

**Beverley Town Council**

*Making a difference*



**Annual Report  
Municipal Year  
2014/5**

## **Overview of Beverley Town Council**

### **His Worshipful the Mayor of Beverley – Cllr Paul McGrath**

The year proved to be a very busy one in the way of the number of events attended on behalf of the people of Beverley. Between Deputy Mayor Kate Gray and me, there were over 150 invitations accepted. Although representing Beverley at various functions is not the most important part of the role of Mayor, it is important that the Town has a presence at events both within the area and the wider region.

I had the honour and privilege to be Mayor in a year that had a number of quite momentous events that tie in with the commemoration of the outbreak of the Great War. These events were run over the course of the year and were held with great dignity. The ceremony at sunset in the gardens on Hengate was very well attended by a great range of ages. It was heartening to see that so many young people were aware of the sacrifices that many from the town made and paid due respect to them. The reading out of the names of the fallen was also well attended and held with great reverence. It was a simple ceremony, rightly so, and was very well received. The year also saw the refurbishment and restoration of Street Shrines within the town to further honour those who served.

Although Beverley Town Council is fairly limited in what it can achieve as a body there has been progress made in a number of areas that will hopefully help to stimulate trade and interest in the town. The promotion of many events within the town has helped to develop the local food network and the virtues of eating healthy. A couple of years ago we won funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help initiate and promote the field to table concept. This has continued very well with the role of local food coordinator helping to further develop the concept. We have promoted the use of allotments and expanded on our undertakings with the acquisition of further plots. By increasing the numbers of plots available and by having a more robust management system in place to evict those not using their plots, we have dramatically cut the waiting time down for those who wish to have the use of an allotment. This in turn has allowed us to promote the concept of healthy living.

Despite being faced with reduced funding due to the ERYC deciding not to give the Town Council the full grant it was given by central government, we have delivered on many aspects of our service. It must be said that the reduction in funding for youth service provision has been a very challenging area. The Town Council was placed in a difficult position by ERYC and had to reduce the availability of its service levels with the contracted detached youth workers. The youth workers provide vital support to those in the town who need it the most; this was one of the first victims in the reduction of funding.

All in all the year has been good in parts but frustrating in others. There is so much to be done but limited resources and ability to achieve in some of the areas we would wish to. In areas such as events promotion and management we are very good at, that helps in the economy of the town by promoting activity. We do realise that it is vitally important in a town such as Beverley that we attract trade and visitors to the town; we will continue to help where we can. On the other hand we have faced difficulties in the provision of services due to a lack of resources being available. This is an area where we would hope we can improve over the course of the next few years.



## **Policy and Finance Committee**

### **Committee Chair**

### **Councillor Margaret Pinder**

The Policy committee is the main body operating below and supporting Full Council. We are responsible for developing and implementing council policies as well as ensuring these are kept up to date to ensure we are following good practice as a public body. We also have responsibility for day to day finances as well as decisions on more significant expenditure and are tasked with formulating the annual budget for approval by the Council which sets our precept and anticipated expenditure for the upcoming year.

This year has again been a busy one as we once again brought our standing orders up to date and agreed a review of all our employment policies with the assistance of ACAS. We also revised our scheme of delegation to achieve more efficient committee working which merged Property and Services with Planning into a new Planning, Property and Services committee.

Beverley Town Council is one of the few of the larger town councils in the region that does not own or operate a building with associated facilities for its residents. This year we looked very closely at the possibility of acquiring the Samman Road Day Centre which was put up for sale by East Riding Council, but unfortunately it proved difficult to put together a detailed business plan and we could not reach agreement on this. This was definitely a lost opportunity, but Council was able to make a commitment to looking favourably on acquiring such a facility should a similar opportunity arise.

Together with the Planning, Property and Services Committee we had been looking at improving the condition of and facilities at the Multi-Purpose Games Area on the Swinemoor estate, but an approach by East Riding Council to relinquish the site to enable the building of extra-care sheltered housing caused us to rethink. We agreed this was a good use of the site in exchange for an agreement that a new facility to replace the MUGA be provided by ERYC on an alternative site equally accessible to the current users.

