

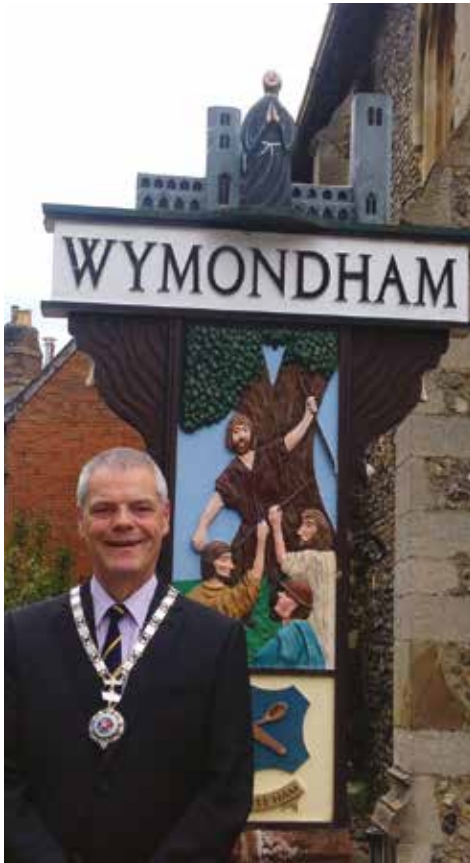
# Wymondham Town Council

## Annual Report 2015-16



What the Town Council has been doing for Wymondham in the past year

June 2016



## Working in Partnership the secret of success

**The year just ended has been a busy one for the Town Council, which has managed to complete a number of projects including those mentioned in this annual report.**

I was pleased that in partnership with Norfolk County Council we were able to resurface the footpaths in our local nature reserve Tolls Meadow. Working in partnership with South Norfolk Council, under the Brighter Wymondham badge, the Town Council managed to keep our town clean and tidy and looking brighter.

I would like to pay tribute to the Wymondham in Bloom group who through hard work and commitment did a sterling job to brighten up our town with their magnificent floral displays.

I am pleased that the council continues to support the town's voluntary groups through its small grants scheme. Recipients for 2015-2016 are listed on page 3 of this annual report. I would like to thank the voluntary groups in the town, including all those who run and manage our community halls, for all the hard work that they put into keeping their groups/community halls up and running. Well done to all concerned.

I would like also to thank The Regal Experience and the Wymondham Golf Society for donating funds to the mayor's community fund. I have passed on the £500

raised to my chosen charity for 2015/2016, the excellent Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper.

This year Wymondham lost a great friend of the town, Les King. I was glad to present this year's posthumous civic award to his family. Speaking at the presentation, I said "Les was a man of principle and commitment, with great concern for those less fortunate than himself. He was rightly known as Mr Wymondham and the King of Sport. He is, in my view, a very worthy recipient of this year's town council civic award".

I was delighted to welcome the school council from Robert Kett School to the Town Council Chamber after their annual visit to Becket's Chapel to lay flowers on the anniversary of the death of Robert and William Kett. This annual ceremony provides a reminder of tumultuous events in the town's history, while the Council Chamber visit gives insights into present-day civic procedures.

Finally, I would like to thank all the business in the town and in our business parks who do so much to create local employment. Working in partnership with the various agencies, local councils, local councillors, town council staff and the voluntary sector means everyone does their bit to help keep Wymondham moving forward. Long may that situation continue!

**Joe Mooney, Town Mayor**

### Town Councillors who served this year

The following councillors served as council members during 2015-16.

#### Abbey Ward

K Hurn  
R Savage  
P Stearn

#### Rustens Ward

P Broome  
A Holden  
S Sayer

#### Cromwells Ward

J Halls  
J Hornby  
A Osborne

#### Town Ward

I Flatt  
L Hornby  
S Wyer

#### Northfields Ward

C Longhurst  
J Mooney  
D Underwood

# Wymondham Town Council

How it works, what it does, where your money is spent

## How does your Town Council work for you?

**The 15 members of Wymondham Town Council are all unpaid volunteers, elected by Wymondham people every four years. Elections took place in May 2015 so that 2015-16 was the first year of office for the council. Each year the councillors elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor from among their members.**

The full Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month. It takes questions from the public, notes minutes from its committees and receives reports from representatives on outside bodies. It also approves all payments to suppliers from the preceding month and discusses issues relevant to the town.

