



Winter 2023 Newsletter

WELCOME FROM CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to our council newsletter. Last year I reported that the council was trialling a new approach to running the council. We no longer have a mayor but instead have a chair of full council meetings, and chairs of sub committees who report back to the full council on their own projects at each monthly meeting. I believe the approach has worked very well. As always all councillors have worked tirelessly to do the best for our town. I hope you will be able to see this through what you will read in this newsletter.

If you would like to join us at a council meeting please do. They are normally held on the first Monday of the month unless it is a bank holiday, in the Council Office. Or if you would like to raise any points with the council please contact Claire, our clerk on townclerk@haytowncouncil.gov.uk

Clr Fiona Howard

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HAY REMEMBRANCE PARADE



Photo taken by Tails of Wales Dog Photography.

This year I was selected as the Hay-on-Wye Town Council representative for the Remembrance Day events within Hay-on-Wye. On the Saturday I attended the small remembrance service at 11 o'clock on the 11th of November, organised by Cllr Ratcliffe and spoke the Exhortation. This was attended by members of the council and the RBL with many members of the public stopping for the service.

The Remembrance Sunday parade and service was well attended this year with representation from many groups and organisations, from Hay-on-Wye, Clyro, Talgarth, Cusop, and the wider Wye area, including the Squirrels for the first

year. The parade commenced at 2.30 and marched down to the Church of St Mary's, accompanied by the pipes and drums who kept us all in step.

Once inside the church, the service was led by Father Wyatt, soon to be the new vicar at the Church and accompanied by Father Richards on the organ. The service was dignified, with myself conducting the reading and Cllr Gibson-Watt reading the names of all who lost their lives from

Hay and villages in the parish in WW1 and WW2.

Once the service was completed, we marched back to the Cenotaph at the main Square and conducted the Last Post, Reveille and laid the wreaths from all the organisations who took part. I laid the wreath on behalf of Hay-on-Wye Town Council.

It was great to see so many organisations and members of the community coming together for such an important day, and I would like to thank the RBL, David Pope, Kelvyn Jenkins, Fathers Wyatt and Richards and the town council for such a well organised event which went off extremely well.

Cllr A Bielski

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

We are investigating re-vamping Oxford Road toilets as part of Transforming Towns. As part of this process we need to update the Town Plan. Please complete the relevant sections to you here,

<https://forms.gle/pAg4StAND7CDXtwH7>

or scan the QR code:

All entries that opt in will be entered for a £20 Hay Voucher Raffle.



Cllr Simon Morris



Cllrs Ratcliffe, Golesworthy and Morgan and Powell clearing the cemetery area getting ready to hand over.

HAY CEMEMTERY & ESTATES

With the delivery and installation of the new gravediggers shed (modified shipping container) we are just one step away from officially handing over the new cemetery extension to Powys County Council, who will act as the burial authority.

When we started this project in 2019 it was made clear to Hay Town Council that if the purchase of the land, and completion of the cemetery infrastructure didn't go ahead then loved ones would have to be buried outside the parish of Hay. With so few spaces left in the original cemetery it was vital to get this done and secure a new local burial site for the next 100 years +.

While 5 years may seem a long time to achieve this. There have been legal, planning and groundwork problems to overcome, which we have achieved while still managing the day-to-day business of the council.

As part of the Council's ongoing safeguarding policy for anyone using our facilities we have on the suggestion of our insurers' implemented a risk survey covering all land and facilities we own / lease. Councillors have stepped up and have each been given an area to monitor on a regular basis. The frequency of which is determined by risk and usage. We would ask any members of the public to report to the Clerk (townclerk@haytowncouncil.gov.uk) any problems they encounter while using our facilities.