One of our long-standing projects has been the provision of WiFi in the town centre, but we have been frustrated by constantly shifting costings for this. However, after a meeting at a senior level with Kingston Communications, we were delighted to be offered the installation of the service free of charge. This will encourage people not only to visit the centre of town but also stay which will have significant benefits for local businesses. The system went live in June this year. We are extremely grateful to Kingston Communications for their generosity in this partnership working with the Town Council.

Again, working with Planning, Property and Services, we agreed the acquisition of a new allotment site at Keldgate/Lairgate and were able to recommend a rental holiday for our existing allotment holders from November to April to bring the rental agreements for all our sites into line. We also approved funding for a building on Plot 1 Queensgate to accommodate the Allotment Association shop which was facing closure due to increasing costs at their existing location. This should be in place and open for business by the autumn of this year.

We were extremely disappointed that East Riding Council did not pass on the central government grant moneys to the Council this year on the basis that we had increased our precept for 2012/13. This increase was due to our making preparations for acquiring additional services. However, as we were unable to negotiate these successfully, this year we were able to reduce our budget and our precept, even with the withholding of the anticipated grant moneys.

## **Planning, Property & Services**

### **Committee Chair**

### **Councillor Elaine Aird**



It has been a very interesting year for the Committee and I would like to thank the Allotment Representatives who have throughout the year continued to support the Committee.

Whilst we have diligently scrutinized all the smaller planning applications we have also been busy looking at larger applications.

As well as planning applications from householders for anything from extensions to dormer windows to conservatories, we have also had applications in from businesses for change of use.

We are also asked for new litter and grit bins to be sited – recently we have put in two litter bins in Railway Square which a local resident had suggested.

We also get up to date reports on the state of the Skate Park – the ramps have had to be repaired on numerous occasions as has the surrounding fence. All this of course is at a cost to the Council.

The committee's views are also sought on tree applications, on which the Town Council has been consulted by the Local Environment Planning Authority. Some of these we have approved but on several occasions we have objected to the trees being felled and our views have been taken into consideration. We are also informed of planned road closures.

We have also had presentations on the emerging East Riding Local Plan and the effect that it will have on Beverley and the surrounding area especially in that area south of Beverley near the Southern Relief Road.

We have been consulted on the Dogger Bank / Creyke Beck and received a presentation from them regarding the Statement of Common Ground. The Council were asked to sign this but were not happy with one of the clauses as they felt that the building would be a blot on the landscape.

The Committee also reviewed the Council's Community Emergency Plan, which in view of recent weather conditions, we felt it ought to be brought up to date.

I would like all my fellow members of the Committee for all their input in the meetings. My thanks also go to the Town Clerk, Administration Assistant and the Handyman for their support throughout the year in facilitating the services required. Last but not least I would like to thank Carol Oliver for all her help and effort that she puts into preparing for the meetings and for all the advice that she has given me during the year.

**Grants Committee**  
**Committee Chairman**  
**Councillor David Sweet**

In the 2014-15 municipal year, the Committee awarded nearly £13,000 to support the efforts of local groups and organisations.

Sport, orientated towards increasing participations by young people featured strongly with £2, 400 awarded to the Track Fitness and Boxing Club and Mill Lane United receiving £1000 to help develop their youth teams.

In the music category the Committee was able to support the Beverley Blues Festival as well as the ever-popular Beverley Folk Festival.

The new community radio Beverley FM, formerly confined to the internet, was awarded £2,195 for a new transmitter and can now be heard broadcasting in the area from its base in Longcroft.

The Blossom Family, the Green Project and the 5<sup>th</sup> Beverley Guide Company, who wanted to buy new tents, were also successful applicants for funds and Humberside Police got a small amount for a volunteer-run youth project based on climbing.

As always, the committee was impressed by the strong sense of commitment, involvement and energy shown by all the groups and societies that we have been able to support from public funds, to the great benefit of the wider community.

Blossom Family cic	£1397
The Track Fitness and Boxing Club	£2400
Beverley Blues Festival	£1000
Hull Thursday Road Club	£750
Beverley FM	£2195
The Green Project	£664
Humberside Police	£300

Beverley Folk Festival

£2000

5<sup>th</sup> Beverley Guides

£1200

## **Annual report for Events**

**Helen Watson Town Clerk/Project Manager and**



## **Christmas Lights Working Group**

### **Group Chair**

### **Kate Gray**

The Christmas Lights Switch on has developed year on year involving the community and this year the school choirs from St. Nicholas and St. John's Primary Schools delighted us with a varied choice of Christmas songs.

