

# **Market Deeping Town Council**

**Annual Report**

**July 2015 – April 2016**



**Mayor: Councillor Wayne Lester**

**Clerk: Julie Bourne**  
**Deputy Clerk: Candace Brent**

**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S REPORT**  
**JULY 2015 - APRIL 2016**

Market Deeping Town Council held its election in June 2015 and a new council was formed in July 2015. Many parts of the country held their elections in May, very sadly for Market Deeping one of our very dear councillors, Reg Howard passed away during this time and this resulted in the Market Deeping elections being countermanded.

Reg had been a councillor for the town for many years and was well respected, always putting the town first in his duties as a councillor. The new council has erected a memorial bench in memory of Reg and this is located at Riverside Park.

Following the Town Council elections, I was voted in by members as the Chairman of the Council. I have attended many local events, meeting our local and wider community and promoting the town. I have been fundraising for my chosen charities, Age Concern Deepings and Market Deeping Scouts & Guides, my current total is £1,400.00, my target is to raise £2,000.00 for my charities.

I gladly accepted on behalf of our Town and local community, the donation of a defibrillator from the Deeping Sports and Social Club committee who raised funds at their charity event. The defibrillator is located on the wall of the Public Toilets in the precincts.

During 2015 we had four new members of staff join the small team at the Town Council, Julie Bourne our Clerk, Candace Brent our Deputy Clerk, Jamie Murray our Park Keeper and Peter Gentleman our Assistant Park Keeper. The new team has made good progress and is planning works throughout the year.

Market Deeping has a number of open spaces; Riverside Park, Welland Gardens, John Eve Field, Glebe Park, Rectory Paddock, The Spinney and the Cemetery. Within these open areas are a great many trees (Oak, Ash etc.) and last year maintenance was carried out on the trees to reduce the crowns and keep the tree's healthy and safe. In the summer season our staff spend a great deal of time cutting the grass and keeping hedges clear, along with daily inspections of the play areas to make sure the equipment is in good order for the children of the town to play on.

As we moved into the Autumn and Winter months work has commenced on repairing and tidying up the open spaces areas. At Riverside Park work is in progress to repair the boundary line which had become overgrown with foliage, and the pathway between the Cemetery and Oak Grove is receiving attention to the surface. Welland Gardens will also have its pathway topped up and over at the Cemetery repair and maintenance work is underway on the 100 year old iron fence. We have a team of volunteers that help us in the Rectory Paddock which has seen great improvements over the last 12 -18 months.

In June 2015 I held my Civic Service at St Guthlac's Church. I was honoured to see so many dignities attending the Civic Service in support of my dedication.

November last year was a very busy month for the Town Council with the Opening and Closing of the Remembrance Gardens located at Riverside Park. It was lovely to see so many people

come to these events to remember those who gave their lives. At the end of November, the council hosted its annual Christmas Market which also saw a good turnout of people, despite the weather, we were very pleased to see many visitors and would like to thank all the local organisations, traders and visitors for attending and taking part.

In December carols were sung around the Christmas tree, we were very fortunate to have been joined by two choirs and it's was great to see so many people join in with singing the carols.

Towards the end of 2015 and the start of 2016 is when the council reviews its budgets for the forthcoming year. Mindful of financial impacts on local people, this council has agreed its budgets, we are still able to deliver all the services with no increase to local people. We are planning to resurface our BMX track during 2016, we have purchased a reactive speed sign which will be moved to selected positions around the town, we hope to reduce speeding and raise awareness of drivers.

On March the 12<sup>th</sup> the Civic Dinner Dance was held at the Deeping Sports and Social Club, I had support from family, friends, The Clerks, Dignitaries, local businesses and the Gang Show who put on a great performance on the evening all in aid of the Mayors Charities. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March at 10.00am I was in the Market Place to raise the Common Wealth Flag to show our support along with all other Commonwealth States around the world and at home around the UK.

The Council continues to review and consult on planning, we have a number of large developments in the pipe line and we need to ensure that public services and infrastructure are adequate to cope with the development requests, we await the release of the new allotments at the Persimmon development and will keep you updated on progress.

