

Wymondham Town Council Annual Report 2021-22

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



Civic Year Review

The 2021-22 civic year was a challenge, but in a different way to the previous two years. When covid-19 restrictions were relaxed there was a more pleasing spike to endure, and this was a spike in civic receptions and chair services. Almost every mayor and chair person throughout the county decided to arrange their events just in case covid returned.

Between May 2021 and December 2021 my wife and I attended 15 events with most of them condensed into August and September. This was a busy period, but also very enjoyable as we re-acquainted ourselves with old friends and made many new friends. The types of event were so diverse and enabled us to visit so many parts of our beautiful county.

As we approached Christmas our diaries were still full but we learned of a new covid variant named omicron, and we began to fear for our long overdue Christmas celebrations with family and friends.

Thankfully most of us were able to celebrate the festive period before we had to endure a further period of restrictions, where sadly many more lives were lost to this horrible disease. Again we had to give great thanks to our NHS staff; our doctors and nurses and of course our essential workers who stepped up and helped us all.

It was March before we were able to attend any further events, when restrictions were eventually lifted, and we all breathed a sigh of relief believing we were returning to normal. Slightly premature in our case as despite dodging covid for 2 years we finally succumbed to it ourselves at the end of March!

One of the highlights of the year was being able to finally hold a Civic Reception in September 2021, where my wife and I were able to welcome around 80 guests to the event. Guests included dignitaries, mayors and friends from all areas of the county. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event that will live long in our memory.

My greatest pleasure was being able to honour two more recipients of the Wymondham Town Council Civic Award; namely Arnie McConnell and Philip Yaxley. These two gentlemen have worked tirelessly for the good of Wymondham for many years, and were worthy recipients of the award. Unfortunately Philip could not attend the event, but we were able to present his award to him at the farmers market a few weeks later.

Another highlight was the Mayor's Community Bingo night, held in March where again over 70 people attended the event. The greatest achievement was raising £1,200 which was shared equally between Wymondham Dementia Support Group and Star Throwers. These are two organisations that do wonderful work for our community, and who we have a great affinity for. Being able to present these cheques to these organisations was a wonderful feeling; it really is better to give than receive.

I am proud that our Town Council has again been able to support voluntary groups within Wymondham to enable them to complete projects where they needed that extra funding boost, and we will continue to do this. The Town Council is also working towards other significant projects in Wymondham which include the new cemetery, improvements to Browick Park and completion of the Neighbourhood Plan, and I am confident all of these will progress significantly over the next 12 months.

As always I must thank my fellow councillors for their support, Mr Trevor Gurney; the Town Clerk for his help and advice, the council admin staff and the ground staff. You have all worked hard for Wymondham during the past year. Most of all I must thank my lovely wife Sharron for her enduring support and constant companionship during all of our engagements.

I am once again honoured to be elected Mayor of Wymondham for the coming year, and have been astounded by the support and good wishes I have already received from so many friends, colleagues and family. I will continue to promote Wymondham at every event and function I attend.

Cllr Kevin Hurn



The Town Council offices are situated at:

Ketts Park
Harts Farm Road
Wymondham
Norfolk, NR18 0UT

Telephone:
01953 603302

Email:
office@wymondhamtc.co.uk

Office opening hours
Monday to Friday
9.30am to 4pm



Wymondham Town Council

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

How does your Town Council work for you?

The 14 members of Wymondham Town Council are all unpaid volunteers, elected by Wymondham people every four years. Elections took place in May 2019 so that 2021-22 was the third 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 on the council website. Each committee consists of five members who elect their own chair and vice chair. These committees are:

Leisure, Environment, Enterprise and Tourism, which supervises the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the Council's recreation areas such as Ketts Park and Browick Road recreation ground. 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 & 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 & General Purposes manages property owned or leased by the council, including the cemetery and the charter 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 meetings 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 through the South Norfolk Council website, and considered at a council or committee meeting where they are discussed.

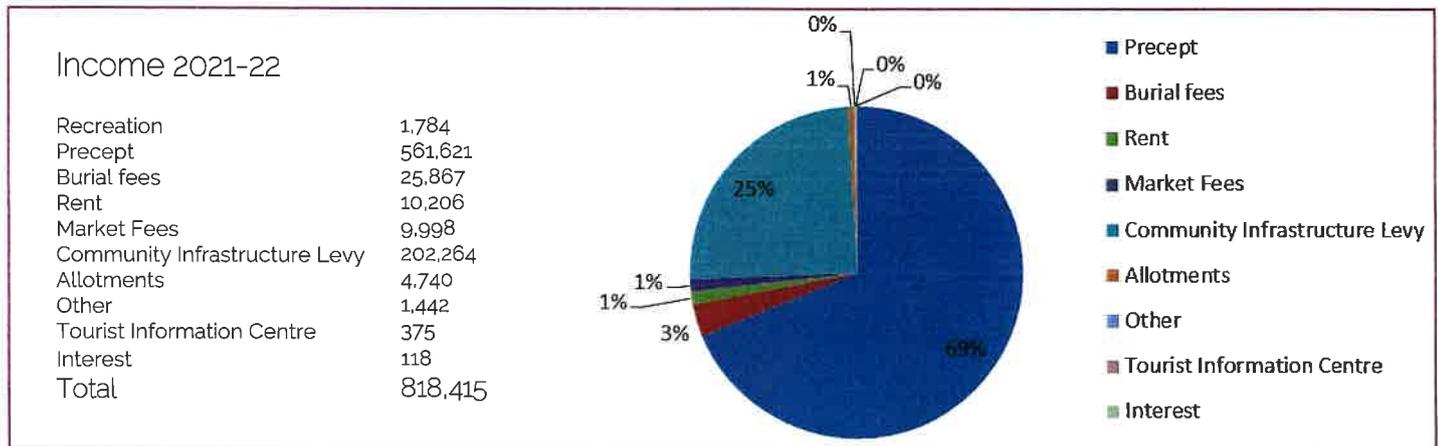
Letters from the public commenting on applications are welcome, and time is always allowed at the start of meetings for public comments to be made in person. The Town Council will then comment to the District Council in the light of the local plan and other policy guidance, taking into account any public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