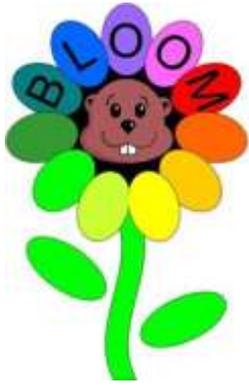
The small committee of dedicated members who represent their organisations in the town have met monthly throughout the year to bring about the lighting up of the town for the festive season. I would like to thank all the people behind the scenes who make the town really sparkle and attend to the infrastructure required and replacement of lighting features plus raising funds with which to achieve the finished displays.

Thanks are expressed to:

- Harry Burton and the Beverley Lions who decorate the Market Cross and organise the Service.
- Prue Blake and her team, who fund raise funds throughout the year too and organise the small trees that help Beverley to sparkle every year.
- Peter Jacobson and his team from the East Riding, who have the electrical and technical expertise.
- The Beverley Town Council with substantial support from the Beverley Lights Appeal Group, who have built on this initial ceremony with a large Christmas Tree and 2 cone trees, the snowflakes, new small blisters and larger street decorations.
- my two colleagues Councillors Bottomley and Whitfield for their support.
- Carol Oliver, Deputy Town Clerk, Beverley Town Council, whose administrative support has been invaluable and who sorts out the problems, which always arise.
- Rod Towse from the ERYC has been most helpful in offering a solution for us whilst the meetings looked at the necessary safety measures needed when faced with the exceptionally large crowd of people, who came last year.

The procession started in Wednesday Market and finished with the Lions service on the Market Cross, which meant we arrived in the large space afforded by the Saturday Market. The day has been changed to a Sunday to accommodate the ice rink and other activities arranged by the Chamber of Trade with as little interruption of the daily life of the town.

As Chairman of the Christmas Lights Committee I extend my thanks to everyone involved in this real community success.



**Beverley in Bloom**  
**Group Chairman**  
**Councillor Jim Whitfield**

If evidence of Beverley in Bloom's success and activity is required, then look around as you pass through the town's streets and markets. Over the year, an enthusiastic group of people have endeavoured to keep planters on railings down New Walkergate filled with flowers despite frosts, snow and drought. The tubs in Wednesday Market catch the eye as you walk or drive through and the manger baskets at the Minster Door Railings are a delight of careful selection and preparation.

To name all the people involved in maintaining the town's appearance and our reputation as a consistent award winner in Yorkshire in Bloom's annual presentation would be invidious, so I can only thank those people for their sterling effort and freely-given time. Do not be mistaken when you catch sight of a hi-vis jacketed figure weeding or planning around the Railway Station or the library that they are Town Council employees – they are likely to be Beverley in Bloom volunteers, who care about what Beverley looks like and enjoy the intrinsic satisfaction of seeing things growing, plants, flowers and shrubs reflecting their interest and pride in the town.

We have an allotment on the Sparkmill Lane site where plants purchased by the Council can be nurtured in two poly tunnels. There is always work to be done there, and we have sub groups organising fund raising events and the Town's floral displays and gardening competition. People meet formally to discuss the planting calendar and finances with the Town Council. Most projects are organised and discussed in work groups.

Our May AGM will see the appointment of the usual officers of a committee and this year's Town Council's elections will bring new Councillors to take part in Beverley in Bloom – one of our most valuable Town Council working groups.

As a retiring Councillor, it has been a privilege to work with so many good hearted friends and colleagues, and whilst standing down as Chairman, I hope to remain close to Beverley in Bloom and that new Councillors will maintain the continuity of co-operation and community value Beverley in Bloom stands for.



