

Market Deeping Town Council

Annual Report

May 2011 – April 2012



Mayor: Councillor Bob Broughton

Clerk: Mandy Ford

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

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Council Office, Town Hall, Market Place, Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, PE6 8EA

MAYOR'S REPORT

MAY 2011 - APRIL 2012

Looking back over this last year since my unexpected election to the Chair of Council, I have to agree with Xan Collins that it has indeed been a busy time.

With the help and support of Theresa I have done my best to promote the town throughout the area, not only at various Mayors' Civic Sundays and dinners, but wherever local good causes have required the dignity of our Chain of Office to promote local events, and in fund raising efforts. Where I have been unable to attend, the Council should be aware that Deputy Mayor Reg Howard has stepped into the breach effortlessly, with his own unique brand of quiet dignity to provide a covering role.

It has been a pleasure to assist Xan and Roy in their efforts to improve and enhance the town's amenities and cemeteries respectively, and my congratulations to Xan for her deserved elevation to Deputy Chair for 2012-2013, which gives me hopefully an opportunity to carry on the good work done on amenities.

With generous help from local people and Councillors I have been able to donate £2500 to my chosen charities (£600 to the Young at Heart Club and £1900 to Deeping Mens Group) and I look forward to putting my efforts this year to boosting Reg's charitable fund.

It would indeed be remiss of me not to mention that the smooth running of the Town Hall has been of great help in keeping me on track in fulfilling my Mayoral duties, and it's nice to see Dawn settling in with Mandy after taking over from our equally delightful and departing Julie. Well done girls, it would have been a harder task without you.

Councillor Bob Broughton
Mayor of Market Deeping 2011 - 2012

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

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It has been a busy year. Summarised below are some of the main things we have achieved over the past 12 months.

BMX Track Drainage:

We managed to put in the soakaways at the BMX Track, which involved putting 2 lines of drainage 50 metres and 25 metres long, in between the main tracks. We were lucky enough to have the Community Payback team from Lincolnshire Probation over a period of 10 weeks mostly on Saturdays only, which provided us with the manpower to be able to achieve this at minimal costs as there were no labour charges to the Council. Bob Broughton and I worked alongside the team and their supervisors, which I must admit was like doing hard labour, digging out the trenches with pick axes and spades, and using sheer brute force to dig 2 feet down to lay the pipes. We worked in all weather conditions, and managed to complete that task over a 3 week period.

Also, the Payback Team did lots of maintenance on the John Eve field and Rectory Paddock, weeding the edge of the BMX Track and also weeding the pathway from the John Eve field to the cemetery. They cleared the area around the pond and cut and cleared up to the hedge in the Rectory Paddock. These were just a few of the jobs they did for the Council. On that note, I would like to thank Richard Wright from the Probation Service and the men and women for working so hard during their time in Market Deeping.

Resurfacing of the BMX Track:

Earlier this year we managed to resurface the BMX Track, which was much needed, due to the amount of use that the track has had since it was built. This was done by our parks men, with the supervision of our mayor Bob Broughton. We also had special help from the local Fire Service, without them we would not have been able to lay the surface due to the lack of rain. I would like to thank the Deeping Firemen, Bob and our team of park keepers for working so hard to get the job done with minimal disruption.

Appointment of New Amenities Assistant:

I am sure that a few of you will have noticed a new face working in our parks over the last year. We employed a new Amenities Assistant, Colin Bridges. I have had many positive comments regarding Colin's work over the last year, so thank you Colin and keep up the good work.

Projects for 2012/ 2013:

We have a couple of major projects earmarked for this year in the Rectory Paddock; one being the refurbishment of the pond and surrounding area. We intend to clear the pond and introduce natural wildlife and plants to improve the look of the Paddock. That should get under way in the summer. We are also planning to put 2 parking spaces at the Halfleet end of the Paddock to enable visitors to the cemetery and Spinney easier access.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our parks men for working so hard to keep our open spaces looking so well kept and maintained beautifully. Thanks guys, keep up the good work. I would also like to thank Bob for his support and guidance, as this was a new venture for me as a Chair of Committee, and not forgetting the support of my fellow councillors, and also the clerks, Mandy, Julie and Dawn, thanks to you all.

Councillor Miss Xan Collins
Chairman, Amenities & Open Spaces Committee 2011 – 2012

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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Once again we have come through another bitterly cold and challenging winter. Like many others our roads took a battering in the very cold temperatures. The town has suffered its fair share of pot holes as a direct result of the bad weather. Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of our highways here in Market Deeping. Pot holes need to be reported to LCC so that they can make arrangements to have them fixed. Overall, I believe that we have received a good service from LCC who endeavoured to repair pot holes in the town as quickly as possible, once reported.

