

REVIEW OF A CIVIC YEAR

I have never written a Review of the Civic Year before but then until May 2023 I had never been a Mayor before. So the past Civic year has been a series of firsts for both myself and many of my councillor colleagues.

My election to the post of Mayor by my fellow Wymondham Town councillors was, for me personally, a huge honour. It also became a somewhat bitter sweet memory after the loss of our dear friend Councillor Julian Halls who proposed me for the role in the first place. Little did we know that the first Council meeting of the new administration would be Cllr Halls' last as he unexpectedly passed away in July 2023.

The 2023 May local elections meant we had ten brand new councillors elected and as to be expected, this came with its own challenges and steep learning curves. With a combination of councillors from different parties, the make-up of Wymondham Town Council was a radical departure from previous years.

Sadly, as well as the loss of Cllr Halls, we also had two resignations from the Council in the past year which meant new elections to reinstate our 14 member councillor total.

Since May 2023, the Council has undertaken various initiatives, one of them being declaring a climate emergency back in August last year. With that declaration, a new group was formed called Sustainable Wymondham which has hosted a number of events to raise awareness of what we can do as both a Council and community to help mitigate climate change effects and our own nearby environment. Our adoption of a biodiversity policy is also focusing the Council's energies on ensuring we are able custodians of our Town's green spaces.

As a council we were also able to complete work started by the previous administration, such as the formal opening of the revamped and newly named Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Gardens (formerly Chandler's Hill gardens) and agreement to commit £250,000 to South Norfolk Council's project for public realm improvements in the Town Centre.

Other green projects include allocating £20,000 to plans to improve Rothbury Park through Greening Wymondham, ongoing works for Browick Skate Park and Recreation space.

We have installed a new seed library in Priory Gardens to encourage seed swaps amongst gardeners. The Council has also installed new defibrillators around town.

We also extended the funding for the Town Coordinator, whose role it is to promote our Town and assist businesses with online marketing strategies by using social media. The Coordinator has created a social media presence including the Visit Wymondham Facebook and Instagram pages which promote not only local businesses but also group activities and events. The Farmers' Market has been actively promoted and we have seen an increase in visitors to Town due to that.

We launched the Wymondham Volunteer Network last October which seeks to draw community groups together to share experiences, resources and information as I know how difficult it is to run a volunteer group, managing both the amount of time and commitment needed.

As Wymondham Town Council members, your councillors are all volunteers. This group of 14 councillors you can see about Town, in meetings whether online or in person, freely give up their time to serve their communities and our Town. You may have elected them but they receive no expenses, make no monetary gain.

So thank you to all the councillors who give up their time and energy to represent our Town. But I also want to express my thanks to our hardworking Office staff and grounds-people, without whose help we would not get things done in a timely, professional fashion.

We believe and care about Wymondham, its residents, businesses and community groups. Their vibrancy combines with our beautiful Town and countryside to provide the best of both worlds. I believe our little market town to be the best in South Norfolk and as a Council we will continue to work hard for all our residents and businesses to keep promoting our wonderful Wymondham.



Town Mayor
Cllr Suzanne Nuri-Nixon

Wymondham Town Council

Annual Report 2023-24

Precepts, grants, income and expenditure.

Council finance explained

The Town Council is required by law to set a budget each year, which then determines how its 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 2023-24 financial year was £656,638 which was received. For the present 2024-25 financial year the precept has been set at £693,503.

Expenditure included the cost 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 2023-24, as shown.

Income 2023-24

Recreation	5873
Precept	656638
Burial Fees	26810
Rent	12447
Market Fees	10748
Community Infrastructure Levy	7098
Allotments	5280
Other	3503
Tourist Information Centre	520
Interest	49551
Bus Shelter Maintenance Grant	11550
TOTAL	790018

Expenditure 2023-24

Public Works loan	71945
Salaries	237518
Administration	134608
Recreation	51076
Cemetery	7993
Office building	48067
Markets	6130
Grants	2817
Allotments	7572
About Wymondham	450
Ketts Park	0
Tourist Information Centre	7902
Toilets	18248
Street Lights	7779
Contract Resource	37459
Town Co-ordinator	22868
Equipment	23245
TOTAL	685677

GRANTS 2023-24

Wymondham in Bloom	1438.10
Wymondham Rotary	375
Wymondham Symphony	1003.90
TOTAL	2817