Wymondham Town Council Annual Report 2021-22

Precepts, grants, income and expenditure - council finance 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 2021-22 financial year was £561,621 which was received. For the present 2022-23 financial year the precept has been set at £603,032.

Expenditure included the costs of maintaining the council offices at Ketts Park 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 Tolls Meadow, Bellrope Lane and the Cemetery.

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 were awarded in 2021-22 as shown in the box to the right.

Grants 2021/22

Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper	122.70
Wymondham in Bloom	1,780.00
Mid Norfolk Railway	1,200.00
North Wymondham Community Centre	1,500.00
Total	4,602.70

Annual Report 2021-22

Civic Awards

Philip Yaxley is a Wymondham born and bred local historian, and he is a founder member; and the longest serving member of Wymondham Heritage Society (originally called the Wymondham Society), whom he has served for over 55 years! He is a local historian who has assisted the Wymondham Heritage Museum with many displays and exhibitions and has written many publications for the museum. He has also been a Trustee of the Wymondham Market Cross Trust Fund since 1993. In 2000 Philip was one of the founding members of The Regal Experience Group; working with the Wymondham Ex-Services Club to keep the Regal Cinema running for open days and special events. This has enabled him to meet many stars of stage and screen and invite many of them to the Wymondham Regal. Philip has also been involved in supporting Wymondham Vintage Day and submitting numerous articles to the local press. He has also been a Trustee of so many more groups, societies and charities; too many to mention, and written many books about Wymondham. Philip is a true Stalwart of Wymondham and not only serves in such a variety of ways, but advocates and promotes with passion a town he so dearly loves. It gave us great pleasure to present this award to Philip in front of the Market Cross on Saturday 16th October.

Arnie McConnell is a Wymondham resident who works tirelessly to support lonely, disadvantaged and vulnerable people in his community. He raises funds for a number of community projects. Two of his initiatives include The Community Kitchen which invites diners from all walks of life to enjoy a free or pay what you can afford lunch each week and The Community Fridge which helps tackle food waste in our society. A third string to his bow is the Help Point which supports families and individuals who are experiencing financial hardship and food poverty. Arnie also offers voluntary work to local hostel residents and then provides references for them to local employers. In October 2019 he was recognised by Norfolk Constabulary when he won a Community Citizen of the Year Award for his outstanding contribution in helping to keep Norfolk safe. Arnie personifies community spirit and acts as a role model for others to follow. He is extremely deserving of his Civic Award, matching the recognition already given by Norfolk Constabulary.



Wymondham Town Council

Central Ward	East Ward	North Ward	South Ward
Cllr. R Elliott	Cllr. P Broome	Cllr. Y Astley	Cllr. J Halls
Cllr. I Flatt		Cllr. K Cross	Cllr. A James
Cllr. K Hurn		Cllr. A Holden	Cllr. S Nuri-Nixon
Cllr. R Savage		Cllr. P Hubble	
Cllr. K Carsok		Cllr. J Murrell	

South Norfolk Council

Central Ward	North Ward	South Ward (includes East ward)
Cllr. K Hurn	Cllr. A Holden	Cllr. J Halls
Cllr. R Savage	Cllr. J Hornby	Cllr. S Nuri-Nixon

Norfolk County Council

Wymondham Division	Forehoe Division (South Ward)
Cllr. R Savage	Cllr. D Elmer

Contact details for all councillors are on our website

Meeting dates – Council and Committees

The Town Council normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month with the Finance & General Purposes and the Leisure, Environment, Enterprise and Tourism Committees meeting on the third Tuesday in alternative months. These meetings typically start at 7pm.

Planning, Lighting and Highways Committee meets on both the first and third Tuesdays monthly at 6pm.

June

7th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council

21st Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Finance & General Purposes

July

5th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council

19th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Leisure, Environment, Enterprise and Tourism Committee

August

2nd Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council

16th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Finance & General Purposes

September

6th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council

20th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Leisure, Environment, Enterprise and Tourism Committee