In the early summer the town put up its hanging baskets and many residents commented how lovely they looked and how beautiful they made the Market Place, after such a harsh winter, it was lovely to see the blooms and colours.

Throughout the year the Committee raised concerns about road safety, specifically mud on the road in Towngate East / Godsey Lane areas due to local development work that is taking place in the area. The Committee raised its concerns to LCC Highways Department as well as the Police, due to concerns about the condition of the road surface. As this site remains an ongoing development the Committee will continue to monitor the road conditions and report any concerns to the appropriate authorities.

Last year saw the start of an improvement programme to change the existing oak bollards in the Market Place for ones made from durable material. The Committee is working to a 5 year improvement plan where by we shall budget and replace 5 bollards per year for the next 5 years. We will not be replacing all the existing bollards, after consultation with LCC. LCC have agreed to install and fit the bollards as we work together collaboratively to make the improvements.

In response to many requests the Committee arranged for white lights to be installed on the tree situated in the roundabout at the junction of Church Street, Stamford Road, and High Street. The lights are a 'Welcome to Market Deeping' initiative and local feedback has been very positive.

Plans for 2012-13: In the coming year, the hanging baskets in the town centre will be provided by a new supplier and the Committee has asked for the theme to be the Olympic colours. In addition, the Committee secured a three tier floral display from South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) which will be sited in the Market Place and it too will follow the Olympic colour theme.

To mark the passing of the Olympic Torch through Market Deeping on the 4th of July 2012, a commemorative plaque will be fitted to the front of the Town Hall.

Councillor Reg Howard
Chairman, Highways and Transportation Committee 2011 – 2012

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012

Looking over the planning applications for Market Deeping during the past year the emphasis has been on extensions and new windows in existing homes. Most of the requests were reasonable but the council always looks carefully at how each development could affect neighbours. There also seemed to be a lot of requests for pruning or felling trees. The council is anxious that each case is carefully considered and that trees are preserved.

It is always difficult to support new development on existing gardens – will it mean that the character of the area will change? How will it affect neighbours? Will it create problems of access onto the road and indeed access for the emergency services should they be needed?

The council considered the reserved matters for the second phase of the Persimmon Development on Godsey Lane. Reserved matters are the finer points of planning once the outline has been granted e.g. colour of bricks tile etc. Once again the Council reiterated its grave concerns over the infrastructure e.g. access, schools, health care, sewage and drainage, flooding and social amenities.

Persimmon held a public consultation on the third phase of their proposed development on Godsey Lane. The feedback from those attending and completing the questionnaire was that bungalows and affordable housing were needed even though 18.8% of those attending said yes to development and 81.3% said no to further development.

These developments fit in with the Local Development Plan which is in place for South Kesteven and space will have to be considered for 450 dwellings before 2020 if housing targets for the Deepings are to be met. The Town Council will continue to press for good infrastructure, e.g. schools drainage roads etc which should be put in place side by side with any new housing scheme together with areas of open space throughout the town and its perimeters, which would be open for all to enjoy and to keep the ambiance of our historical, rural Market Town.

The council is very anxious to support local business and any planning is looked on favourably. The Council has some concerns over the Conservation area especially around the central roundabout where signage doesn't compliment the old stone buildings. However many businesses have strived to make their signage in keeping with the area. The council will be consulting with the Conservation officer and business to produce a policy for Market Deeping so that there is a consistent approach to further applications.

In conclusion to this report there is one major point to be made;

It is important for residents to express their views and thoughts — the council has one voice the community has many — South Kesteven District council need to know how the community feels. Planning Meetings take place on the first Wednesday in the month at 7pm.

Councillor Mrs Pauline Redshaw
Chairman, Planning Committee 2011 - 2012

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN HALL AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012

2011-12 has been another exciting year for the Committee with the Spinney project now completed. It is available now for the scattering of ashes and has an area also set aside for the deposit of ashes in Sanctums or Niches. This means that the cemetery and its environs can be used for the deposit of ashes for the foreseeable future, providing the people of Market Deeping with a valuable amenity not available in many other parishes.

Cemetery: The cemetery is a delightful area, well maintained and providing a pleasant place for quiet reflection. Our thanks are again extended to Mr Ron Bottomley and Mr Fellowes who tend this area so well.