**Councillor Wayne Lester**  
**Mayor of Market Deeping 2015 - 2016**

**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016**

## **Trees**

Following a full arboriculturist report the amenities team and committee sanctioned recommended remedial works on a range of trees in our Open Spaces to ensure the health and safety requirements as pointed out in the report were met. This work involved Oak, Sycamore and Horse Chestnut tree's located on the John Eve Field and the Spinney. This was an extensive piece of work that took a number of weeks to complete, including reducing the crowns.

## **Cemetery and Oak Grove winter work**

Work has started on the footpath between the Cemetery and Oak Grove to replace the borders and lay a new topping. These actions were taken following complaints from residents who had reported that the path was muddy and unpleasant to walk on. It is expected that this work will be completed before the end of March 2016.

## **Riverside Park**

Following a request from a local business owner to reduce the Leylandii hedge from behind his premises, it was brought to the attention of the committee that the boundary on the opposite side of the park, near take away restaurants, was in a poor state. The area consisted of a mixture of Leylandii, brambles with the added hazard of the location of wheelie bins where there had been an accumulation of rubbish. Considering this to be a hazard due to its proximity to the river, attracting rats, two weeks was spent entirely clearing the area and landscaping it. As we were unable to locate the owner of the car park behind the retail units, rather than do half a job we cleared this area too and disposed of a substantial amount of rubbish.

## **Did you know?**

South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) has recently stated that it is acceptable for dog owners to dispose of doggy-poo bags into their litter bins.

## **New set aside area**

There is a new area of set aside at the end of Tattershall Drive. It is hoped that this will form an area of wild flowers and habitat for wild life, and to encourage nesting birds and attract butterflies.

## **BMX Track**

Plans are in place to resurface the BMX track in the near future. It is anticipated that work will commence towards the end of April, to ensure that the track is ready for the youngsters for the summer.

## **Gate on Greensland**

Following complaints/concerns after a road traffic incident SKDC have been asked to install a gate on Greensland for health and safety reasons. SKDC have responded and a site visit is planned in the near future.

## **Fence**

We are exploring the possibility of replacing the dilapidated wooded fence which is located at the end of the Spinney, off The Orchard with iron fencing, the type and style of which can be seen in the children's playground.

## **Play area**

Every year the play equipment is inspected by RoSPA, and in addition to this the amenities team regularly inspect the area, to keep the area and play equipment in good order.

As we come into the spring and summer season our team will regularly cut the grass to keep all of the green areas in our open spaces neat and tidy.

Hello and Goodbye; following staff retirement and leavers, we welcome two new park keepers to the council, welcome to Jamie and Peter who are busily working their way through winter jobs.

**Councillor Bob Broughton**  
**Committee Chairman**

**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016**

**Planning**

The Council have received many plans to consider. These have included extensions to existing homes, new windows, the positioning of boundary fences, the felling of trees, which is always a difficult decision, and infill between existing properties. The council's response carries the same weight as a resident's comment. So it is important that the council knows of any concerns residents may have when its comments are made.

Planning rules have changed during the past year making it more difficult to object. A new Local Plan is being compiled. The local plan states the number of houses and commercial buildings and some infrastructure that would be needed.

It is easy to say 'not in my back yard'. None of us like to see green fields and open spaces disappear under concrete, but maybe we should be prepared to consider development in an open minded way, after all many people are unable to find a home either to rent or consider buying, however this doesn't have to be at the expense of the local environment.

The Council would like to know residents opinions on proposed development. When developers have consultation days, it is important they are well attended and comments made as it's almost too late when the proposed plans are finally submitted. Residents can approach development by being active and making their views known. Approaching new plans with an open mind can be positive by bringing much needed facilities to the town but likewise this should be viewed with caution.

The Council have raised objections to the development Towngate Inn into apartments as the proposed plan didn't show any amenity areas and it appeared to be very congested. There would also be increased traffic flow on the already congested Towngate crossroads.

In 2013 outline planning permission was granted for the development of land along Northfields Road. The plan appeared in the latest development plan produced by South Kesteven District Council. The Town Council tried very hard to get the commercial aspect changed from alongside the Peterborough Road to nearer the existing industrial site as it was felt that industrial buildings wouldn't enhance the entrance to the Market Town and not compliment the barn conversions currently being built on the other side of the road. A small concession was made by SKDC and the buildings fronting the road must be of stone and the surrounding land properly landscaped.

