

Mayor looks back on 12 months in office



Cllr Robert Savage,
Town Mayor 2012-13

I am proud to have been the Mayor of Wymondham for the civic year just passed. The year has been a busy one involving much time at civic functions, in administration and representing the town.

Amongst the many formal functions have been events held nearer to home that have enabled me to meet some of the many local organisations that do good work on behalf of the town. These include the Air Cadets, Music Festival, Arts Centre, Heritage Museum and the Christmas Fayre. I was especially pleased to present the Civic

Award to Mr Julian Gillett for long service to the town in many capacities and to have raised £500 for Star Throwers via the Mayor's Community Fund.

Wymondham faces many challenges in the year to come, not least in working out how best to start absorbing 2,200 new houses into our community. In this and other matters I look forward to continuing to work with the council on behalf of our residents.

Who are your Town Councillors?

Or rather, who were your councillors over the past year? The following councillors served during the year, though there were some changes mid-year, indicated where two names are listed.

Abbey Ward

D Roberts
R Savage
J Wright/C Buckton

Cromwells Ward

D Hockaday
J Turner
N Ward

Northfields Ward

C Longhurst
M Gibbins
A Taylor

Rustens Ward

A Gardiner
K Cooper/M Elias
C Foulger

Town Ward

J Andrews
D Fernee
G Jeffery

Staff changes at Market Cross

At the end of the 2012 season three long serving members of Tourist Information Centre staff retired. Jan Sutton, Philip Yaxley and Vicky Smedley were thanked by town Mayor Robert Savage for logging up between them an impressive 55 years of service to tourism in Wymondham.

The new team in the Market Cross took over at the start of the 2013 summer season. David Mann, well known to rail travellers from his days as ticket clerk at Wymondham station, joined Rosemary Charles in the task of welcoming and providing information for local people and town visitors.

Anticipating a reduction in the South Norfolk Council grant, opening hours are being reduced and the Market Cross will now be open on Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10.00am to 2.30pm. An updated town mini-guide is now available, and the tourist office can be contacted on **01953 604721**.



Thanks for long service Jan Sutton, Philip Yaxley and Vicky Smedley with Town Mayor Robert Savage

Wymondham Town Council

How it works, what it does, where your money is spent

Cemetery chapels refurbished

A major refurbishment of the historic cemetery chapels was carried out in Summer 2012. The £53,000 contract covered all the items included in a comprehensive survey and report commissioned by the Town Council. The work should see the listed chapels sound and secure for many decades to come.

The work included complete retiling, repair of damage to the brick and flintwork and making good damage to the spire.

The cemetery, including the two listed chapels, keeper's lodge, perimeter walls and gates, was designed by notable Norwich architect Edward

Boardman. Opened in 1882, it has remained largely unchanged to the present day and is an important feature of Victorian Wymondham.



How does your Town Council work for you?

The 15 members of Wymondham Town Council are all unpaid volunteers, elected by Wymondham people every four years. Elections took place in May 2011 so that 2012-13 was the second year of office for the new council. Each year the councillors elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor from among their members.

The full Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month. It takes questions from the public, notes minutes from its committees and receives reports from representatives on outside bodies. It also approves all payments to suppliers from the preceding month and discusses issues relevant to the town.

Some of the Town Council's functions are delegated to three main committees and these meet on Tuesdays in accordance with the schedule published in 'About Wymondham' and on the council website. Each committee consists of five members who elect their own chair and vice chair. These committees are:

Leisure & Environment, which supervises the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the Council's recreation areas such as Ketts Park, Browick Road recreation ground and the Spooner Row playing field. It is responsible for ensuring that play equipment meets health and safety requirements and that residents have access to leisure facilities. It is also responsible for other open

spaces such as the Tolls Meadow nature reserve, the Becketswell amenity area and the allotments.

Planning Lighting and Highways liaises closely with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council on all road, pavement and lighting issues affecting the Wymondham parish. It takes a strategic planning overview for the town and works in conjunction with the county and district councils. While it does not grant planning approvals (normally the responsibility of South Norfolk Council) the Town Council is consulted on all applications affecting Wymondham.

Finance & General Purposes manages property owned or leased by the Council including the cemetery, allotments and the chartered Friday market. It is also allocates funds under the Council's small grants scheme and is responsible for machinery purchases and the Council's administration team. Its remit also includes the Grade 1 listed Market Cross and the provision of Tourist Information Centre facilities provided by the council staff.

Agendas are posted on the Town Council notice board and agenda and minutes for council meetings are published on the council website, and these indicate the starting time. Public participation is allowed at all meetings at the allocated time.