Cllr Jeff Morgan

MEET THE COUNCILLORS :



CLLR FIONA HOWARD



CLLR SIMON MORRIS



CLLR JEFF MORGAN



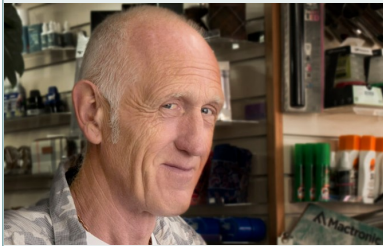
CLLR JADE HALL



CLLR PHOEBE JENKINS



CLLR GETHIN WILLIAMS



CLLR ROBERT
GOLESWORTHY



CLLR ALAN POWELL



CLLR JAMES PROTHERO

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BIG SWITCH ON

Christmas light switch on is one of the biggest events of the year for the town. Planning starts months in advance and everyone involved works extremely hard to make sure the event is a great evening for all.

More recently Hay Town Council, Hay Markets Ltd, the Chamber of Commerce, Hay Castle and Hay festival have started working together to plan the switch on to ensure the event continues to run.

Hay's Christmas lights relies heavily on donations and thanks to the generosity of local businesses and residents alike the Christmas lights continue to run.

The evening kicked off with Santa bringing steam engines down Castle Street to the market square and Hay fire station brought their fire engine along too. Hay Community Choir and children from Hay school brought festive cheer from the bottom of the steps in the build up to the lights being turned on. Local community groups had stalls around the outside of the square, Hay school took over the Butter market and put in lots of hard work in to baking and tombola's to raise funds, and there was plenty of food and drink on offer throughout the evening.

Hay Festival arranged for Hamza Yassin, presenter and wildlife camera man to turn on the lights this year and at 6:30 on the castle steps the lights were turned on and Hay was illuminated ready for the festive period.

The Christmas light switch on is an event that brings the whole community together and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped organise the event, everyone that donated and everyone that helped on the day.

At the Christmas light switch on we also presented the citizen of the year award to Susan Jenkins for the outstanding work she does within the community, we also chose to recognise Mac Eager for going above and beyond whilst working for Powys County Council and we hope that he enjoys his retirement. Congratulations to both and thank you again for everything you have done for Hay.

Cllr Jade Hall



THE PAVILION & THE PLAYING FIELDS.

During the week you'll find our Clerk, Claire in the office on Brecon Road, ready to help with any questions or queries. It's here that we also host our monthly meetings, that the public are more than welcome to attend, please do contact the clerk for details if you would like to attend. Our sub-committee meetings that focus on particular areas of our work (finance, estates, premises, communications and events). We moved here after the sale of the old council offices and are proactively looking into ways we can improve and develop the site for future use. Aside from being our hub, you'll also find the space being used on a daily basis by other Hay groups that are all run by volunteers, - a huge thank you to all the volunteers in the teams that give up their spare time, truly put the community first.

On Mondays, the Hay on Wye Scout Group hosts Cubs and Scouts, followed by Explorers, Beavers and Squirrels later on in the week. Starting from the age of 4 and working up through each age group to 18. Each section works towards achieving badges focusing on important life skills. With over 100 children on roll, it really is an asset to the town. It was

great to see them all parading on Remembrance Day - we are very lucky to have a group that offers something from such a broad skills range.

Tuesday evenings see two groups using the space - Hay St Mary's Ladies football training and Hay Youth Club. Hay St Mary's currently use the facilities as changing rooms for all of their divisions, but are in the midst of an exciting new development that will see a new community football hub being built at the top of the Playing Fields. We're really excited about this development for Hay and can't wait to see it when it's finished! Hay St Mary's football club have all age groups for Primary and Secondary school children and 2 men's teams, a ladies team and a veterans team. They are looking to introduce walking football in the near future.

We also see up to as many as 60 children every Tuesday night attending Hay Youth Club. From 6-8pm it is open to all High School aged children and then from 8-9:30pm it is open only to children Year 10 and older for the Youth Cafe. It offers young people different opportunities within the club and the local community. The club is currently taking part in the Co-Op's Local Community Fund, so make sure to support them by selecting them as your chosen group! It really is



THE PAVILION & THE PLAYING FIELDS CONTINUED

fantastic to have a facility for the youth like this again in Hay.

Friday's between 1pm - 3pm Brecon Foodbank have an outreach post with us where they can help not only with essential food packages but also signpost other agencies to help people across the board with household issues. Foodbank are a very unique organization where their whole goal is to make themselves redundant and have the population not needing help.