The plans for 240 houses are being considered by SKDC planners. The Town Council have raised concerns over the entrances especially the one onto Towngate East; the close proximity of the Godsey Lane roundabout, the industrial estate, the supermarket, the Health Centre and the access road to the Persimmon Estate as well as two primary schools could cause considerable traffic problems. The travel plan produced by the developer was made in 2013 and Market Deeping has increased in size since then. The Town Council is also concerned that little has been done to improve the safety of cyclists even though the plan suggests venues can be reached easily by bicycle.

Plans for alterations to properties in the conservation area which include the changing of windows, building extensions, demolition of buildings and the felling of trees, are closely monitored. Regulations can be contravened if the correct information is not obtained.

Please be active by giving your views to the planners – the town belongs to its community

Please note that plans being considered by South Kesteven District Council planners will be posted in the town hall notice board, you can also view them on line at <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8170>, or a hard copy can be seen at the South Kesteven District Office located at the Deepings Community Centre, Douglas Road, Market Deeping PE6 8PA, this office is open Monday to Friday 9-30am to 2.00pm. Comments regarding plans can be sent to:  
South Kesteven District Council,  
St Peters Hill,  
Grantham  
NG31 6PZ

## Highways

The Council has invested in a reactive speed sign following concerns raised by the public. The Council looks forward to gathering the statistics from it.

The Council have appreciated the concerns raised over the zebra crossing by the William Hildyard School and they have just been informed that improvements will be made to the crossing in the coming financial year. However, it is important for motorists to be aware of the crossing and exercise great care when approaching it.

Persimmon will be providing a crossing further north on Godsey Lane.

The Council is aware that there is frustration over the lack of parking in the town. There is one public car park near to the Coronation Hall which is managed by South Kesteven District Council. New River Retail is responsible for the car park by the Co-op. It is important that people who wish to park for more than two hours use the spaces near to Godsey Lane so that it makes it more convenient for shoppers. The Council is grateful to New River Retail for not imposing the proposed parking charges at the moment.

The Market Place and some designated areas along the High Street have a short stay limit and these are monitored by Enforcement Officers.

There are also concerns about parking on pavements and on grass verges.

There are also cars being parked at the entrance to the Industrial Estate which makes it difficult for vehicles entering and leaving the estate. This is being monitored.

Concerns have been raised over the accidents that have occurred at the entrance to the industrial estate from Northfields Road. Lincolnshire Highways have examined the bend and the road surface and found that there isn't a problem, however there will be an investigation by the road safety committee. In the meantime it is important that the bend is driven with great care.

Cycling is being encouraged but unfortunately ancient town roads are not able to accommodate cars and bicycles, any ideas from the public would be well received.

The Council are monitoring the footpaths throughout the town. It is important that these ancient pathways don't disappear. There will be some walks along these during the summer.

Finally there is a reminder that lorries are restricted to 7.5 tonnes throughout the town except for deliveries. Problems can occur when negotiating the High Street.

**Councillor Mrs Pauline Redshaw**  
**Committee Chairman**



**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL TOWN HALL AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016**

2015-16 has been another busy year with a general expectation that standards of upkeep will be maintained at a time of budget cuts. I believe we have done this with the cemetery looking as beautiful as ever, the Spinney now being used to scatter ashes and improved facilities in the Town Hall.

### **The Cemetery**

This year the inclement weather meant we had to have some of the trees pollarded: a huge oak tree at The Spinney entrance, in particular. We have also reduced the growth of ivy on many trees in the old cemetery and intend to complete the job soon. The volunteer team has worked together with our excellent staff, new and old, to make progress. Jamie, our new park keeper, has been trimming bushes in the old cemetery and has plans to mend old metal fences and reduce the height of some of the larger bushes.