A closer look at planning

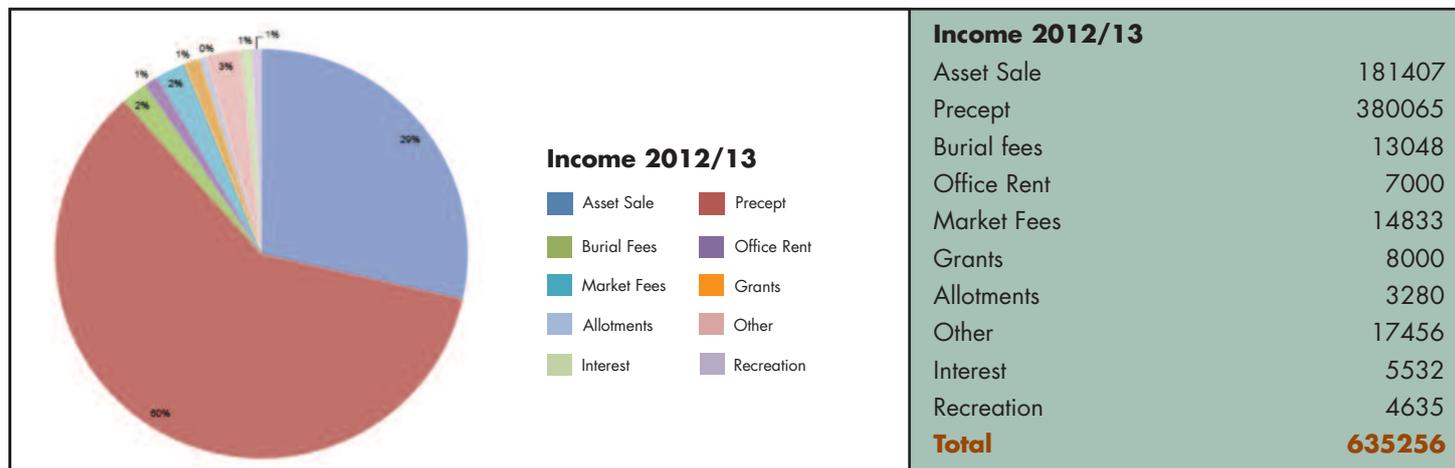
Planning can be a complex and often contentious matter. The Town Council's Planning Lighting and Highways Committee works within a planning policy framework which explains how planning applications are dealt with, and how decisions are made.

South Norfolk Council has the final say in planning matters. Sometimes its Planning Committee will delegate decisions on appropriate cases to planning officers in consultation with local members. All applications are forwarded first to the Town Council for comment, and details of applications are posted on the council noticeboard. Plans are available for consultation in the office, or through the South Norfolk Council website, and considered at a council or committee meeting where they are on display for discussion.

Letters from the public commenting on applications are welcome, and time is always allowed at the start of meetings for public comments to be made in person. The Town Council will then comment to the district council in the light of the local plan and other policy guidance, taking into account any public comments and the considered views of its members.

Precepts, grants, income and expenditure-council finances explained

Where the money comes from, and where it goes, are set out in these two diagrams:



The Town Council is required by law to set a budget each year, which then determines how it is financed for that year.

Income is obtained from a number of sources such as market fees, leisure activity fees, burials, rents, grants and income on investments. It is also prudent for the Council to maintain a general reserve to cover emergencies together with earmarked reserves for specific projects. The largest source of income is the precept, which in the 2012-13 financial year was £380,065, equating to £73.40 per annum for a band 'D' property.

Expenditure included the costs of maintaining the council offices at 14 Middleton Street and the salaries of the Town Clerk, administration support staff and groundsmen as well as the Tourist Information staff. The Town Council also maintains various amenity and play areas such as Ketts Park, Tolls Meadow and the Cemetery. Play equipment is replaced as part of a rolling programme of refurbishment.

Another important part of the council's work is in supporting local groups through our grants scheme. Each year the Town Council makes grants to local organisations to help with projects. Grants awarded in 2012-13 are shown in the box to the right.

Citizens Advice	3500
Pabulum Cafe	535
Wymondham Judo Club	250
Wymondham Music Festival	600
Wymondham Air Cadets	750
Wymondham Lions	700
Total	6335

Jubilee celebrations



On Saturday 2 June Wymondham was transformed for a day as thousands of local people enjoyed the sunshine and streets were cleared of traffic for the town's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The day started early with an antiques fair and display of classic cars in the Market Place. The Smokehouse Blue marching jazz band played music around town. The Arts Centre was busy with children making jubilee crowns and there was a hog roast in Market Street and beer festival in the Green Dragon.

The band and the Jubilee King and Queen in a classic car led a procession from Back Lane to the Market Place where 400 children enjoyed a party lunch and consumed 1,000 cup cakes!

In the afternoon music, school choirs, a fancy dress competition and other entertainments were provided for a crowd estimated at well over 2,000 in the town centre alone. Community singing of patriotic songs concluded the afternoon's activities.



Event co-coordinator Daniel Cox from Wymondham Lions pulled everything together, but was keen to pass the credit for the huge success of the day to the many town clubs and organisations involved. Daniel said: "The response was positive and enthusiastic, and there was a real buzz as our planning meetings developed the ideas which came forward. It was a celebration of sixty years of the Queen's reign, but also a chance to celebrate so much that's good in Wymondham too."

Community Fund gives £500

Established several years ago, the council's Community Fund invites donations and raises money through fundraising events.



Left to right Dr Henry Mannings, Les King and Town Mayor Robert Savage.

Each year the Mayor nominates one or more organisations which will benefit. At the Annual Mayor's Reception, Town Mayor Councillor Robert Savage presented Mr Les King and Dr Henry Mannings from the Wymondham-based cancer relief charity Star Throwers with a cheque for £500, which he had raised during his year in office. Cllr Savage said he was delighted to be able to give some money to Star Throwers and acknowledged their good work for cancer sufferers and their carers.

And lots more!

Many other Town Council activities during the year included major debates about the future of King's Head Meadow. A new set of steps was installed at the Market Cross.

Back Copies of 'About Wymondham' may be found on the Town Council website at wymondhamtc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk