

Wymondham Town Council

Annual Report 2013-14



What the Town Council has been doing for Wymondham in the past year

June 2014

WOW! What a truly amazing year it has been!

I shall never forget it, or the outstanding people I have met. Their warmth, friendship and generosity have overwhelmed me, and also enabled me to raise £2,300 for the Mayor's Community Fund. Thank you!

At the beginning of my term I spoke of my vision for Wymondham and I am delighted to say that we are making very positive steps forward. The formation of the Business Group and its positivity has impressed me. I never thought we would get this far. It is so rewarding to be part of the rebirth of the Carnival, the birth of a

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

C Buckton
S Elliott
R Savage

Cromwells Ward

D Hockaday/J Halls
J Turner
N Ward

Northfields Ward

C Longhurst
M Gibbins
A Taylor

Rustens Ward

A Gardiner/D Disney
M Elias
C Foulger

Town Ward

J Andrews
D Fernee
M Heard

Day to Remember and the launch of Wymondham as a Dementia friendly Town. The town has been one of the four to benefit from South Norfolk's Market Towns Initiative, and the Business Group are working hard with South Norfolk on improving the street scene, rebranding the Town and many other projects to help keep the town as a thriving and attractive destination.

Improving the facilities for the town's young people was also something I wanted to see. I'll readily admit that when I originally heard about the Youth Bus I was extremely sceptical but now I am one of its biggest fans.

The community has embraced the bus and their support has been amazing and continues to be so. There is a wonderful band of volunteers who allow the bus to function with 110% dedication. But like all these things we are always looking for new volunteers.

The most special friendship of my year was found in the Pabulum Café and all the work they do for Dementia sufferers and their careers. I was immensely honoured when I was asked to become a trustee, and I intend to continue to support and work for the café. It is a very special place and the volunteers do an amazing job every Friday and on days out. It has now been recognised for all its hard work for Dementia and is to become The Hub for Dementia Information for Norfolk and Suffolk.

I suppose the most outstanding event for me was my Rugby training with the ladies team dressed as a wasp. Despite the sea of mud it was a fantastic evening.

I am pleased to be able to say that the Playscape for the Kings Head Meadow



Cllr Dianne Fernee, Town Mayor 2013-14

will be installed in time for the summer holidays. I thank the working group and specially Councillor Taylor who has spent long hours investigating play equipment for this installation.

Would I do it again? I have been asked numerous times in the past few weeks.

That's a hard one: I have enjoyed my year immensely and although it has not always been easy the good times have truly outweighed the not so good. And the support and positive feedback I have received from the residents has made it all worthwhile.

But in answer to would I do it again? I have to be asked first!

Wymondham Town Council

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

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 2012 so that 2013-14 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 and 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 and General Purposes manages property owned or leased by the Council including the cemetery, allotments and the chartered Friday market. It 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.