The last Saturday of the month sees Hay Repair Cafe in The Pavilion from 10am-1pm. Made up of a team of seven, they are able to offer repairs on items that would otherwise be thrown - saving money and items from going to landfill. They are a satellite project of the Repair Cafe group, and sometimes pop up on a Thursday Hay Market. The team currently offer PAT testing and electrical repairs, bike and textile repairs and sharpening objects such as knives and secateurs. They are always looking for volunteers, and welcome everybody who wants to come and get something repaired.

Alongside our regular users, we welcome and encourage other groups to use the site. We have been a space for bookings such as first aid training, children's parties and fundraising groups such as Hay Summer show.

Not only do Hay Summer Show use The Pavilion for fundraising events, such as their recent Family Quiz Night, they also use The Playing Fields to host their annual summer event. Last year was a huge success, and the team are currently raising funds for 2024. If you can donate towards this fun family event, please do using the QR code.



Commonly known as The Playing Fields, the green space behind The Pavilion is used by regular groups such as Cricket and Football, and you'll often see it being used by families. Any group or organisation that would like to use our facilities - please get in touch!



Cllr Phoebe Jenkins

THE PRECEPT & FINANCE

This is the time of year for the finance subcommittee to prepare its precept. The precept is the request put into Powys for the funds required to cover the council's running costs. These costs include general council administration as well as specific items such as the public conveniences, pavilion, play parks, and river walk maintenance.

As most of the costs are heavily influenced by the rate of inflation, our expenditure has increased throughout the year. To ensure sufficient funds and to avoid depleting reserves, we recommend increasing the precept by 10%. It is important we protect the reserves as these are relied on for larger scale long term projects. One such project from recent years was the purchase of the cemetery

For the 2023-24 year, the annual cost for a band D rated house in Hay was £85.85 for a relevant comparison our neighbouring town Talgarth is £95.43. For next year the 10% increase should bring the cost to an estimated £94.44

We are constantly seeking to keep the costs to the residents as low as possible while maintaining service provision. At present we are evaluating the toilets aiming to cover a greater proportion of the running costs from entry charges and are exploring grants to fund new play park equipment.

Suggested Precept 2024 - 25 after expected Income

Sub Committee	Resource	Sum of Precept Budget
Finance	Admin	21204.80
	Reserves	9000.00
	Professional Fees	7030.00
Finance Total		37234.80
Premises	Toilets	12740.00
	Pavilion	10430.00
	Admin	3000.00
Premises Total		26170.00
Estates	Car Park	6000.00
	General	4750.00
	River Path	3000.00
	Play Park	1500.00
Estates Total		15250.00
Events	Lights	3000.00
	Summer Show	3000.00
	Other Events	150.00
Events Total		6150.00
Communications	Communications	900.00
Communications Total		900.00
Grand Total		85704.80

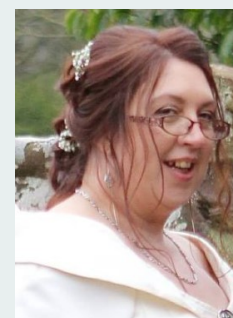


CLLR WENDY BIELSKA



CLLR ALEX BIELSKI

AND OUR CLERK



CLAIRE BUNTON

HAY TOWN COUNCIL

The full council meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month, unless this falls on a Bank Holiday. The council also has five sub committees who meet every 1-2 months depending on requirements. Where possible we allocate councillors to sub committees that make the best use of their knowledge and experience.

The Council employs one member of part time staff, our Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. You can contact our clerk on town-clerk@haytowncouncil.gov.uk or 01497 808109

Hay Town Council
The Council Offices
Recreation Facilities
Brecon Road
Hay on Wye
HR3 5DY

townclerk@haytowncouncil.gov.uk

01497 808109



WISHING YOU ALL A VERY JOYOUS FESTIVE PERIOD!



ABOUT US

The Council Office can be found at the Recreation Facilities on Brecon Road. Office Open Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am - 3pm.

