

## **DARLEY DALE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **31ST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

#### **SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL DURING 2010/11**

This is the last time I shall produce a report on the activities of the Town Council. I have done it for the last eight years, and I have always derived a lot of pleasure from explaining what we, the Town Council, have done for you, the residents, over the last year.

I shall miss a lot of things associated with the Town Council, and the privilege of presenting an account of our activities has always been something I have looked forward to.

#### **The Whitworth Centre**

The Town Council is the Trustee of the Whitworth Centre.

The business of the Centre is proceeding well, with lettings increasing. In particular the building is being used for wedding ceremonies and wedding parties.

Letting of The Lodge as a holiday let has been very successful, and the house is occupied for a very large part of the year.

#### **Planning Applications**

The Town Council considers and comments on planning applications submitted to Derbyshire Dales District Council for developments within Darley Dale. Although the Town Council does not make any decisions on planning matters, we try to influence the District Council Planning Committee over decisions that are against our own policy, and to support them over decisions that are in line with our policy.

During the year we were consulted on a total of 77 planning applications.

A major part of our work this year was in opposing another application by the Wagstaffe Family Trust and DFS to develop the land behind the Royal bank of Scotland. Residents will recognise that if this piece of land is developed, that will clear the way for development on all of the fields between Darley Dale and Matlock.

Two planning applications were made by the developers in the year for this piece of land. One was withdrawn, and the other was decided against them by the District Council Planning Committee. The Wagstaffe Family Trust and DFS appealed against the decision. The Town Council obtained a seat at the hearing as an interested party, and set

about preparing a robust case against the development. The Town Council was very pleased to have the cooperation of many Darley Dale residents in preparing this case, and it became obvious that the Developers were not confident of their case, because they then withdrew the appeal before the hearing.

As a result of pressure from the Town Council, working with our District Councillors, the District Council resolved to take up at central Government level the continual attempts by the landowner, the Wagstaffe Family Trust, to develop this land – contrary to the wishes of the people of Darley Dale, and the waste of taxpayers' money in having to defend these appeals.

Let us hope that the new government's Localism Bill will give more power to the elbow of local residents in protecting our environment from those who would destroy it for monetary gain.

### **Road Safety Issues**

The Town Council's Road Safety Working Party has continued to monitor areas of concern for children and others in crossing roads or walking along roads.

We have sought ways of reducing congestion at Whitworth Road caused by visitors and employees of the County Council at the Molyneux Business Park, and we await a response from the County Council.

We have also raised with the County Council the strange disabled ramp from Oker Estate to the A6 at the Broad Walk shopping parade. This ramp has a step at each end of it, thereby preventing its use by users of mobility scooters and wheelchairs. The County Council has advised us that the land and ramp are owned by the District Council. We understand that our District Councillors are pursuing this with the District Council, and we look forward to a satisfactory result.

### **Policing in Darley Dale**

I am pleased to report that we have the services and support of PC Malcolm Spencer and PCSO Granville Nixon who are providing superb neighbourhood policing in Darley Dale. Not only do they provide the police presence we all need, but they also participate in the activities of the town, and help us get projects off the ground. Their involvement in our Youth Clubs is very welcome.

### **Grant Aid**

The Town Council has continued its policy of financial assistance to local clubs and organisations.

Grant aid has been awarded during the year as follows:

Christmas Extravaganza for the community	£ 250.00
Darley Dale Cricket Club	£ 300.00
The Golden Club	£ 100.00
Memory Lane	£ 800.00
The Twinning Association	£ 110.00
Darley Dale Juniors Football Club	£ 800.00
Darley Dale Lions	£ 300.00
The Whitworth Billiards Club	£ 292.00
The Whitworth Table Tennis Club	£ 750.00
Darley Dale Coquet Club	£ 200.00
Whitworth Park Bowls Club	£ 250.00
Federation Mental Health (for Flower in the Field)	£ 294.00
Greenaway Workshop	£ 300.00
Darley Dale Indoor Bowls	£ 250.00

The Town Council is continuing its policy with respect to arts support by providing interactive arts sessions at the two local primary schools. This year we again supported a similar arts initiative for Mencap, which was very well received.

### **Publicity**

The Town Council believes that it is important to keep the residents of Darley Dale informed about its activities. The public and press are welcome at all meetings of the Town Council, and time is allocated at the start and at the end of the meetings for public participation. Representatives from the local newspapers are invited to attend meetings in order to report Council matters more fully.

The Town Council also publishes its own quarterly magazine Update, delivered into every home in Darley Dale, post offices and the doctors' surgery. Copies are also available in the Town Clerk's office.

### **Twining**

The twinning link with Onzain continues to be very successful. The Twinning Association is a Town Council initiative, and was formed in 1989, but it is now run by a management committee totally independent of the Town Council.

### **Carol Singing**

The Town Council, with the help of a grant from the District Council, held its seventh very successful Carol Singing concert at the Whitworth Centre last Christmas.

