

Biddulph Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT



2017-2018

Mayor's Review of the Town Council's year 2017- 2018

I would like to thank Biddulph Town Council for putting their faith in me and electing me to be the Town Mayor for the past year.

I have met some amazing people in the last 12 months and made new friends from people from all walks of life, and I hope that friendship will continue.

I would like to thank my wife for her support in her role as Mayoress. The staff at the Town Hall have been amazing in their support and help in organising my mayoral commitments.

The role of Mayor and ambassador for the town has been an incredible experience and I hope I have helped to promote Biddulph and all its attractions.

I have attended over 100 appointments all over Staffordshire and beyond. I must mention the trip to Fusignano where we celebrated 30 years of friendship, which was a lovely occasion. Long may the friendship continue!

The year has flown by and I'm sure our new Mayor Councillor Oliver McGuinness will enjoy the role and represent the town with pride and dignity.

Biddulph is a lovely place to live and work. The Town Council work hard to improve the town and work with other organisations to keep improving our facilities.

I will cherish my memories as Mayor and wish Oliver all the best in his year as Mayor.

Councillor Chris Wood



The work of the Town Council

- It has been a delight to work in the newly refurbished Town Hall. The Town Council is proud that this building is in the centre of the town and we have worked hard to promote the town centre through a number of initiatives during the year.
- We launched Fresh Food Friday in the autumn.



Local food producers sell fresh produce on the Town Hall frontage every Friday. The aim is to encourage people to use the High Street and to rediscover shops that they may not have visited for some time.

- Our Events and Partnerships Officer organises the Artisan Market, town Christmas Lights Switch-on and provides assistance to the Biddulph Festival committee. This year we have focused on making sure that the Town Council provides support to local residents. One of the projects that we have been working on is a Dementia Action Plan, and the staff have become Dementia Friends Champions.



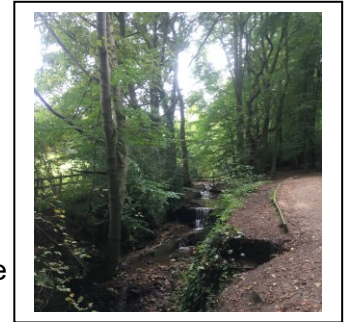
- £60,000 was allocated to groups to provide grant support. Biddulph Town Council funded groups that had the following aims:
 - Improved involvement in sports and recreation activities
 - Provision of efficient and effective advice
 - Improvements to community facilities and the environment
 - Enhancing community pride and inclusivity
 - Reduction of social isolation
 - Provision of lifesaving and first aid
 - Engaging young people in positive endeavours
 - Increasing skills and creativity.

In the region of 8000 individuals received support from grant funding. In addition to this, there were projects such as the Biddulph Festival and gardening projects that had an impact on the wider community.

- The Town Council continues to manage and maintain the Burial Grounds and two allotment sites. We have completed a tree survey across the Burial Ground sites during the year and we work with partners to ensure that the site is attractive for those that visit.



- The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group sent a questionnaire to all households within the town towards the end of 2017, and received 1,200 responses. The group were delighted with this response rate and the level of detail that was provided by residents. The next step is to write policies that will help to guide development across the town until 2035. The Group has been successful in getting both technical support and grant funding to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Town Council supported the establishment of the Biddulph Grange Country Park Friends, following a consultation event in July 2017. The group has already been successful in gaining grant funding for projects across the site and will carry out community events throughout the coming year.



- The Town Council gained funding to support the improvement of Footpath 25 in Gillow Heath. Attractive kissing gates have replaced the stiles along the path. We have already identified additional improvements needed across the town's footpaths for the coming year, but would like to hear your views on jobs that need to be done!

- The 2018 calendar sold out really quickly! We have committed to putting together a 2019 calendar to help showcase our fabulous town.

- There was continued support for the work of the residents' and community associations, and the Town Council is represented on many outside bodies. We have worked with young people during the year to welcome them into the Town Hall and to help them understand what happens here. We have also engaged with Headteachers' meetings to develop links on projects. The Town Council was proud to fund a young people's 'rave', hosted by Biddulph Youth and Community Zone.



- More information about the Town Council is available at our website: www.biddulph.co.uk or on our Facebook page 'Biddulph Town Council'.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

31-Mar-17	INCOME	31-Mar-18
£		£
256503.00	Precept	272924.76
13982.59	Council Tax Support Grant	8090.24
6437.00	Agency services reimbursed	4485.00
0.00	Loan/capital receipts	0.00
614.74	Interest on investments	160.40
0.00	Sale of Assets	0.00
675.00	Room Lettings	775.00
47835	Burial Ground	54347.20
599.90	Allotments	721.97
11926.8	Other	21172.41
338573.73	TOTAL	362676.98
31-Mar-17	EXPENDITURE	31-Mar-18
£		£
220357.48	General Administration	465351.26
4490.00	Lengthsman	3150.00
68623.00	S137 Payments	53389.80
0.00	Capital Spending	61340.08
0.00	Loan Interest and Repayments	0.00
0.00	Running costs:	0.00
1537.57	Allotments	768.74
17479.04	Community Hall	22081.71
0.00	Parks and open spaces	0.00
19913.11	Burial Ground	28439.90
2417.87	Street Lighting	2485.10
334818.07	TOTAL	637006.59
	GENERAL FUND	
612891.93	Balance at 1 April 2017	616647.59
338573.73	Total income	362676.98
334818.07	Less Total Expenditure	637006.59
	Plus CCLA investment	300000
616647.59	Balance at 31 Mar 18	642317.98

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

		BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2018			
2016/17	LONG TERM ASSETS				2017/18
		Investments CCLA			300000.00
		Long term debtors			0.00
					300000.00
	CURRENT ASSETS				
0.00		Debtors (net of provision for doubtful debts)			0.00
0.00		Payments in advance			0.00
2327.18		VAT recoverable			1234.53
0.00		Temporary lendings			0.00
614320.41		Cash in hand			341125.37
616647.59	TOTAL ASSETS				642359.90
	CURRENT LIABILITIES				
0		Creditors		0.00	
0.00		Receipts in Advance		0.00	
0.00		Cash overdrawn			
0.00				0.00	
0.00	NET ASSETS				642317.98
	REPRESENTED BY:				
289129.59		General Fund			149921.82
327518.00		Earmarked Reserves			492396.16
616647.59					642317.98
	The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority at 31 March 2018 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.				
	Signed				
	Date			Chairman	
	Signed				
	Date			Responsible Finance Officer	

BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCILLORS (until May 2019)

<u>Councillor:</u>	<u>Address:</u>	<u>Tel:</u>	<u>Ward:</u>
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