

# **Market Deeping Town Council**

**Annual Report**

**May 2013 – April 2014**



**Mayor: Councillor Miss Xan Collins**

**Clerk: Mandy Ford**

**Deputy Clerk: Dawn Jarvis**

**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S REPORT**  
**MAY 2013 - APRIL 2014**

I was elected by my fellow councillors last May to become Mayor of Market Deeping. This has been my 1<sup>st</sup> time as Mayor and I can't believe how quickly the year has gone. It has been a massive learning curve for me, and also, a very busy time, juggling my day job, and dealing with being Chair of the Council.

There have been a few issues over the past year for us as councillors to deal with. There was the traffic lights fiasco on Godsey Lane, which I am pleased to say, common sense prevailed, and that didn't happen.

Then, Lincolnshire Library closures were announced. DSJ kicked off the rather lengthy campaign to help save our library. MDTC joined the campaign swiftly and working together had numerous meetings, photo shoots to highlight the support of our library. Many people were involved in the campaign, and still are, and the Friends of Deeping Library has recently been formed. As you may or may not know, LCC have offered Wade House to the Friends of the library for a peppercorn rent, and have promised to make the building good, so that the Trust, can get some earnings from renting the rooms upstairs. This will help with the funding of our library. I am disappointed with all that LCC have done regarding the library, and as we were in the top 15 libraries in the County, I believe we should have stayed open, funded by them. Many thanks to all involved in the campaign. Let's hope the judicial review gets a result.

We also had an issue with the Town Hall rent. SKDC wanted to raise it from £200 to £4,000. We had a few meetings with solicitors and council officials, to which we got an email retaining the current £200 for this year. We are looking at various options to remedy this, 1 being that we buy our Town Hall, that way, retaining it for our Town in the future. It's not been an easy year with both LCC and SKDC pulling various funding from organisations that we already support. We have to do the best we can, and most of the time, negotiating with the councils isn't easy.

Anyway, on a lighter note, it has been a pleasure to get out and about on behalf of Market Deeping, representing our Town. I have been to many other Councils events, and it is great to network and get new ideas of the way things are done in other areas.

I have been invited to attend many events ran in Market Deeping and the surrounding areas. I have judged art and photographic competitions. Been to the gang show, school plays, our carnival, the church fete, opened the Iron Horse charity weekend to name but a few. It is great to see all of the events that are done year in and to be a major part in them 1 way or another. I have met some brilliant people along the way, and made a few new friends too.

I have been overwhelmed by the support of everyone, when I was unfortunate to be diagnosed with cancer in October. I would like to thank all of those people for their support and prayers over those difficult months. The one regret of my term as Mayor is that I wasn't able to fulfil all of my duties over the Christmas period, due to having a couple of operations, but thanks to Roy and Sue, who stepped in for me on a few occasions.

I would just like to mention my 2 chosen charities, the Deepings Youth Centre and Deepings Mens' Group. I wanted to keep my charities local, as I am a great believer in supporting local causes. I wanted a young and old, and felt the 2 that I chose fitted the bill perfectly. Although we support the Youth Club anyway, LCC have pulled more funding from them, so they need all

the extra support they can get. Paul does a great job with the day to day running of the Youth Club, and these youngsters are our future, maybe one day 1 of these young adults will be standing here as Mayor, who knows.

The Deepings Mens' Group also do a great job providing mobility aids and other aids to help the sick and elderly. So thank you to both of my charities for the service they provide to us. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support. It takes a lot of planning and forward thinking to organise all of the events that are held in our Town. Our Clerks, Groundsmen, and staff do a brilliant job in supporting the Town Council. I would also like to thank you, the people of the Deepings for your help and support over the last year. We are all of the ones who make the Deepings a great place to live. So thank you everyone.

**Councillor Miss Xan Collins**  
**Mayor of Market Deeping 2013 - 2014**

**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014**

As the Amenities and Open Spaces Chairman I have little to report this year as the job is now up and running, maintenance works on the BMX track is up to speed for the summer season, and the play equipment maintenance programme continues.

