – the Town Council employs a team of Park Patrol Operatives
- ✓ Provide public seats in many locations
- ✓ Provide bus shelters with litter bins (not the ones with adverts)
- ✓ Grounds maintenance and environmental management at:
North Agnew Plantation
Cobbler's Hall Plantation
Woodham Burn
Simpasture Railway Walk
Great Aycliffe Way
Millfields/Bickford Terrace
Butterfly Meadow at Rail Halt
The area known as Seven Hills
School Aycliffe Wetlands
Byerley Park Nature area
Aycliffe Village Greens – custodians and maintenance
- ✓ Assist Aycliffe Youth Council
- ✓ Provide a lorry park
- ✓ Encourage Community Empowerment through the Customer Panel, Consultation and Open Days
- ✓ Provide small grants to local voluntary organisations
- ✓ Developing and updating the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan
- ✓ Comment on planning applications

Town Council Targets for 2019 to 2020

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 an annual member training programme from member requests and the town clerk from his annual appraisal and CPD requirements.

- 4 Develop a recommended training programme for Members which shows highly recommended and recommended courses with a reminder being sent quarterly and records of attendance and none attendance being kept.
- 5 Undertake an annual review of the Council Constitution, Financial Regulations and ensure compliance with current legislation.
- 6 Ensure compliance with GDPR.
- 7 Feasibility study for paper light governance and office.
- 8 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication making sure each area is targeted at least once.
- 9 Ensure that social media is used to advertise the Council's services and facilities.
- 10 Undertake research where appropriate for new policies and procedures.
- 11 Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required.
- 12 Continue to monitor energy consumption, implement energy saving initiatives and reduce usage where possible.
- 13 Ensure all staff have an annual appraisal.
- 14 To undertake quarterly review of staff sickness and report to performance management group.

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

- 15 Produce Annual Return by 30th June each year.
- 16 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the Annual Return by 30 September 2019.
- 17 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year.
- 18 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report quarterly to Audit Sub Committee then to Council.
- 19 Manage the financial impact of any cuts to LCTSS funding.
- 20 Quarterly budget control reports are presented to Policy and Resources Committee.
- 21 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2020.
- 22 Ensure all relevant information is published in compliance with the Transparency Code/Openness of Local Government Regulations.
- 23 Deliver the work set out in the Asset Management Plan via the capital programme and ensure that a six monthly review is undertaken with Officers and Member Asset Management Group.
- 24 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for buildings, plant and machinery.
- 25 To consider the Council's Business Risks every March and minute that the full review has taken place by Council.
- 26 Ensure that at least one Service Review is completed each year. Reviews for 2019/20 will include: Oak Leaf Golf Complex and Events Management arrangement

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

- 27 Deliver the Council's programme of special events:
 - Fun in the Parks
 - Senior Citizens Trips
 - Firework Display
 - Santa Letters
 - Santa Tours
 - Christmas lights
 - Develop / provide a yearly programme of new events.
- 28 Improve Sports Complex access (Sports Hall).
- 29 Continue to diversify events / activities within the Sports Complex.
- 30 Partner with outside bodies including the Sedgefield Sports Partnership.

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

- 31 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 GREN SPACES

- 32 Works & Environment Manager to arrange to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities.
- 33 To continue to monitor the health and condition of the trees on Town Council land in line with the tree management policy and undertake a visual tree inspection of a specific area every 6 months to assess the health and condition of the trees.
- 34 Continue to work with Northumbrian Water to establish flow rates to lakes at West Park.
- 35 Works and Environment Manager to organise and help deliver 15 public countryside events.
- 36 Complete at least 5 targeted Himalayan Balsam removing working parties along The Burn.
- 37 Undertake maintenance and management of specific Durham County Council environmental areas as per the management agreement.
- 38 Undertake a limited snow clearing and gritting service for Durham County Council (DCC) as per the winter maintenance agreement for the benefit of residents.