Some of the Town Council's functions are delegated to three main committees and these meet on Tuesdays in accordance with the schedule published in 'About Wymondham' and on the council website. Each committee

consists of five members who elect their own chair and vice chair. These committees are

**Leisure and Environment**, which supervises the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the Council's recreation areas such as Ketts Park, Browick Road recreation ground and the Spooner Row playing field. It is responsible for ensuring that play equipment meets health and safety requirements and that residents have access to leisure facilities. It is also responsible for other open spaces such as the Tolls Meadow nature reserve, the Becketswell amenity area and the allotments.

**Planning, Lighting and Highways** liaises closely with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council on all road, pavement and lighting issues affecting the Wymondham parish. It takes a strategic planning overview for the town and works in conjunction with the county and district councils. While it does not grant planning

approvals (normally the responsibility of South Norfolk Council) the Town Council is consulted on all applications affecting Wymondham.

**Finance and General Purposes** manages property owned or leased by the Council including the cemetery, allotments and the chartered Friday market. It also allocates funds under the Council's small grants scheme and is responsible for machinery purchases and the Council's administration team. Its remit also includes the Grade 1 listed Market Cross and the provision of Tourist Information Centre facilities provided by the council staff.

**Agendas are posted on the Town Council notice board and agendas and minutes for council meetings are published on the council website, and these indicate the starting time. Public participation is allowed at all meetings at the allocated time.**

## A closer look at planning

**Planning can be a complex and often contentious matter. The Town Council's Planning Lighting and Highways Committee works within a planning policy framework which explains how planning applications are dealt with, and how decisions are made.**

South Norfolk Council has the final say in planning matters. Sometimes its Planning Committee will delegate decisions on appropriate cases to planning officers in consultation with local members. All applications are forwarded first to the Town Council for comment, and details of applications are posted on the council noticeboard. Plans are available for consultation in the office, or through the South Norfolk Council website, and considered at a council or committee meeting where they are on display for discussion.

Letters from the public commenting on applications are welcome, and time is always allowed at the start of meetings for public comments to be made in person. The Town Council will then comment to the district council in the light of the local plan and other policy guidance, taking into account any public comments and the considered views of its members.