The Darley Dale Brass Band, who play at these events every year were in excellent form, and the Town Clerk and Whitworth Centre volunteers looked after our inner needs by serving hot mince pies and mulled wine.

### **Pantomime and Other Performances**

The Town Council repeated a venture run for the last four years by putting on a pantomime during the Christmas period. This event was also extremely successful, and has now become a permanent fixture. Plans are already well advanced for a similar performance this Christmas.

### **Footpath and Highway Matters**

The Town Council again arranged for extra grass cuts during the year.

The flowerbeds and lawns at the Whitworth Road, Parkway, and Greenaway Lane junctions with the A6 are well-received by residents and visitors and also by people passing through the town

### **The Public Toilets in Station Road**

The Town Council successfully fought off a plan by the District Council to close these toilets two years ago. They are currently maintained by the Town Council (contracted again to the Whitworth Trust through the good offices of their caretakers).

We understand that, as part of their cost-cutting exercise, the District Council is looking at rationalising (another name for closing) public toilets throughout the district. We shall maintain a close watch on developments.

### **Youth Provision**

The Town Council has made great strides in developing this important side of our activities. It has now become a regular feature of school holidays that the Town Council arranges for organised activities at the Whitworth Centre for all ranges of children.

Derby County provides coaching in football at the Whitworth Park, and cycling is a very popular activity

A very successful film club for 7 to 12 year-olds has run successfully in partnership with St Helen's Church and the Police. Membership is £8 per child for the whole year, and films are shown monthly at St Helen's Church Hall in Churchtown.

"The Shack" youth club for 12 to 16 year olds continues to run successfully. We occasionally get periods of vandalism, but it is important that we continue to provide safe

facilities for this age group to meet and socialise. We are always looking for additional volunteer helpers, so please contact the Town Clerk if you would like to help. The job is not difficult, and is very rewarding.

The club for the 7 to 11 year olds has been a runaway success. We now hold this club on three nights a week, to cater for the large number of children who want to attend.. We would also be pleased to hear from parents and others interested in helping in this venture.

### **Health Matters**

The Town Council maintains its strong interest in the Whitworth Hospital, and we have regular meetings with the PCT management to exchange views and ideas. We understand that usage of the Maternity Unit, for which we fought so hard a few years ago, has fallen off. This is very much a case of “use it or lose it”. Pressure is being put on the Chesterfield Hospital to publicise the Unit more, but we need to appreciate that if numbers of births do not increase we must expect another attempt to close it.

### **Willow Way**

The new children’s play area at Willow Way has been completed, and the facility is being well used.

### **Remembrance Day**

A Remembrance Day service was held at the War Memorial in the grounds of the Whitworth Park preceded by a parade from Broadwalk.

### **Community Centre**

The Community Centre located between the Hooley Estate and Gas Cottages on the edge of Matlock is still being used by the contractor currently completing the new Central Area Leisure Centre. The Derbyshire Dales District Council has provided temporary accommodation at Megdale (in Matlock). When the new facilities are completed, the committee of the Community Centre will be provided with a room in the new Centre, for its exclusive use.

### **Representatives on outside Bodies**

During the year Town Councillors and representatives served on the following outside Bodies:-

Darley Dale Community Centre Management Committee  
H J Enthoven/South Darley Liaison Committee

Governing body of Darley Dale Primary School  
Governing body of Churchtown School  
The Whitworth Centre Board

### **Financial Situation**

The Town Council's income is obtained from Darley Dale council taxpayers, collected via a precept on the District Council. The precept (i.e. the amount of money we ask from residents each year) is currently £78,000, and it has remained at that figure since 2008

Breakdowns of both the income and expenditure for 2010/2011, and the budget for 2011/2012 are attached to this report.

### **Allotments**

The Town Council provides allotments for residents of the Town. Last year we took over the allotments at Church Road from Derbyshire Dales District Council, and this allotment site is now run by the Town Council.

We were pleased to see how well the project run by Matlock Federation for Mental Health (their "Flower in the Field" project) is developing, and we wish it great success.

### **People**

We count ourselves very fortunate to have the services of Trish Ingham as Town Clerk, and a group of enthusiastic volunteer Town Councillors. I am proud to have been a member of this Town Council and I shall be sad to no longer be involved.

This is an election year, so there has been a significant change in the composition of the Town Council.

I am pleased to welcome back Councillors Pasteur, Oakley, Brookes, Bullock and Dyson who all successfully topped the poll at the recent election. I also welcome Councillors Bettany, Cliff, Kennion, Diggle, Dodds, Joanne Nuttall and Darran Nuttall, who are new councillors elected this month. I have no doubt you will all enjoy being Town Councillors, and I only hope you enjoy it as much as I have done.

Last, but not least, I express the thanks of the Town Council and indeed the residents of Darley Dale to those who have decided to retire from public life. Councillors Sarah Bennett, Rowena Smith and Richard Johnson joined this council at the same time as I did, eight years ago. They have all, in their various ways, contributed to the success of the council. They all represented the Council on the Whitworth Trust Board, and their contribution there was invaluable.