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

- 39 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
- 40 To continue partnership working with DCC and build on the existing initiatives.
- 41 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups hold a Town Pride Environment Week.
- 42 The Works and Environment Manager and Park Patrol Officers to work with DCC Officers and Police in regard to anti-social behaviour issues.
- 43 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.
- 44 Work in partnership with residents and friends groups to improve our parks, play areas and environment areas.

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

- 45 Hold an aims and target meeting each March to discuss progress on existing targets and new targets with the Customer Panel Group.
- 46 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with residents at a central location.
- 47 To review the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan in 2022.
- 48 Hold a Parish Meeting.
- 49 Hold an Allotment AGM.
- 50 Hold a minimum of 4 allotment representative meetings.
- 51 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

- 52 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

29th May 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
29th May 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
5th June 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
12th June 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
10th July 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
10th July 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
17th July 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
24th July 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
4th Sept. 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
4th Sept. 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
11th Sept. 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
18th Sept. 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
16th Oct. 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
16th Oct. 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
23rd Oct. 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
30th Oct. 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
27th Nov. 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
27th Nov. 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
4th Dec. 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
11th Dec. 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
15th Jan. 2020	Environment	7.15 p.m.
15th Jan. 2020	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
22nd Jan. 2020	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
29th Jan. 2020	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
26th Feb. 2020	Environment	7.15 p.m.
26th Feb. 2020	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
4th Mar. 2020	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
11th Mar. 2020	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
8th Apr. 2020	Environment	7.15 p.m.
8th Apr. 2020	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
15th Apr. 2020	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
22nd Apr. 2020	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

13 MAY, 2020 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.

20 MAY, 2020 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m.

OUTSIDE BODIES LIST FOR 2019/20

- (a) **Youth Council**
Councillors Jim Atkinson and Derek G. 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 Bill Blenkinsopp.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**
Councillors K. Henderson and B.A. Clare.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**
Councillors R.S. Fleming, 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 Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor I. Gray.
- (h) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve**
Councillor I. Gray.
- (i) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillor Dave Hardaker.
- (j) **GAMP Community Safety Task Officer**
Councillor B. Hall.

GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Council considered applications for Grants and the following were agreed and paid out over the year 2018/2019

• School Benevolent Fund	200
• Women's Banner Group	250
• Durham Cathedral Support	250
• Aycliffe Radio	20
• Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society	250
• City of Durham Lions Club	64
• Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe	150
• Aycliffe Village History Society	200
• Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway	50
• Akari Care Home	50
• Aycliffe Village Residents Association	200
• Great North Air Ambulance	250
• Voyage Care	45
• Akari Care	25
• North East War Memorials Project	100

CHAIRMAN /
VICE-CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019 / 2020**

**Members on
Committee**

COUNCIL (*All Members*) **Councillor Mary Dalton (Mayor)**, **Councillor Wendy Hillary (Deputy Mayor)**

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

Councillors Eddy Adam, **M. Ashcroft**, Jim Atkinson, Derek G. Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, **I. Gray**, George C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

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

Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Derek G. Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, George C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, **B. Hall**, Dave Hardaker, **Jed Hillary**, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE (*27 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*)

Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, **R.S. Fleming**, I. Gray, George C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, **M. Iveson**, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

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

SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP (*10 Members*)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Ken Robson.

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

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Bill Blenkinsopp, Arun M. Chandran, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and Ken Robson.

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (*4 Members + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*)

Councillors Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, George C. Gray, Wendy Hillary and Paul Symons.

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

AUDIT, RISK & GDPR SUB-COMMITTEE (*8 Members + Mayor & Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, P.J. Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, Mrs. M. Dalton, George C. Gray, Dave Hardaker, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP (*13 Members*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Paul 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, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary and M. Iveson.

REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE (*6 Members + Mayor & Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, Mrs. M. Dalton, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Ken Robson.

PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE (*5 Members + Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy & Resources & Mayor & Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathy Beetham, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Sally Symons.

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

SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS from the Recreation Committee

GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP (*5 Members + Chair and Vice-Chair of Recreation*)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, Jed Hillary and M. Iveson.

SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP (*Members chosen as necessary*)

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE (*14 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, B.A. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Paul Symons.

SUB-COMMITTEE from the Environment Committee

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE (*14 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor*)

Councillors P.J. Bergg, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Ken Robson and Paul Symons.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2018/19 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Surname	Forenames	Title	Total Payment	Allowance
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
Beetham	Kathryn Sarah		£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Bergg	Peter John	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Blenkinsopp	William Maurice	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Bowman	Dorothy	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
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
Dalton	Maria	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Fleming	Robert Stuart	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Gray	George Coulson	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
Hardaker	David Wilson	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 Patricia	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Hillary	Jeremy Paul	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Hopper	Catherine Mary	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Iveson	Sarah Jane	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Iveson	Malcolm	Mr	£1,246.83	£1,059.60
Raw	Valerie Margaret	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Robson	Kenneth	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Symons	Sally Annmarie	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60
Symons	Paul	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60

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

**MEMBERS
ATTENDANCES**

**17th MAY 2018
TO
15th MAY 2019**

Councillor	Att.	Apol.	Poss.
Adam E	29	7	36
Ashcroft M	57	3	60
Atkinson DG	25	3	28
Atkinson J	34	6	40
Beetham K	48	5	54
Bergg PJ	36	11	47
Blenkinsopp W	44	1	46
Bowman Mrs D	37	3	42
Chandran AM	52	0	53
Clare Mrs BA	32	9	42
Clare JD	32	3	36
Clark J	51	9	60
Dalton Mrs M	55	1	59
Fleming RS	49	2	52
Gray GC	46	0	47
Gray I	42	1	43
Haigh Mrs S	35	9	45
Hall B	55	1	57
Hardaker D	50	10	60
Henderson K	16	1	27
Hewitson Mrs I	14	4	18
Hillary JP	45	8	53
Hillary Mrs WP	29	14	43
Hopper K	23	13	36
Iveson M	53	13	66
Iveson Mrs SJ	41	8	49
Raw Mrs VM	37	4	41
Robson K	39	9	48
Symons P	53	0	53
Symons Mrs S	26	12	38

**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

**SIMPASTURE
WARD**



David Hardaker
Lab - Tel. 314442



John Clark
Lab - 07972 170190



Valerie M. Raw
Lab - Tel. 311447



Kathy Beetham
Lab - 07826 258822

WEST WARD



Eddy Adam
Lab - 07900 701966



Kate Hopper
Lab - 03000 268727



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



Derek Atkinson
Lab - Tel. 301395

**NEVILLE
WARD**



Jed P. Hillary
Lab - Tel. 313273



Sarah Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759

Annual Report on the Council's Finances 2018/19

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; 2019/20, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's actual income, expenditure and financial performance over the last year; 2018/19.

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.

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. 2019/20 Revenue Budget

The 2019/20 Revenue Budget was developed in a way that ensured that services can continue to be provided to current standards, whilst recognising the longer-term budget pressures faced by the Council, and the need to maintain contingency resources within the Revenue Budget for as long as possible and address the forecast depletion in the level of the Council's balances and reserves.

Additional budget provision needed to be made for a number of issues including a cut to the Council Tax Support Grant funding, the 2019/20 local government pay award which amounted to a 4% increase in the Council's staffing costs, a restructure of the lower end of the Council's staff grading system to address problems linked to increases in the National Living Wage and inflation on running costs.

In addition, the Council increased the contribution to capital reserves in the Revenue Budget by £50,000 to £75,000 which will enable a much higher top up of the Council's earmarked capital reserves than is the case now and will ease the pressure on the Council's balances moving forward.

These increases were partly offset by council tax base growth from new housing development, savings in staffing costs from staff turnover, reduced working hours, and less staff cover and overtime, increases in pre-school, sports and golf complex income, removal of the one-off budgets for GDPR compliance and various other efficiency savings.

In overall terms, the Council's 2019/20 Net Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept has increased by £90,050 or 5.7%, from £1,571,000 in 2018/19 to £1,661,050 in 2019/20.

