

Market Deeping Town Council

Annual Report

May 2012 – April 2013



Mayor: Councillor Reg Howard

Clerk: Mandy Ford
Deputy Clerk: Dawn Jarvis

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

MAYOR'S REPORT

MAY 2012 - APRIL 2013

As we approach the end of my Mayoral year on the 8th May, I look back on a momentous year – Her Majesty's Jubilee and the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Market Deeping were two of the highlights, which were enthusiastically enjoyed by huge crowds – despite very inclement weather. The work of the Council went on apace and we have had to face situations and make important decisions affecting our town's future. The 3-phase Persimmon development on land in Godsey Lane was contentious and objected to mainly because of its effect of traffic emerging onto an already congested road. A system of 8 traffic lights was heavily objected to; a special meeting was called with the County Council member, the Highways Engineer and other interested parties and Councillors. The scheme was abandoned and a threatened bus route was saved - a brilliant example of sensible argument and listening.

Our administration staff worked hard and efficiently in the face of government direction. I am grateful to all our staff, especially in the upkeep of our parks and open spaces, which are the envy of our neighbours. My thanks also go to fellow Councillors for their support over the past year. I welcomed Cllr Xan Collins to the chair of the Deputy Mayor and am sure she will make an efficient and popular Mayor when she takes office in a few weeks time. I particularly thank her for accompanying me on a number of occasions.

For myself, I came to live in Market Deeping 29 years ago; have served as a Town Councillor for 28 years, as a District Councillor for 22 years and been Mayor 13 times. I have enjoyed the work, the people I have met and the opportunity to work for our Town and its people. As I step down from the Mayoralty I wish all the best for the future to Xan as Mayor, to my fellow Councillors and all my friends, neighbours and constituents.

Councillor Reg Howard
Mayor of Market Deeping 2012 - 2013

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

This year has been a busy one for the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee, with important projects including:

- An extension to the Pond in Rectory Paddock
- New parking spaces created in Rectory Paddock for the Cemetery
- New signage in the Rectory Paddock leading through to The Spinney
- Re-surfacing of the BMX track
- A major investment in new play equipment on John Eve Field
- New waste and dog-waste bins

Our Amenities team have continued to maintain and improve the open spaces for the enjoyment of the town.

One special project the Committee is undertaking is the **Rectory Paddock meadow and pond:**

Meadow

This area is to be developed as an area of grassland, managed with no fertilisers and herbicides, coupled with fewer cuts to provide a rich, diverse habitat for flora and fauna to develop. This type of grassland is ideal for bird species such as flycatchers, larks, thrushes, finches and birds of prey. Other wildlife which will also thrive includes invertebrates, insects, butterflies, spiders, small mammals, lichens and wild flowers.



Pond



A pond provides a unique and biodiverse wildlife habitat, playing an important role in our history and culture. Sadly, countryside ponds are threatened by pollution, the changing climate, drainage and development. Many are in very poor condition. Market Deeping is doing its bit for British wildlife by providing a habitat for aquatic life, insects, amphibians such as newts, frogs, and toads and mammals. **Please feel free to enjoy the grassland and pond and see which wildlife you can spot!**

Councillor Bob Broughton
Chairman, Amenities & Open Spaces Committee 2012 – 2013

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

During the last council year it was decided to amalgamate the Planning and Highways Committees as it was found that many items discussed at each committee had common ground.

It has been a year of applications for extensions and improvements to existing properties together with requests for work on property boundaries. Requests for pruning and pollarding trees were carefully considered in conjunction with advice from SKDC. The council is anxious for trees to be preserved where possible.

The Council is pleased to see a new veterinary practice in the town and that work has started on the 'Iron Horse' site in High Street (previously the French Restaurant). The third phase of the Persimmon site off Godsey Lane was approved by SKDC but not the access. The Council always expresses concern over the infrastructure with these applications and questions the problem of school places, the possible overburdening of health facilities etc. Following a big united campaign between the two local councils and with people pressure the Council was pleased to see that the proposed installation of traffic lights on Godsey Lane was stopped and the bus service re-instated. Although the Council is anxious to encourage business into the town the proposed new shops on the CO OP and Witts site was refused due to objections from residents.

The Council is in touch with the Conservation and Enforcement Officers of SKDC and continues to monitor the Conservation area, which stretches from the Parish Church to the Roundabout and along through the Market Place and into the High Street as far as the 'Old' Riverside florist. It is hoped that empty premises will soon be used and the appearance of some of the properties restored. Improved signage would help to complement the old stone buildings.

The Anglian Water improvements along the Stamford Road have caused great frustration as they have taken so long but the Council understands that the work will soon be completed. Sadly the extremes of weather haven't helped the condition of the roads. The Council is anxious that pot holes causing problems are soon reported. There were some issues with gritting and the Council has discussed it with Lincolnshire Highways. The Council's notice was drawn to the problems of the bend leading from Blenheim Way into Northfields Road where some vehicles had skidded. The road has been inspected by Lincolnshire Highways. They say there is no problem with the road surface and felt that there was enough signage to warn drivers of the bend.

Lincolnshire County Council requested that the Town Council became responsible for the maintenance and insuring of the large brown signs at the gateways to the town. This has now put extra an cost onto the Councils budget of £101.