**Beverley War Memorial Hall**  
**Council Representatives**  
**Councillors Margaret Pinder**  
**and Martin Cox**

This has been the first full year following the refurbishment and the Hall appears to be going from strength to strength. Bookings have increased and the Hall is hosting an increasing number of dances, wedding receptions and charity dinners, all of which have been very successful. The real ale festival took place there once more over the full weekend of the Food Festival, showing the Hall can act as a true community venue. There are many regular clients such as the Community Church, Beverley Leisure Group, U3A and local theatre companies, but the Hall is also gaining a reputation as a venue capable of hosting a wide range of one-off events such as The Comedy Club and wrestling.

Access to the Hall is now easier with the new ramp leading to fully accessible automatic doors. Feedback has been very positive. The frontage of the hall has been transformed with the windows again opened up to the full height and the design in the windows gives it a modern look.

Money generated from the bar will be reinvested in improvements to the bar itself and to the kitchen facilities during the next year so developments will continue.

Cllr Pinder and I have attended meetings as Town Council observers throughout the year and our interest and input has been welcomed. We have been impressed by the way in which the trustees have become more forward-looking. Rather than worrying over the fabric of the building they can now look to the future. The new website is indicative of this and will keep everyone well-informed of events and activities at the Hall each month. The intention was expressed at their meeting this week to rely less year on year on special expenses through the East Riding precept. To this end we would encourage everyone to continue to support the increasing range of events at the Hall in the coming year.