Civic award for community stalwart

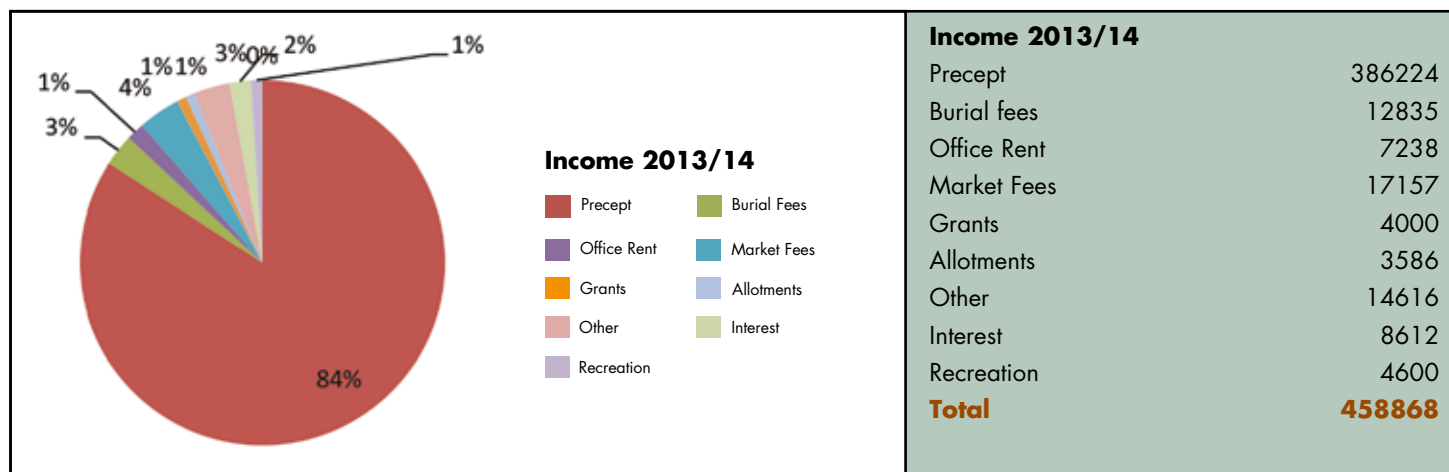
At the annual Mayor's reception in April 2013, Wymondham Mayor Councillor Robert Savage presented the Town's Civic Award to Mr Julian Gillett for his outstanding voluntary service. Cllr Savage said that Julian Gillett richly deserved the award in recognition of his tireless work and support given to the town as a volunteer for over 20 years.

Julian has been a governor at Wymondham High for 20 years. He was secretary of Wymondham Development Partnership throughout its life from 1999 to 2007.

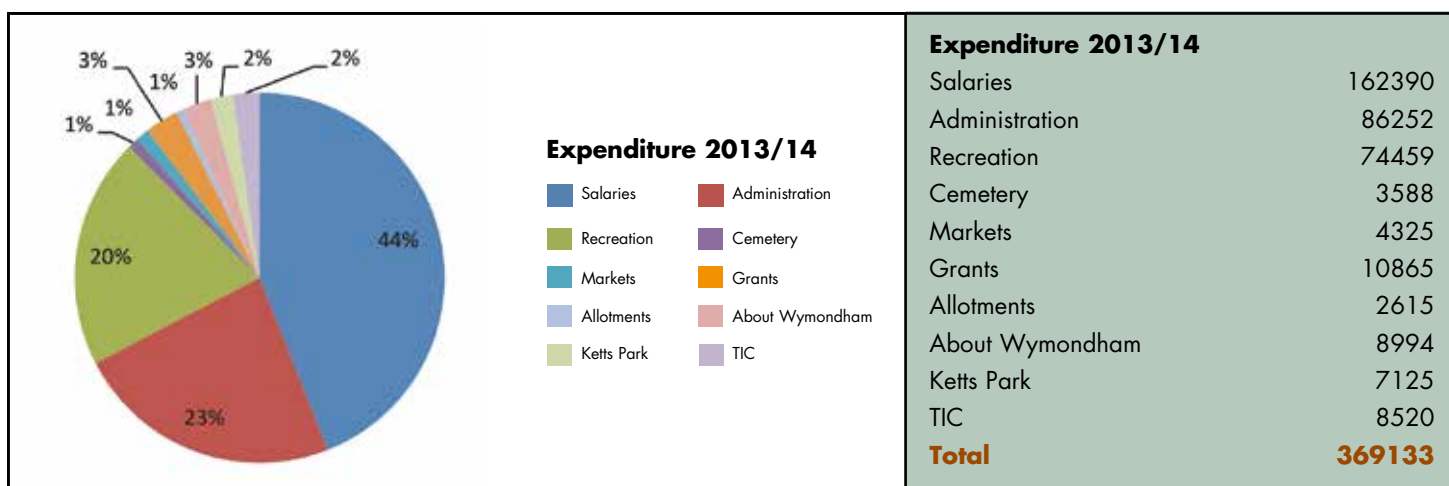


Precepts, grants, income and expenditure-council finances explained

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



Income 2013/14	
Precept	386224
Burial fees	12835
Office Rent	7238
Market Fees	17157
Grants	4000
Allotments	3586
Other	14616
Interest	8612
Recreation	4600
Total	458868



Expenditure 2013/14	
Salaries	162390
Administration	86252
Recreation	74459
Cemetery	3588
Markets	4325
Grants	10865
Allotments	2615
About Wymondham	8994
Ketts Park	7125
TIC	8520
Total	369133

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 2013-14 financial year was £386,224, 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 2013-14 are shown in the box to the right.