One item of works which is giving concern is tree maintenance. After two near misses of falling branches the Council funded a full and detailed inspection of all mature trees on our land and for which we are responsible for. This came from an incident attended by myself and Cllr. Miss Collins when a large crown came down off a horse chestnut tree near the public footpath within 25 yards of a man walking his dog, followed by a further incident of an oak tree in the new cemetery shedding a large branch over the driveway. Both of these incidents were serious enough to warrant the full inspection and sadly some of our more mature trees have to come down or be drastically reduced. Problems with SKDC's part time Arboriculturalist being unable to agree with ours has delayed planning permission for this important remedial work, which we are hopeful will be resolved soon. Any trees felled will be replaced like for like in accordance with Town Councils policy

The Rectory Paddock

This year the paddock has seen a change from being a lawned area to an area developed for wildlife, and British wild flowers and trees. Having been cleared of non-native bushes, trees and plants, the pond too has received further attention with weed being cleared and nearly £200 of purchased and donated British native plants installed in and around its edges. Many of the plants can be seen already so some should provide a show of flowers later in the year. While working in the pond, it was noted that there were many frogs and newts with an eel being spotted late last summer. By April this year, we saw that frogspawn had become tadpoles.

David Vandome and other members of The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust offered their help with this project. Together we planted seven areas of wildflower seeds and a hundred cowslip plugs. Furthermore, the Trust was impressed by our desire to create a wildflower meadow and pond. David especially commented on our fine and picturesque range of trees typical of, and appropriate to the British landscape. Whilst the wildflower seeds seem to be struggling at the moment, at the last count, over sixty small, but determined, little cowslip plants could be found battling through the long grass. With a little help, they should provide a stunning display in years to come.

It may be appropriate in the future to create a volunteer group to help look after the Paddock. The use of local experts, school children and willing volunteers may be a solution to the complex needs of maintaining a wildflower meadow/pond environment.

It has to be remembered that this is a long-term project but, with over 90% of meadows lost to farming and inappropriate planting in many public parks in recent years, every small thing we can do to help preserve our wild flora and fauna will be worthwhile. It only takes a few moments on a sunny day to spot dozens of butterflies and insects, see frogs and newts and maybe even spot an eel. The Town Council has responded to national concerns about the loss of British wildlife habitat and are justly proud of their decision to return this area to its previous status as a wildflower meadow, enhanced with native trees. Rectory Paddock is rapidly becoming an excellent addition to Market Deeping's portfolio.

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

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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014**

This year has seen many types of extensions and alterations to properties coming before the Committee to be discussed. Many of the ideas are acceptable and in keeping with the surroundings, but the Committee is always anxious to know that neighbours are happy and have no objections. There was an objection by residents to the new shops planned for the car park near the Co-op. They were turned down by the South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) Planning Committee, but now the company planning the build has taken their planning application to Appeal and it will be interesting to hear the outcome.

Persimmon will be continuing their build and many people are unhappy about the extra houses which take up the farming land and put pressure on local services. However, the Local Development Plan from SKDC states that at least 200 more houses will be needed in Market Deeping by 2026.

The Committee has consulted with the SKDC Conservation Officer. The Conservation Area was discussed and the outcome was that the Glebe Field and the John Eve Field have been included. The Committee will continue to monitor the area in conjunction with SKDC's officer. It is good to see the old Empire Cinema is being renovated to be used as a gym.

There were huge discussions and objections by residents and the two local councils to the proposed traffic lights, which were eventually abandoned. However, grave concerns have been raised about the speed of traffic on Godsey Lane, especially around the zebra crossing by the school. Motorists are not considering the 20mph signs by the school and drivers are not respecting the pedestrians on the crossing. PCSOs have been monitoring the site and the Council will be meeting Lincolnshire County Council Highways to discuss the problem. Issues of high speed traffic on Outgang Road have been raised by residents living on the caravan park.

The Council is planning to walk the footpaths on 13<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June. All are welcome to come from a stroll around our town.

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

**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL TOWN HALL AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013**

2013-14 has been a challenging year with budgets tight and a general expectation that standards will be maintained. I believe we have done this with the cemetery looking as beautiful as ever, the Spinney finally coming into use and improved facilities in the Town Hall. As well as this, the committee were tasked to recommend a process for a new Community Awards Scheme.