## Watering the allotments

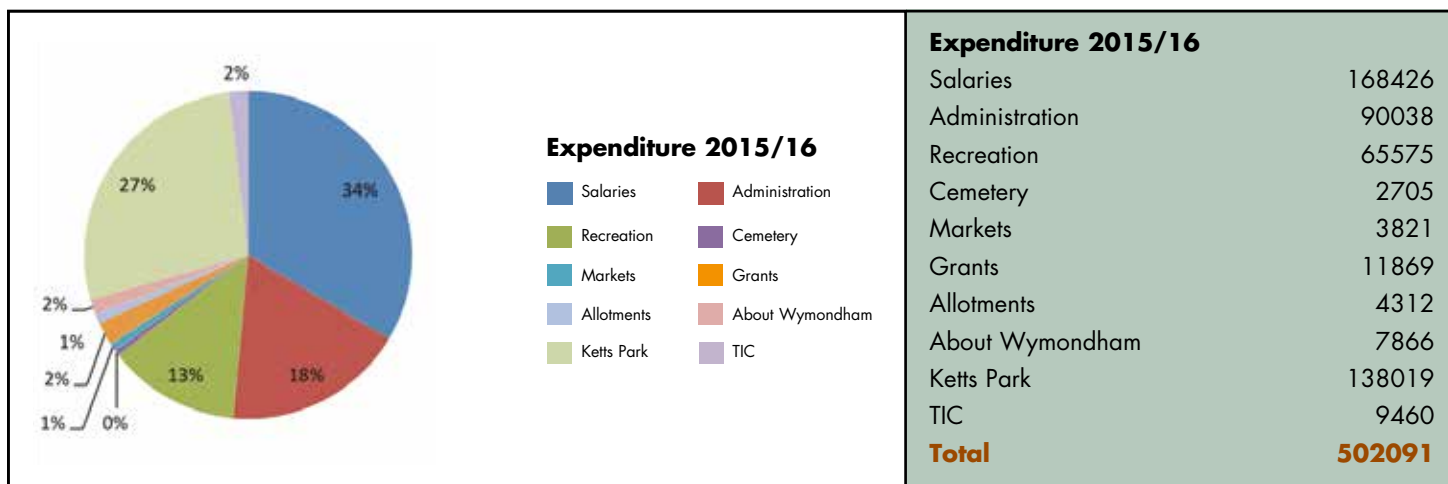
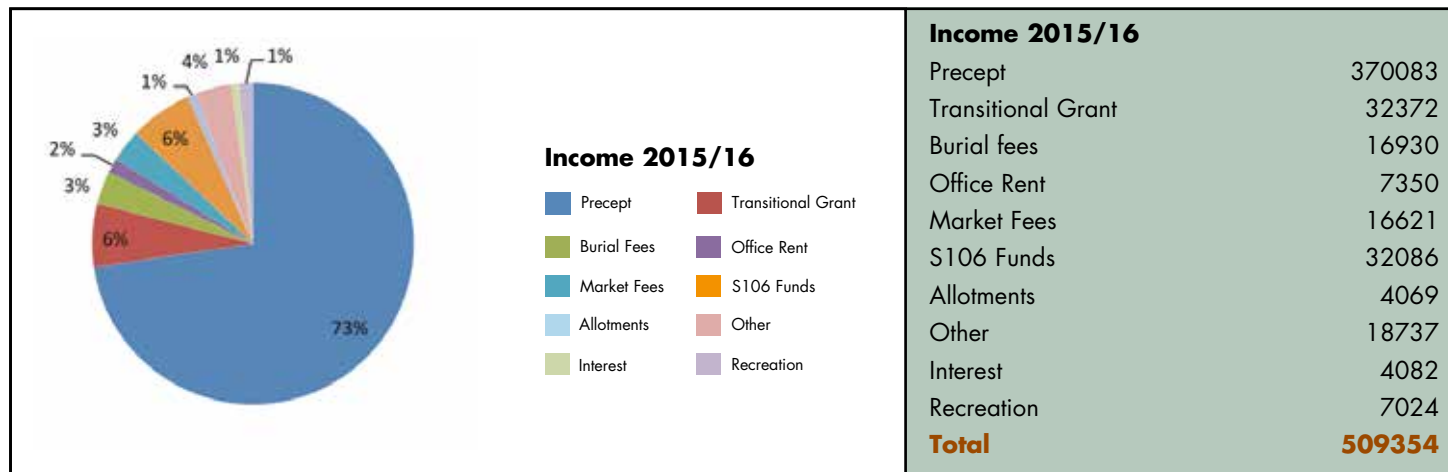


**Wymondham Allotment Association members held an open afternoon in August as part of National Allotments Week. It also provided an opportunity to celebrate the successful completion of a project to supply river water to containers on the Town Council's site, thanks to grants from South Norfolk Council.**

Councillor Robert Savage was on hand to 'cut the ribbon' and an estimated 200 visitors enjoyed a tour of the site and refreshments provided by Association members. This was the first time an open afternoon had been held but it was felt to be a great success and it is hoped it will become an annual event.

## Precepts, grants, income and expenditure – council finances explained

Where the money comes from, and where it goes, are set out in these two diagrams:



**The Town Council is required by law to set a budget each year, which then determines how it is financed for that year.**

Income is obtained from a number of sources such as market fees, leisure activity fees, burials, rents, grants and income on investments. It is also prudent for the Council to maintain a general reserve to cover emergencies together with earmarked reserves for specific projects.