Grants List 2013/14	
Citizens Advice	3500
North Wym Community Centre	1365
Ketts Park Management Committee	4000
Wymondham Music Festival	1500
Wymondham Lions	500
Total	10865
Community Fund	
Star Throwers	500
Wym Rugby Club Youth Fund	500
East Anglia Air Ambulance	900
Local boy with learning difficulties	400
Total	2300

Wymondham - proud to be a dementia-friendly town

Wymondham was declared a dementia-aware town in September 2013 and, with Town Council help local shops, businesses and other organisations have been learning how to make their services accessible and welcoming to people suffering from dementia and their carers.

Wymondham library staff have taken part in an Age UK Norfolk-led training session to find out how they can best support customers living with dementia. This is another step in realising Wymondham's commitment to become Norfolk's first 'dementia-friendly community'. The scheme has since been made available to small businesses and organisations.

Age UK Norfolk spent a couple of hours providing library staff with background information about the impact of living with

dementia, tips on how to recognise the signs, ways to help and communicate with people with memory problems and a toolkit with which to carry out a dementia-friendly building audit. All staff have signed up and taken a pledge to become a 'Dementia Friend'. They now have badges and a 'dementia aware' sticker to display in the front window.

Community Librarian Rachel Harriss said: "We are very pleased to be part of the Wymondham Dementia Friendly Community initiative, which we hope will help to raise wider understanding of the condition and enable people to feel supported and remain active within their community."

The library service has created a booklist and set up a special book collection to support families, friends, neighbours and other carers. 'Reminiscence kits' of objects based around a theme and 'Pictures to Share' books are also available free of charge and can be borrowed from and returned to any Norfolk library.

Small businesses or organisations in Wymondham who would like to find out more about dementia awareness training should contact Jo Mountjoy-Dixon at AgeUK Norfolk on 01603 787111 or Joanne.Mountjoy-Dixon@ageuknorfolk.org.uk



Mayor opens bookshop

Kett's Books is an independent bookseller and a community interest company. Managed and staffed entirely by volunteers, the shop is run for the public benefit.

Its opening, on 1st February this year, was a true community affair, as Director Lorna Daymond explains, "The day couldn't have been any better. Families, politicians and even other shopkeepers all came out to demonstrate the importance of shopping locally. This is what our local community is really about."

Children held the ribbon, officially cut for the opening by the Town Mayor Dianne Fernee, and the shop was full of people mingling, browsing, and discussing books together for four hours.

Director Tracy Kenny said: "We've proven ourselves a success as a community and if everyone in town bought only half their books from us, we'd be an overwhelming success."

For more information about Kett's Books visit our website www.booksforwym.co.uk

Mayor's Community Fund gives £2,300

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

Each year the Mayor nominates one or more organisations which will benefit. Beneficiaries in 2013-14 were the East Anglian Air Ambulance (£900), Wymondham Rugby Club Youth Fund (£500), local cancer charity Star Throwers (£500) and a sensory bedroom for Jack, a Wymondham boy with severe learning difficulties.

As usual a variety of events hosted by the Mayor helped raise the funds presented this year. These included a garden party, music event, a Quiz and Chips night and a fashion show arranged by Michelle Fernandes of Ward-Robes in Fairland Street. A more unusual event took place at Wymondham Rugby Club, when Cllr Fernee was sponsored to take part in a womens rugby training session. Awards were presented by the Mayor at the Town Council's Civic Reception at Wymondham Abbey.

And lots more!

Many other Town Council activities during the year included continuing discussion about the future of King's Head Meadow, making plans for refurbishment of the War Memorial, upgrading the BMX track at Browick Road, securing funding for resurfacing Tolls Meadow footpaths and replacing one of the bridges, and for upgrading the town's CCTV system.

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