

Biddulph Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT



2011 - 2012

Mayor's Review of the Town Council's year 2011-2012

My time as Mayor of Biddulph has been wondrous, not because I had the opportunity to walk around with a nice big chain (and of course the Town Crier who shielded me from the wind and rain), but because I had the opportunity to meet the people of Biddulph in their surroundings both in and out of their comfort zone; that is what has been so wondrous. I could see first hand the work of the volunteers. They together with business are the powerhouse of Biddulph; it is they that drive Biddulph forward. We as a Council are here to facilitate them and so we should, as they are the lifeblood of this district.

Those that were present at the Civic Ball heard me say that at one point this town was in decline but that the turning point for me was Biddulph in Bloom. This volunteer group showed us the way forwards. What I did not mention at the Civic Ball was that it also gave us a new identity with the demise of the mining industry we were no longer identified as a mining town. I know not who have us the title Garden Town, but that is now our identity - we are now known as the Garden Town of Staffordshire. It follows, therefore, that we should protect this new identity - should we fail to support this endeavour (and support includes finance) there is a real danger that we would again lose our identity. If this was the case I do not believe we would, or should, be forgiven.

I would also like to thank the Biddulph Running Club who raised over £1,000 for the Mayor's Charity (Royal British Legion, Biddulph Branch) and of course to my Mum and Brenda Beech, who raised over £300 at their Charity stalls.

I move on to the Mayor's Award. The first Mayor to make this award was Councillor Wayne Rogers and I am very pleased to follow in his footsteps. I believe the bedrock of our society is our education system. In Biddulph we are blessed by wonderful schools. Two schools; Knypersley First and Squirrel Hayes were recognised in the awards, with their Headteachers, for truly inspirational leadership; and the commitment displayed by the children and staff is a credit to our community. Other recipients were Bakers Coaches, who have been in Biddulph for 75 years providing an excellent service and employment to our community. Shops such as Mothershaws and Pedleys in our High Street were awarded. They have invested time and money in setting up their businesses in Biddulph, providing much needed services; they have served the community well. Our two sub post offices, one in Biddulph Moor, the other in Brown Lees, who coped wonderfully with the increase in postal traffic caused by the main post offices closure; they too have served the community well and with a smile. Needless to say CAB and BRIC also received an award, their heroic efforts are well known to all Councillors. The U3A have given a new lease of life to the mature, they too received the award. I then looked at individuals, their names just jumped out. They are Frank Harris, Stan Meredith, Russ Lambsdale, John Salt, Elaine Rice, Ben Topham, Antony Capostagno, Helen Roberts and Lester Millington. We must never as a Council forget the debt we owe the volunteers. We must never take them for granted; we must recognise and support them.

Thank you all for this opportunity.

Cllr Ken Harper
MAYOR OF BIDDULPH

A brief summary of the work of the Council this year:

- The new meeting format developed further to give direct access and participation by members of the public (three Town Meetings held – Health and Community Safety, Young People and Town Centre, Economy & the Environment)
- Over £50,000 of grant assistance awarded to local community groups, including £22,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau to support its valuable work in the community and £15,500 to Biddulph in Bloom to support the team's endeavours in making a difference to our environment
- Practical & financial support for the Biddulph Festival events – including the first Festival Parade, 1942 Big Band Dance; Art at the Arms; Rock on the Rocks; Folk in the Park; Open Cafes, Old Time Music Hall Biddulph by the Sea; BRIC Biddulph Fun Day & many others
- Further development of town events through the Events Director project
- Supported the Moorlands and District Music Festival at Biddulph High School
- Supported the Biddulph Male Voice Choir in its 90th year
- Organised the Lengthsman scheme – mainly footpath, road signage, verge & ditch clearance work
- Assisted the Biddulph Moor Community Association
- Set up and started the Town Council Youth Advisor scheme, now having young people at every Council meeting
- Gained Big Lottery funding to work further with the Residents' Associations in supporting them by setting up a Residents' Association Network
- Regeneration partner (with District Council & County Council) – working on a project to improve the built environment with street lighting enhancement
- Lighting improvements to the stage and hall area funded and installed by the Town Council to bring the hall up to professional standard
- Supported the PCT at the start of the new Health Centre build
- 2012 calendar produced to further local tourism, plus postcards and other items
- Maintained the website – www.biddulph.co.uk, plus developed facebook & twitter pages
- Produced the newsletter – the Reporter
- Remembrance Sunday – support & refreshments
- Christmas – lights in town centre & Biddulph Moor tree; switch-on event, Christmas market and fair, in partnership with Biddulph Business Chamber
- Sponsor for Rotary's Santa Sleigh
- Town Burial Ground maintenance and improvement work carried out throughout the year and the development of the new burial area
- Clearance of rhododendrons at the Burial Ground when the disease *Phytophthora ramorum* was discovered
- Maintenance of allotment sites at Moorland Road and Park Lane ongoing throughout the year
- Ongoing staff and councillor professional training, including attendance at conferences and seminars
- In addition to all of the above, Town Council is represented on many outside bodies and members attended meetings throughout the year, reporting back to the Council at the monthly meetings