This increase in the Precept has been agreed firstly in order to ensure that all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe next year, secondly to provide a firm foundation and some surplus resources to meet the increases in running costs and cuts to funding that lie further ahead, and lastly to increase the Council's capacity to replenish its balances and reserves moving forward.

The following table provides a summary of the Council's 2019/20 spending plans:-

4. 2019/20 Council Tax

The 2019/20 Band D Town Council Tax is £244.59 per year.

This represented an increase of 4.99% on the 2018/19 Council Tax.

However, it is important to note that around 60% of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax.

The 2019/20 Band A Council Tax is £163.06 per year which equates to around £14 per month. This is an increase of £7.75 per year or 65p per month.

A breakdown of the 2019/20 Council Tax is shown below demonstrating that 11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:-

5. 2019/20 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 2019/20 currently stands at £275,750.

The budget includes provision for

various building works, replacement works vehicles and machinery, information technology improvements, footpath repairs and play area safety surfacing replacement.

The budget provides for a lower level of investment than has been the case in recent years, linked to the need to more closely control capital spending to help maintain and protect the Council's balances and reserves for as long as possible.

The Capital Programme Budget will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves which are set aside for this purpose.

6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.128 million at the 31st March 2019. This is much better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget and lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget last year.

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. 2017/18 and 2018/19 Actual Revenue Spending

2017/18 £	Service Area	2018/19 £
56,937	Members and Civic Expenses	56,421
400,611	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	397,574
31,290	Capital Financing Charges	34,485
149,132	St Oswald's Pre Schools	196,046
114,832	Community Events	142,158
661,775	Sports Complex	678,525
256,211	Golf Course and Driving Range	284,630
197,239	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	219,860
273,036	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	266,218
81,804	Cemeteries	92,600
21,846	Allotments	27,780
745	Contingency Sum	1,303
17,479	Elections	-
2,262,937	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,397,600
	Less Income	
(191,733)	Council Tax Support Grant	(172,992)
(132,949)	Pre School Funding and Fees	(183,513)
(398,527)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(433,971)
(180,107)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(212,336)
(32,295)	Cemeteries Fees	(40,870)
(6,896)	Allotments Rents	(6,991)
(27,328)	Other Income	(25,479)
(17,479)	Use of Balances (Elections and Neighbourhood Plan)	-
(4,160)	Investment Income	(10,056)
(991,474)	Total Income	(1,086,208)
1,271,463	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,311,392
182,037	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	259,608
1,453,500	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,571,000

retirements, and a significant increase in pre-school, sports complex and golf complex income.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget are 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. 2017/18 and 2018/19 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2017/18 and 2018/19, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

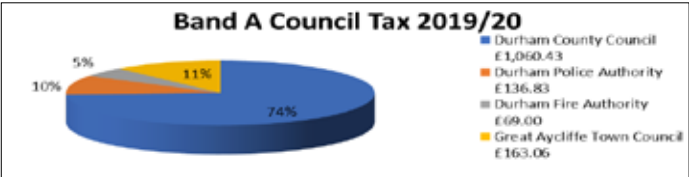
9. Annual Audit Report

The Council completes an Annual Return each year comprising its Accounting Statements, Annual Governance Statement and Internal Auditors Report.

The Annual Return is reviewed by the Council's external auditors and an opinion is provided on whether the Council has prepared the accounts and governance statement in accordance with statutory requirements and proper practices for town and parish councils.

The Council is pleased to report that the external auditors did not raise any issues of concern in respect of the 2017/18 Annual Return.

The 2017/18 Audited Annual Return to the Council is available to view at the Council Offices or on the Council's website.



A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2017/18 and 2018/19 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

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 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Spending in 2018/19 was £260,000 or 16.5% under the level of Precept. The main reasons for this saving were the budgeted contribution to capital reserves, limited use of the contingency sum, delayed implementation of the staff grading restructure, savings from staff turnover, vacant posts and flexible