We are starting a new phase of ashes burials in the cemetery this year. They are going to be along the northern fence and will be four rows of plaques, 10ins by 10ins, set into the ground. The colour of stone used will be a matter of choice for the family concerned. This will allow for easy maintenance of the area as well as reducing costs to families

### **The Spinney**

After a herculean effort beginning eight years ago and intensifying over the past year, we have finally got the Spinney into a state where we can be proud of it as a place to scatter loved ones' ashes for years to come. We have planted another £200 of bushes and laid a layer of wood chippings over the whole area. It now looks lovely and has been used by families five times over the past year for their loved ones remains. A new donated bench enables visitors to sit and contemplate, and the view through to the paddock is a delight. Thanks must be given to Mike Stott and Keith McClelland for their sterling help.

### **Town Hall**

The Town Clerk, Mandy Ford, left the council at last Christmas for a full time job in Peterborough. Our Deputy Town Clerk, Dawn Jarvis also left for pastures new. The clerks are vital to our community as they provide an essential service so I thank them for the excellent job they have done. Our new clerks are Julie Bourne and Candace Brent. I know they will be an asset to the council and our community. We all wish them well. The Town Hall may be small but it provides a central place at the heart of town 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. However, the issue of the lease for the Town Hall continues to be a worry with SKDC persisting in their wish to increase our rent substantially.

### **The Rectory Paddock**

Last year we laid the huge hedge between the Paddock and the old cemetery: a task that our volunteers from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, tell me was their best and tallest hedge ever. Over the last few weeks, the hedge between The Paddock and Old Hall Farm has also been laid. Thanks go to Dave Vandome, Norah Littler and their team of volunteers who usually spend their time at Deeping Lakes and other reserves for which they are responsible. The swift tower will soon be turned on to emit calls to attract birds returning from Africa and offer them a safe

home. Two other key areas have had much needed attention recently. Norah's two hundred trays of wildflowers are now well established, giving us a base for expanding the area this year.

### **Mapping project**

This year the Town Council has added a new facility to its website – **Walks around the Deepings**. It has walks in the area of the Deepings to allow locals and visitors easy access to quality maps and information to enhance their enjoyment of our surroundings. The first five are already on line and more will be added. Detailed maps and descriptions will be enhanced by a folder of walks with detailed maps but less description for people to try. All the walks have been compiled with the aim of making them safe for families. Warning! There may be stiles involved in some as well as plenty of mud occasionally.

In the future, it may be a good idea to have a section submitted by members of the public so anyone with ideas for routes with maps and route descriptions already done, please submit them to the council. Let's get walking, exploring and enjoying our countryside.

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

**Cllr. Roy Stephenson**  
**Committee Chairman**

## Summary of Market Deeping Town Council Expenditure 2015-2016

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Precept Amount</u>	<u>Total Spend</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>
Administration	£81,180.00	£74,994	£6,186
AOS	£86,801.00	£80,893	£5,908
Cemetery	£20,870.00	£17,639	£3,231
Highways	£11,101.00	£11,710	-£609
Town Hall	£4,205.00	£4,212	-£7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£20,4157.00</b>	<b>£189,448</b>	<b>£14,709</b>

### Grants Aid payments - Apr 15 to Mar 16

These monies constitute s137 expenditure

<u>Charity/Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Deepings Community Centre	£500.00
Hi-Jack Quilters	£80.00
Deeping Rangers Football Club	£300.00
Lincolnshire Credit Union	£100.00
Deepings Carnival	£500.00
Dig Deep 'N' Tri	£500.00
Carers Sitter Service	£500.00
The Deepings Gang Show	£300.00
Deepings Friendship Club	£250.00
<b>Total Grants paid to date:</b>	<b>£3030.00</b>

Budget for 2015/16 = £4000

Amount remaining in budget:

**£970.00**

# Market Deeping Town Council Events Calendar 2015/16



14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Taylors Fair, John Eve Field, Market Deeping
11 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Annual General Meeting. Town Hall
5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	Circus Tyanna, John Eve Field, Market Deeping
12 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	Civic Service. St Guthlac's Church
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2016	Deepings Carnival
16 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	St Guthlac's Church Fete
6 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Opening of Remembrance Garden
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Two minutes silence at Riverside Park
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Remembrance Sunday
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Closing of Remembrance Garden
27 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Christmas Market
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Carols Round the Christmas Tree