| <u>BUDGETED INCOME</u> | Estimated Income 2011/12 | Actual Income to 01/12/2011 | Provisional Budget 2012/13 |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Room Hire | 150 | 75 | 100 |
| Burial Ground | 21,000 | 19,253 | 23,000 |
| Allotments | 525 | 250 | 550 |
| Interest | 200 | 142 | 200 |
| VAT Refund | 6,280 | 5,319 | 8,000 |
| Lengthsman | 5,000 | 4,182 | 5,000 |
| Promotional sales | 3,000 | 775 | 1,500 |
| General Admin | | | - |
| TOTAL | 36,155 | 29,997 | 38,350 |
| PRECEPT ** | 248,578 | 248,578 | 259,413 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 284,733 | 278,575 | 297,763 |

Bank Reconciliation as at 30.11.11

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Business Reserve a/c | 568,943 | |
| Capital Reserve a/c | 25,667 | |
| Current a/c | 5,775 | |
| Petty Cash | 50 | |
| | <u>600,435</u> | |
| less unpresented cheques | - | |
| Total at Bank | <u>600,435</u> | |
| Opening balance @ 1.04.11 | 528,143 | |
| Receipts | 278,676 | |
| Payments | | 206,384 |
| Closing balance | | <u>600,435</u> |
| | <u>806,819</u> | <u>806,819</u> |

**** A £1 Band D charge = £6,666**

07/08 Precept was £37.63

08/09 Precept was £26.02

09/10 Precept was £37.19

10/11 Precept was £37.19

11/12 Precept was £37.19

| |
|---------------------------------|
| 2012/13 Precept = £38.92 |
|---------------------------------|

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE FOR 2012-2013

| | Estimated Expenditure 2011-12 | Allocated Balances 2011-12 | Actual Expenditure to 1/12/11 | Provisional Budget 2012-13 | Allocated Balances 2012-13 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| General Administration | | | | | |
| Audit fees | 1,200 | | 1,190 | 1,500 | |
| Contingency | 5,000 | | 4,200 | 5,000 | |
| Elections | 3,670 | | - | 2,250 | |
| Grants S137 | 19,000 | | 15,650 | 19,000 | |
| CAB Grant | 22,000 | | 22,000 | 25,000 | |
| Lengthsman | 5,000 | | 3,481 | 5,000 | |
| Office costs | 3,000 | | 2,127 | 3,000 | |
| Room rent - DC | 24,000 | | 20,204 | 22,000 | |
| Salaries/pensions | 80,000 | | 57,241 | 80,000 | |
| Subs | 1,500 | | 1,471 | 1,600 | |
| Sundry | 1,000 | | 658 | 800 | |
| Training | 1,000 | | 282 | 1,000 | |
| VAT | 5,000 | | 6,984 | 8,000 | |
| sub total | 171,370 | | 135,488 | 174,150 | |
| Civic Committee | | | | | |
| BiB S.137 | 15,500 | | 15,500 | 18,000 | |
| Christmas Lights | 16,000 | | 3,878 | 16,000 | |
| Civic Allowance | 4,165 | | 4,165 | 4,165 | |
| Civic expenditure | 9,648 | | 4,238 | 7,000 | |
| Regen (S.137) | 5,000 | 201,167 | 15,398 | 15,398 | 201,167 |
| Rem Sunday (S.137) | 100 | | 54 | 100 | |
| Events Director | 5,000 | | 3,333 | 5,000 | |
| Town Events | 2,700 | | 42 | 2,700 | |
| New Burial Land | 15,000 | 218,712 | - | 15,000 | 233,712 |
| Burial Ground | 16,000 | | 15,757 | 16,000 | |
| Tourism | 3,750 | | 1,226 | 3,750 | |
| Festival | 5,000 | | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| sub total | 97,863 | | 68,592 | 108,113 | |
| Planning Committee | | | | | |
| Allotments | 5,000 | | 356 | 5,000 | |
| Footpaths | 500 | | - | 500 | |
| Footway Lighting | 10,000 | | 1,948 | 10,000 | |
| sub total | 15,500 | | 2,304 | 15,500 | |
| TOTAL | 284,733 | 419,879 | 206,384 | 297,763 | 434,879 |