**Cemetery:**

The cemetery is a delightful, well maintained area that provides a pleasant place for quiet reflection. This year has seen many of the large hedges that had been spreading over some of the graves in the old cemetery cut back and the wood either burnt or chipped. The newly gravelled drive and new gate have added to the attractive approach. The area set aside for the deposit of ashes in Sanctums or Niches has not yet been used but is clear of weeds and available as part of the service that the cemetery offers. The cemetery and its environs can be used for the disposal of ashes for the foreseeable future, providing the people of Market Deeping with a valuable amenity not available in many other parishes.

**The Spinney**

The Spinney Project continues and this year we have been lucky to have the help of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. A team spent a day laying the hedge at the back of the Spinney. What was a tall spindly row of bushes with little growth below six feet is now developing into a thick hedge, providing plenty of growth for nesting birds and a corridor for wildlife. Plants between the trees are battling to root and spread with the help of the grounds staff. This year there have been two scatterings of ashes in the Spinney and one family has put a plaque on the pavement edge. Both ceremonies were very moving so it is with pride that Market Deeping Town Council can offer this service. The 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 is desirable with this year seeing a huge increase in the number of people using the Rectory Paddock and the path through the Spinney. Our thanks are again extended to Ron Bottomley, John Fellowes, Gary West and Colin Bridges who all play a part in tending this area so well.

**Town Hall:**

The new heaters in the Town Hall have been successful and we have recently upgraded the computers. The Town Clerk, Mandy Ford, and our Deputy Town Clerk, Dawn Jarvis, are the hub of our community providing an essential service. 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. A big issue in the coming year will be the lease for the Town Hall. SKDC wish to increase our rent substantially so it may be more appropriate and cost effective for the council to buy the building. Options here need to be explored and discussed as a matter of urgency.

**Mapping**

This year the council, with the assistance of the Ordnance Survey has mapped its land and items that we own such as dog bins. It is also producing a series of maps of walks in the Deepings area to encourage not only locals to walk our paths but also tourists coming to the area. At the moment four walks are almost complete with two others in the pipeline.

**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,

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

**MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Council Office, Town Hall, Market Place, Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, PE6 8EA**

## Summary of Market Deeping Town Council Expenditure 2013-2014

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Precept Amount</u>	<u>Total Spend</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>
Administration	£92,305.00	£89,716.01	£2,588.99
AOS	£58,070.00	£61,726.20	-£3,656.20
Cemetery	£15,866.00	£11,988.54	£3,877.46
Highways	£10,150.00	£9,372.33	£777.67
Town Hall	£3,850.00	£4,099.93	-£249.93
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£180,241.00</b>	<b>£176,903.01</b>	<b>£3,337.99</b>

### Grants Aid payments - Apr 13 to Mar 14

These monies constitute s137 expenditure

#### Charity/Organisation

#### Amount

Deepings Raft Race Committee	£400.00
Deepings Foodbank	£500.00
Friends of Deeping St James WW1)	£500.00
DSJ Over 60s club	£400.00
Deeping Gang Show	£200.00
<b>Total Grants paid to date:</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>
Budget for 2013/14 = £2000	
Amount remaining in budget:	£0.00

#### **Grant Aid payments made outside of the budget:**

Market Deeping Cricket Club	£3,500.00
Deepings Responders	£1,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£4,500.00</b>

Monies to replace payments made outside of the budget have been precepted for the financial year 2014/15

# Market Deeping Town Council

## Events Calendar 2013/14



- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2013                       | - Civic Service                      |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2013                       | - Walking the Footpaths              |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2013                      | - Armed Forces Day celebrations      |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2013                       | - Deeping Carnival                   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Jul – 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2013 | - Playscheme                         |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug – 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug     | - Circus Tyanna                      |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2013                  | - Mayor's Charity Car Boot Sale      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2013                 | - Walking the Footpaths              |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> October 2013  | - Gray's Fair                        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2013                   | - Opening of the Remembrance Gardens |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2013                  | - Closing of the Remembrance Gardens |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2013                  | - Christmas Market                   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2013                  | - Carols by the Christmas Tree       |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2014                     | - Charity Civic Dinner               |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> March       | - Pinders Circus                     |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> April       | - Taylor's Fair                      |

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