Last year saw the second phase of replacing the wooden bollards in the Market Place with more durable metal ones. This has progressed well and the task will be finished soon, a year ahead of schedule. The Council will continue to provide hanging baskets in the Market Place and on the

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

Town Hall. It is most grateful to the businesses around the Market Place who also provide floral displays.

The town has suffered with problems of dog fouling. It is so important that owners 'pick up' after their dogs. Once again the Town has struggled with some parking issues but Lincolnshire County Council's Enforcement officers will be visiting the Town and it is hoped these problems will be resolved.

It was good to see so many visitors in the town when the Olympic Torch was carried through It is hoped that people will still continue visit our Historic town.

Finally it is important that residents express their view, thoughts and ideas about how the Town develops. Please come to Planning meetings held on the first Wednesday in the month at 7pm if there is an issue you wish to raise.

Please join in with the footpath walks. These are intended to ensure the paths remain open and to provide a pleasant evening stroll.

Councillor Mrs Pauline Redshaw
Chairman, Highways and Planning Committee 2012 – 2013

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TOWN HALL AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

2012-13 has been a quiet year for the Committee with budgets tight and no major projects in the cemetery or the Town Hall planned. The Spinney project is now completed and available for the scattering of ashes. There is also an area 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. However this year has seen more maintenance needed on the graves due to high rainfall and ground movement in both old and new cemeteries. The drive has been gravelled again and a new gate fitted to replace the old gate, which was in danger of collapse.

The Spinney

For those of you looking for a place to scatter ashes locally 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. The Spinney Project continues and there has been more planting between the trees by Swines Meadow garden centre. Hundreds of bulbs planted last year have now flowered giving the path a colourful edging. The new pathway leads invitingly through the woodland to the new cemetery and is suitable for buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters. We are hoping that a member of the public will present the council with a bench which could be put under the trees as a place of reflection. The Committee feels that pedestrian access to the cemetery via Rectory Paddock would be desirable and this year the access gate has been widened and two parking spaces provided. It is also much easier for children's buggies and mobility scooters to enter, not only to visit the Paddock and pond, but also the cemetery.

Our thanks are again extended to Mr Ron Bottomley, Mr John Fellowes, Gary West and Colin Bridges who all play a part in tending this area so well.

Town Hall:

New heaters in the Town Hall have been fitted this year allowing it to continue 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 Deputy Town Clerk, Dawn Jarvis. Dawn has been with us a year now and is an excellent addition to the team. 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.

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 2012 – 2013

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Summary of Market Deeping Town Council Expenditure 2012 -2013

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Precept Amount</u>	<u>Total Spend</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>
AOS	£56,540.00	£55,313.56	£1,226.44
Cemetery	£15,940.00	£14,001.89	£1,938.11
Highways	£9,769.00	£9,262.18	£506.82
Town Hall	£5,365.00	£4,125.80	£1,239.20
Administration	£85,830.00	£81,249.53	£4,580.47
Totals	£173,444.00	£163,952.96	£9,491.04

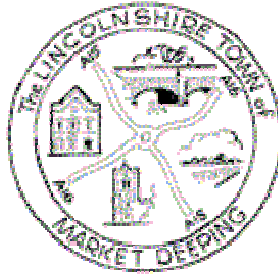
Grant Aid Payments – April 2012 – March 2013

These monies constitute S137 expenditure

<u>Charity/Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Deeping Lions Club (Carnival 2012)	£500.00
Lincs Police Market Deeping NPT (D.R.I.F.T)	£200.00
Deepings Arts Festival (2013)	£500.00
Deeping St James Over 60's Club	£400.00
Coronation Hall	£350.00
Deeping Lions Club (Carnival 2013)	£500.00
Young at Heart Club	£300.00
Deeping Gang Show	£250.00
Total Grants Paid	£3000.00

Market Deeping Town Council

Events Calendar 2012/13



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| 6-9 April 2012 | - Taylor's vintage traditional fun fair, John Eve Field |
| 9 th May 2012 | - Annual Town Meeting, Coronation Hall, 7pm |
| 15 th May 2012 | - Walking the Footpaths – meet outside the Town Hall at 6.30pm |
| 10 th June 2012 | - Civic Service, St Guthlac's Church 10am |
| 12 th June 2012 | - Walking the Footpaths – meet outside the Town Hall at 6.30pm |
| 13-16 June 2012 | - Russell's International Circus,
John Eve Field |
| 11 th August 2012 | - Rotary Club of the Deepings Raft Race Dinner, John Eve Field |
| 6 - 10 August 2012 | - Summer Playscheme, Market Deeping CP School |
| 4 th November 2012 | - Opening of the Garden of Remembrance, Riverside Park, 3pm |
| 18 th November 2012 | - Closing of the Garden of Remembrance, Riverside Park, 3pm |
| 10-13 October 2012 | - Gray's Fair, John Eve Field |
| 25 th November 2012 | - Christmas Market, 10am – 4pm (inc. the switch on of the
Christmas Lights) |
| 20 th December 2012 | - Carols by the Christmas Tree |
| 16 th March 2013 | - Civic Dinner & Dance, Deeping Sports & Social Club |
| 29 th March – 1 st April
2013 | - Taylor's Fair, John Eve Field |
| 7 th April 2013 | - Car boot sale, Glebe Field 10am – 1pm |
| 25 th April 2013 | - Annual Town Meeting, The Green School, Church Street, 7pm |

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