And finally, I wish to thank Trish Ingham, our Town Clerk, for the dedicated and professional manner in which she serves the Town Council. In addition to her normal

duties, Trish volunteers for many things in the life of the Town, ranging from running the Yew Tree Film Club for young children to planting bushes and trees in the Whitworth Park.

**John Evans**  
**Town Mayor**

**10 May 2011**

**Darley Dale Town Council**  
**Accounts For 2010/2011**

2009-2010

**INCOME**

2010-2011

£78,000	Precept	£78,000
£495	Footpath Grant	£495
£775	Income from childrens holiday activities	£608
£67	Bank Interest	£64
£475	Allotment Rent and allowance from DDDC	£573
£210	Update Adverts & Website advertising	£800
£361	Pantomime Income	£262
£2,850	Public Toilets recharge	£2,850
£11,400	Grants - Awards for All (stage) & O2 and Greenwatch (wil	£0
	Grants returned (community groups did not use 2010)	£1,000
£48	Misc -	£0
£94,681	<b>Total</b>	<b>£84,652</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

£501	Allotments	£550
£25,975	Administration	£27,355
£2,716	Advertising & Publicity	£4,581
£659	Audit Fee	£679
£141	Bank Service Charges	£125
£550	Bus Shelters	£1,203
£1,971	Childrens Holiday Activities	£1,795
£2,375	Community Arts & pantomime	£1,635
£935	Subscriptions	£949
£7,713	Environmental Provisions	£13,631
£917	Fairtrade	£0
£947	Footpaths	£853
£5,249	Grant Aid to Local Organisations	£4,996
£461	Hospitality	£804
£3,845	Insurance	£2,962
£108	Public Notice Boards	£0
£2,850	Public Toilets cost	£2,850
£8	Quality Council Reaccreditation	£0
£658	Seats	£840
£10,883	Stage	£0
£19	Town Mayor's Allowance	£69
£10,000	Whitworth Centre Grant & Match Funding	£20,000
£7,371	Whitworth Park Maintenance	£8,250
	Willow Way grant expenditure	£1,520
£3,020	Youth Provision	£3,000
£89,874	<b>Total</b>	<b>£98,646</b>

£78,560	<b>General fund</b>	
£79,055	Balance at 1st April	£95,862
£94,681	Plus £495 Footpath Debtor from years previous	£0
£173,736	Add Total Income	£84,652
£89,874	Total	£180,514
£83,862	Deduct Total Expenditure	£98,646
£12,000	Balance at 31st March	£81,868
£95,862	Put £12,00 back into accounts from Youth	£0
	Balance at 31st March 2010	<b>£81,868</b>

4. The Town council submitted a precept for £78,000 to Derbyshire Dales District Council for 2011/2012 resulting in a Band D Town Council Tax of £36.80(Comparable Town Council Tax for 2010/2011 was £36.08)

5. The Budget of £112,527 for 2010/2011 is made up as follows

	£
Administration	27,000
Staff Training & Development	1,000
Advertising and Publicity	6,000
Allotments	700
Allotment Income	-600
Audit Fee	1,000
Bank Service Charges	175
Bank Interest	-40
Bus Shelters	1,500
Childrens Holiday Activities	3,000
Childrens Holiday Activities Income	-1,200
Community Arts	1,500
Community Centre	0
Elections	4,500
Environmental Provision	12,000
Footpath Maintenance	1,200
Footpath Grant	-495
Grant Aid	5,000
Grants to be spend having received them previously	0
Hospitality	500
Insurance	3,200
Public Notice Boards	500
Public Toilets	2,850
Public Toilets Income	-2,850
Seats	1,000
Street Lighting	3,500
Subscription DALC	850
Town Mayors Allowance	100
Update Income	-400
War Memorial	400
Whitworth Centre	20,000
Whitworth Park Maintenance	8,700
Youth Provision	6,000
Contingency	5,000
	<b>111,590</b>

6. The Council's Accounts for 2010/2011 will be audited by the Audit Commission  
The Auditor had no comments to make on the accounts for 2009/2010

Trish Ingham Trown Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
2nd May 2011

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	£
Administration	27,000
Staff Training & Development	1,000
Advertising and Publicity	6,000
Allotments	700
Allotment Income	-600
Audit Fee	1,000
Bank Service Charges	175
Bank Interest	-40
Bus Shelters	1,500
Childrens Holiday Activities	3,000
Childrens Holiday Activities income	-1,200
Community Arts	1,500
Community Centre	0
Elections	4,500
Environmental Provision	12,000
Footpath Maintenance	1,200
Footpath Grant	-495
Grant Aid	5,000
Grants to be spend having received them previously	0
Hospitality	500
Insurance	3,200
Public Notice Boards	500
Public Toilets	2,850
Public Toilets Income	-2,850
Seats	1,000
Street Lighting	3,500
Subscription DALC	850
Town Mayors Allowance	100
Update Income	-400
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