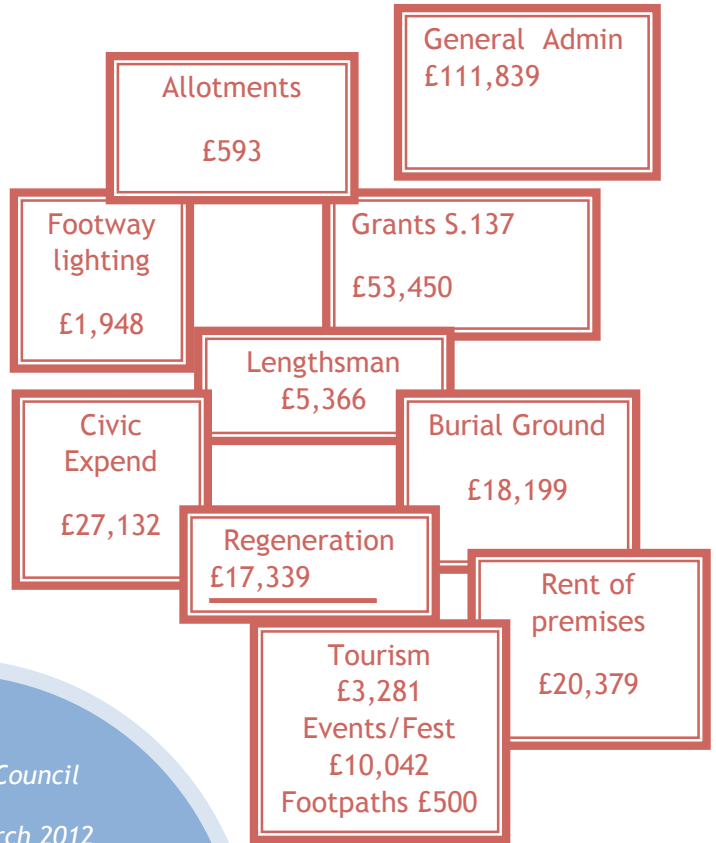
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2011 - 2012

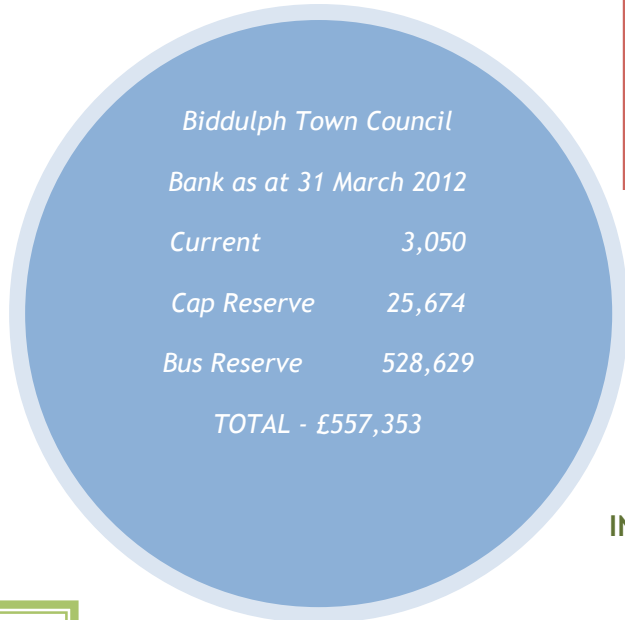
New burial land
£218,712

Regeneration
£201,167

ALLOCATED RESERVES: £419,879



**EXPENDITURE:
£270,068**



INCOME: £299,278