The largest source of income is the precept, which in the 2015-16 financial year was £370,083 which was received together with a transitional grant of £32,372 from Central Government. For the present 2016-17 financial year the precept has been set at £385,182 with a transitional grant of £24,101.

Expenditure included the costs of maintaining the council offices at 14 Middleton Street and the salaries of the Town Clerk, administration support staff and groundsmen as well as the Tourist Information staff. The Town Council also maintains various amenity and play areas such as Ketts Park, Tolls Meadow and the Cemetery. Play equipment is replaced as part of a rolling programme of refurbishment.

Another important part of the council's work is in supporting local groups through our grants scheme. Each year the Town Council makes grants to local organisations to help with projects. Grants awarded in 2015-16 are shown in the box to the right.

### Grants List 2015/16

Citizens Advice	3500
Wymondham Dementia Support	406.88
Wymondham Youth Bus	544.75
Wymondham Music Festival	2860
Robert Kett School	3057
Light Up Wymondham	1500
<b>Total</b>	<b>11868.63</b>

### Community Fund

Wymondham & Attleborough	
Talking Newspaper	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>



## Civic Award 2015

**The Town Council makes an award each year to a member of the community who has done outstanding work for Wymondham.**

The 2015 recipient was Eric Thorburn, an outstanding champion and servant of Wymondham Heritage Society and the Heritage Museum, serving both organisations with energy, distinction and great success. The museum has brought thousands of visitors to the town, and acts as a memory of the local community. This jewel in Wymondham's crown owes much to the efforts of Eric Thorburn.

The award was presented at an open day in the museum.



## A fine way to raise money



**The Wymondham Golf Society held its 32nd AGM at the Feathers Public House in January. Every year the Golf Society raises funds for a local charity through fining its members for misdemeanours throughout the season.**

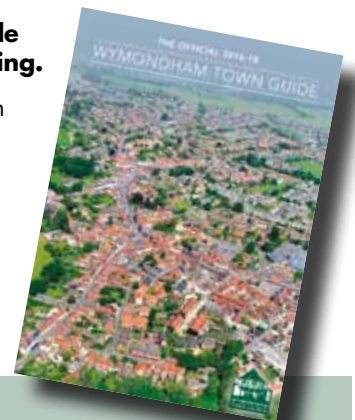
This year they raised £300, which they agreed at the AGM to present to their guest, Cllr Joe Mooney, Mayor of Wymondham. Mr Mooney donated the £300 to his chosen charity for 2015-16, the Wymondham & Attleborough Talking Newspaper.

## 2016-18 Town Guide published

**The latest edition of the Wymondham Town Guide was circulated to Wymondham homes in the spring.**

It gives an up-to date picture of all aspects of town life, with listings covering schools, health and welfare, clubs and societies, churches, local businesses and arts and social activities. It has sections on history, tourism, places to visit.

The guide is a really useful resource for residents and for those contemplating a move to Wymondham. If you didn't receive your copy, have lost it or need another one, call in at the Council Office in Middleton Street and ask for one.



## And lots more!

Many other Town Council activities during the year included new footpaths at Tolls Meadow, promoting the Wymondham Town Team at the Carnival and other events, supporting the Dementia Garden, the new town signage and other town projects

Back copies of 'About Wymondham' may be found on the Town Council website at [wymondhamtc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://wymondhamtc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

## Lease signed with Football Club

**After extended negotiations, Wymondham Town Football Club has signed a lease with the Town Council to allow it to use its clubhouse, football pitch and surrounding area at Kings Head Meadow.**

The 25-year lease covers the whole of the field from the entrance off Back Lane to the path which runs between the Central Hall Car Park and the public footpath from Orchard Way to Norwich Road. The area to the north of the path across the field, largely occupied by the Town Council's children's play area, remains under the day-to-day management of the Town Council. The football club will maintain the rest of the field.