# Annual Accounts 2014/2015

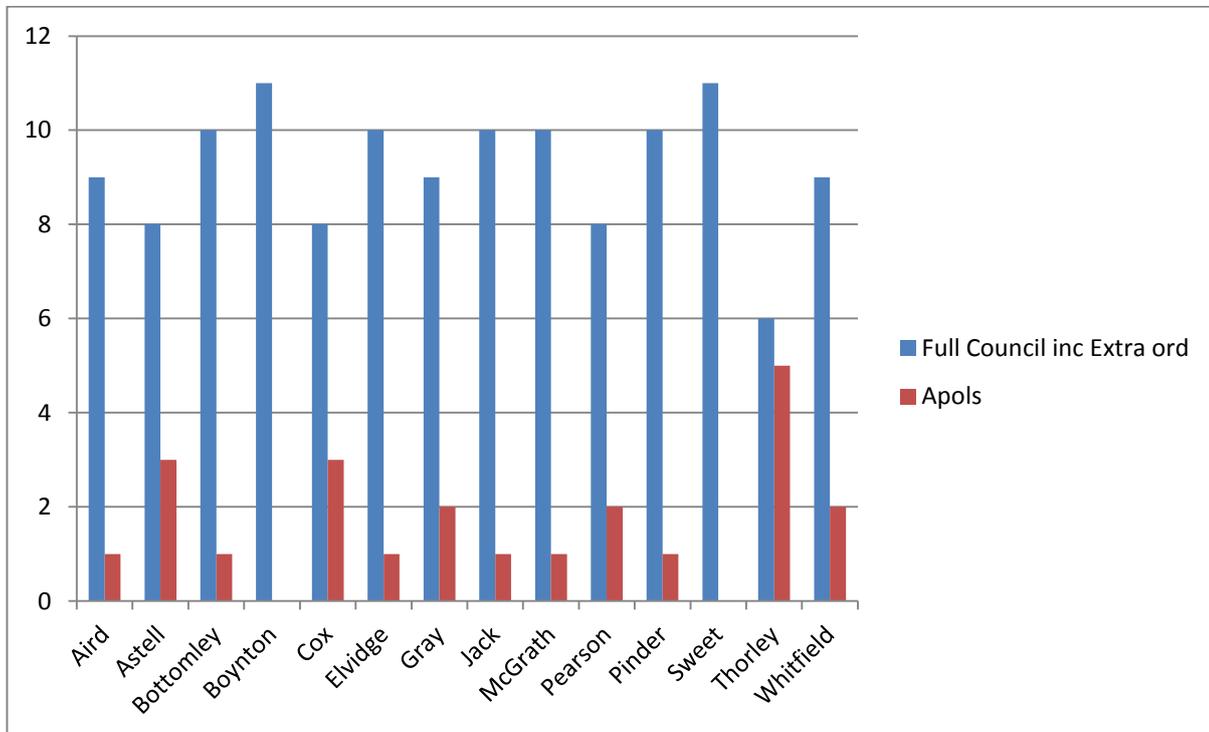
31st March 2014

31st March 2015

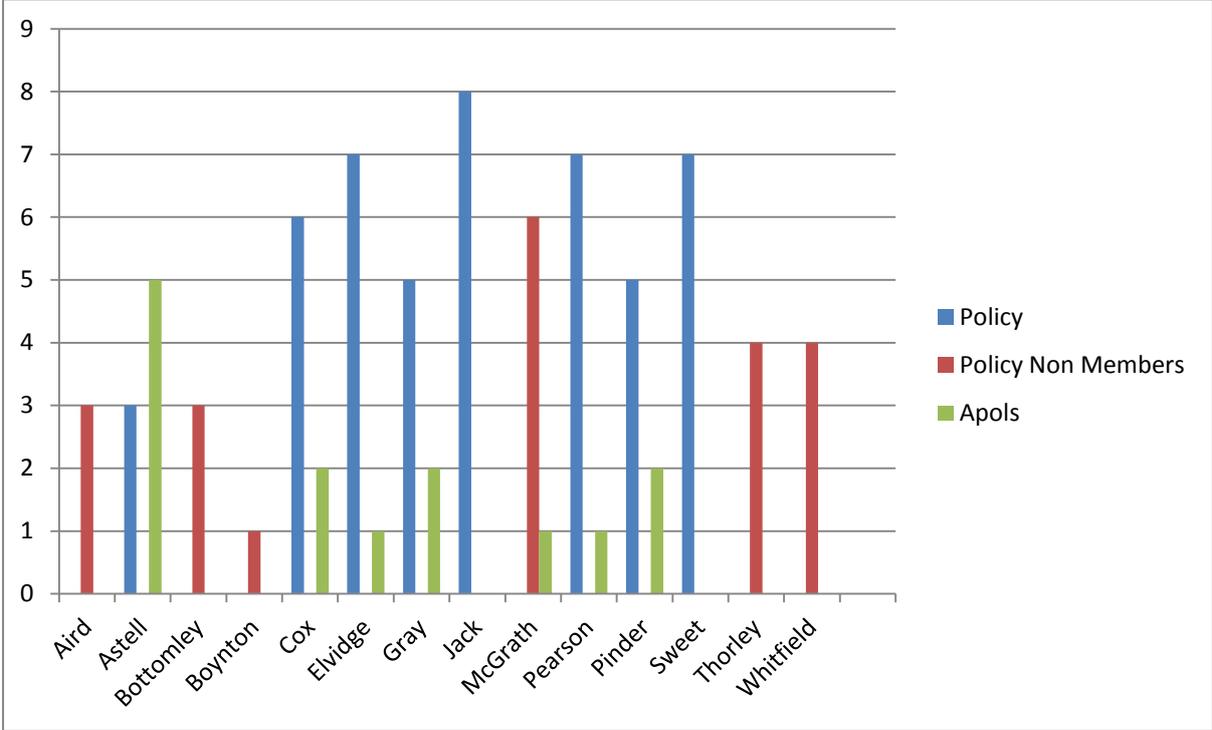
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
0	Administration	250
2,770	Civic and Democratic	3,835
65,853	Grants	19,359
3,361	Town Maintenance	2,646
14,514	Town Events	7,307
503	Allotments	5,408
326,924	Income	285,245
<b>413,925</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>324,050</b>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
67,443	Staff Costs	99,116
15,629	Administration	18,348
32,268	Accommodation	28,425
18,179	Civic and Democratic	13,822
121,061	Grants	45,092
49,712	Town Maintenance	42,312
19,294	Town Events	23,670
6,260	Allotments	5,428
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	
<b>329,847</b>		<b>276,213</b>
	<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
234620	Opening Balance	311810
413,925	Plus : Income for Year	324,050
648,545		635,860
329,847	Less : Expenditure for Year	276,213
318,698		359,647
6888	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	4346
<b>311,810</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>363,993</b>