The Spinney: The Spinney Project now has the weeds cleared and planting between the trees. Hundreds of bulbs have been put in along the path with more planting being carried out by Swines Meadow Garden Centre. It is truly an inspiring change from an overgrown, dark, unwelcoming area to one which can be strolled through with a sense of pleasure in the surroundings. The new pathway leads invitingly through the woodland to the new cemetery, awash with light. As an added bonus, it is suitable for buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters. There is room to put a bench under the trees on which precious moments can be spent reflecting about loved ones who are no longer with us. For those of you looking for a place to scatter ashes locally which is welcoming then look no further. This area is now open, with the option of a black granite plaque placed on the path's edging stones as a memorial.

Each Easter for the last few years a group of young people have come to help the councillors clear the Spinney and the pond. Their efforts this year were, therefore, concentrated on the pond which was cleared of many bottles and cans, lumps of wood and overgrown vegetation.

The Committee feels that pedestrian access to the cemetery via Rectory Paddock would be a desirable and pretty approach through a Spinney awash with flowers and shrubs. Now, we only need to provide a couple of parking spaces and easy access at the Paddock entrance for the project to be fully completed.

Town Hall: The Town Hall continues to provide an essential service to our community as a meeting place for the Council, a place of work for the Town Clerk, Mandy Ford, and our new Deputy Town Clerk, Dawn Jarvis. Julie Bourne, our previous and excellent clerk, has moved on to pastures new and we all wish her well. The Town Hall may be small but it is the dynamic hub of our community: a place to meet and make decisions for the Town Council and local groups. It is also the place where our invaluable clerks advise and guide members of the public whilst also assisting councillors to fulfil their obligations successfully.

Administration: It is now four years since we changed the working arrangements for the Town Clerk in order to be able to employ two clerks rather than one. This is proving to be a very successful strategic plan by the Council as we are now able to take on more projects, in the knowledge that we have the administrative support to facilitate them. We have had much needed cover for the Clerk in the event of illness and holidays, enabling us to progress with confidence into the future, knowing that not only are we covered at all times but that we can also take on new commitments, if we wish.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members and our employees for their dedication to the job and invaluable help throughout the year,

Councillor Roy Stephenson
Chairman, Town Hall and Cemetery Committee 2011 – 2012

Summary of Market Deeping Town Council Expenditure 2011-2012

| <u>Budget</u> | <u>Precept Amount</u> | <u>Total Spend</u> | <u>Remaining Budget</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| AOS | £45,775.00 | £48,814.30 | -£3,039.30 |
| Cemetery | £15,190.00 | £20,539.98 | -£5,349.98 |
| Highways | £11,850.00 | £11,382.16 | £467.84 |
| Town Hall | £5,660.00 | £4,172.33 | £1,487.67 |
| Administration | £93,490.00 | £82,130.90 | £11,359.10 |
| Totals | £171,965.00 | £167,039.67 | £4,925.33 |

Grant Aid Payments - Apr 11 to Mar 12

These monies constitute s137 expenditure

| <u>Charity/Organisation</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Rotary of the Deepings | £180.00 |
| Carers Sitter Service | £450.00 |
| Deeping Gang show | £500.00 |
| Deepings Arts | £500.00 |
| Fire Fighter's Benevolent fund | £100.00 |
| Total Grants paid to date: | £1,730.00 |

Market Deeping Town Council

Events Calendar 2011/12



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| 27 th April 2011 | - Annual Town Meeting, Coronation Hall, 7pm |
| 17 th May 2011 | - Walking the Footpaths – leaves the Town Hall at 6.30pm |
| 22 nd May 2011 | - Deepings Arts Car boot, Glebe Field |
| 23 – 30 May 2011 | - Russells International Circus, John Eve Field |
| 14 th June 2011 | - Walking the Footpaths – leaves the Town Hall at 6.30pm |
| 2 nd July 2011 | - Deepings Carnival, John Eve Field |
| 3 rd July 2011 | - Civic Service, 10am St Guthlac's Church |
| 1 st – 12 th August 2011 | - Playscheme 2011, Market Deeping Community Primary school |
| 21 st August 2011 | - Deepings Arts Car boot, Glebe Field |
| 12 th – 15 th October 2011 | - Gray's Fair, John Eve Field |
| 27 th November 2011 | - Christmas Market |
| 20 th December 2011 | - Carols by the Christmas tree, 7pm |
| 31 st March 2012 | - Civic Dinner and Dance |