# Councillor Attendance Figures

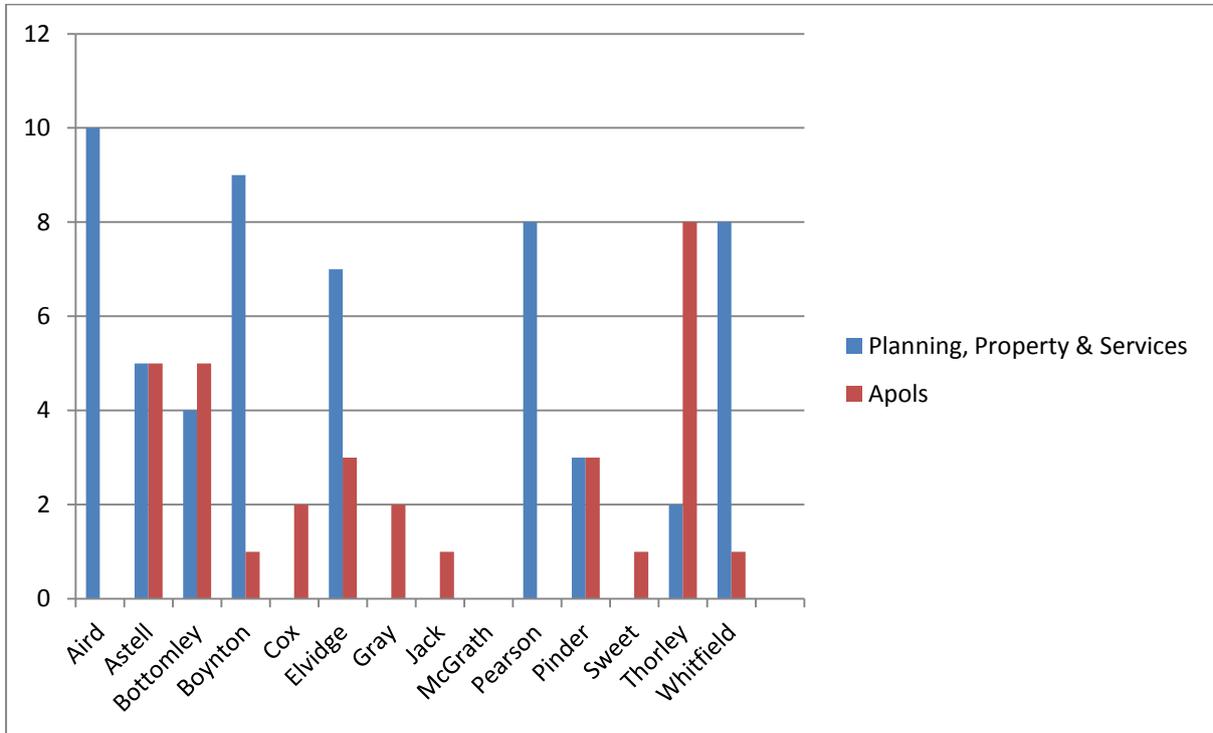
## Full Council including Extra-Ordinary Meetings (11 Meetings)



# Policy Meeting



# Planning, Property & Services



**Town Councillor Allowances**  
**The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances)**  
**(England) Regulations 2003**  
**2014/15 Financial Year**

Allowances paid to each member of Beverley Town Council are as follows:

	<b>Basic Allowance</b>	<b>Travel</b>
Aird		
Astell	250.00	
Bottomley	250.00	
Boynton		
Cox	250.00	65.52
Elvidge	250.00	
Gray		254.76
Jack		
McGrath	250.00	545.79
Pearce (resigned June 2013)		
Pearson		
Pinder	250.00	513.23
Sweet	250.00	
Thorley	250.00	
Whitfield	250.00	434.68

## Town Councillor Contact Details

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Kate Gray 16 Thurstan Road Beverley HU17 8LP <a href="mailto:katyg@aarhus.karoo.co.uk">katyg@aarhus.karoo.co.uk</a>	St Mary's West Independent 869372	Jim Whitfield 47 Queensgate Beverley HU17 8NN	Minster South Labour 868909

**Town Clerk:** Ms Helen Watson **Deputy Town Clerk:** Ms Carol Oliver

**Other Officers:** Mrs Marie Louise Robinson and Mrs Libby Woodhouse

**Handyman** Mr Mike Andrew **Macebearer:** Mr Peter Nendick

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