

BELPER TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



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INTRODUCTION

By the Mayor, Councillor Dan Booth

Once again, it has been a hugely successful year for Belper and Belper Town Council. It has been my pleasure and privilege to be Mayor of Belper for 2015/16. It has been especially rewarding to become the youngest ever Mayor of Belper and I would like to thank everybody who put their faith in me to take on the role aged just 24, I hope I have done them proud.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk Roz and Rosemary for their invaluable help throughout my term. Thanks also go to all of the staff and my fellow Councillors at Belper Town Council, without you the Council would not be in the strong position it is in today.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of my term as Mayor from being the Chairman at Council meetings to attending the various events and functions in Belper and the surrounding area. I have had the pleasure of meeting the most wonderful people from a wide range of businesses, charities and community groups. We truly are blessed to live in a Town that is thriving like Belper and that is all down to the people. I am constantly amazed by the community spirit in our Town and feel extremely proud of my home Town and its people.

The mixture of events I have attended during my year has been fascinating. We have many long standing events in the Town that are organised by the Town Council such as; The Farmer's Markets, The Food Festival and The Larks in the Parks. All of these events continue to go from strength to strength and I thank all who are involved and support them.

I have been staggered by the generosity of the community when it comes to Charity. I have been involved in fund raising for my own chosen charity, Treetops Hospice Care and have been blown away by the generosity people have shown. I've also had the pleasure of attending charity functions and events that have raised phenomenal amounts of money such as The Belper Games. Other organisations continue to do great work for charity such as Belper and Duffield Rotary Club who are regularly fund raising for various worthy causes.

Once again, Belper played host to two annual funfairs which proved to be as popular as ever despite the traditional rain on the opening night of Belper Fair! As well as the traditional annual events in the Town, I have had the opportunity to go to a number of special one off events including my first engagement which was helping Ada Belfield's Nursing Home celebrate their 50th Anniversary. These one off events are very special because only one Mayor ever gets to attend them. This is true of openings too, I have had a number of openings in my year including the scout building and community rooms at Alton Manor.

The Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Gardens and St Peters Church was again very well attended and appreciated by all. Thanks go to all the Ministers and volunteers who helped the town remember the fallen.

The Christmas lights switch on at Milford and Belper was fantastic and like all the events throughout the year was very well attended and enjoyed by all. I would like to thank the Teachers staff, parents and above all the children of Milford Primary School for their excellent

carol service. Thanks to Eric Reedman for switching the lights on in Belper. Thanks to Father Christmas and his Elf, the staff at Amber Valley Borough Council office on King Street and to Fleet Arts Centre for all their help in making Santa's Grotto a delightful place for the children, to Terry Noble for providing a limousine and members of the Christmas Committee.

The Christmas Eve Carol Service seems to grow and grow in popularity. Despite the cold weather a procession left from St Johns Chapel to be met by hundreds of people on the Market Place. Thanks go to Hope For Belper, Belper Community Church, Heage Band the volunteers and Clergy for all their help in making this a fabulous evening.

I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout my term of office. I have been made to feel extremely welcome wherever I have been. My year as Mayor of Belper, my home Town, has been an eye opening and heartwarming experience that I shall never forget.

I look forward to helping the Town go from strength to strength and wish the next Mayor every success in 2016/17.

Cllr Dan Booth
Mayor of Belper 2015/16

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings which are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month (apart from August) at 7pm when time is set aside for the public to raise any matters of concern or to make their views known on any items on the agenda.

In addition there are various Committees and working parties formed for specific purposes eg organising events - some of which involve members of the public.

THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Mayors Cadet

At the November Council meeting Corporal Jacob Henson was presented with the Mayor's Cadet Badge. He has accompanied the Mayor, Councillor Dan Booth to a wide variety of functions throughout the year, acting as an ambassador for Belper Detachment Army Cadets. Corporal Henson's term of office will finish in May 2016 then a new person will be chosen .

Belper in Bloom

Belper Town Council has entered the East Midlands competition for many years and thanks to the consistent drive and passion of the In Bloom volunteers they have received a Gold Award for seventh consecutive year. Belper were awarded joint winners in the Large Town category alongside Market Harborough in 2015. We will have to pull out all the stops this year to beat our rivals and bring the winner's trophy back home to Belper.

June 2015 - Open Gardens

An event which started in 2012 as a contribution to the town's 'In Bloom' campaign has now become an annual event. The two day event attracts hundreds of visitors to the town and raises money for the Herbert Strutt Charity and other local and national charities.

Summer and Christmas Food and Real Ale Festivals:

Our prestigious food and drink festivals help Derbyshire and East Midland suppliers showcase their products. The event attracts thousands of visitors to the town and gives local producers a unique opportunity to promote their wares directly to the public. Visitors are able to taste a huge range of products on sale, ranging from real ale, cheeses, meats and cakes. It is a perfect day out for food lovers and a showcase for our local producers.

Classic Car Exhibition

Alongside the Summer Food Festival there was a classic car exhibition. Car owners brought their prized vehicles to the town. Visitors were delighted to be allowed to sit in the vehicles and view the cars up close.

Children's Farm

A Children's farm was arranged for the Food Festival by one of the businesses on Campbell Street. The children really enjoyed being able to see the animals up close. Donations received from the event were given to a local charity.

Sponsorship:

Despite the poor economic climate local businesses have continued to support the town by way of sponsorship thus helping to provide attractive flower displays, Christmas trees and supporting St Georges Day celebrations – all of which help make Belper a lovely place to live, work and visit.

Providing Grant Aid to Community Groups:

By providing grant aid to many community groups, the Council is making an effective use of its resources. This support provides a lifeline for some groups enabling them to continue functioning, or it can provide "seed corn" money for new ventures and initiatives by existing organisations.

During the year, the following organisations have received grant funding:

Amber Valley Community Transport
Amber Valley Community Response
Belper Arts Trail
Belper North Mill Trust
Belper School
Citizens Advice Bureau
Derbyshire Children Holiday Centre
Derwent Brass
Drop Inn
Fleet Arts
Hope for Belper (Street Angels)
Hubbub Theatre
The Drop Inn
WW1 Commemorations

HOW THE COUNCIL SERVES THE COMMUNITY

Looking after the town:

The Town Council works in partnership with Amber Valley Borough Council undertaking many of the functions associated with much larger Town Councils. Belper and Milford areas are maintained to a very high standard as can be evidenced by the parks, gardens and floral displays. Every effort continues to be made to combat the problems of litter, fly-tipping and graffiti.

As well as contributing to the environment, the Council plays an important role in the monitoring and consideration of all planning applications. Members are fully committed to supporting the economic regeneration of Belper through such initiatives as the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site which is having a major impact on the local tourism industry.

Communicating with the Public:

As well as the Council's notice boards situated around the town, the Council has its own website and a profile on Face Book to keep Belper residents in touch with Council news and events. There is also a quarterly Newsletter delivered to every household to keep people informed and it has a handy quick reference guide of contact information for local services.

Liaising with the Police:

The Police are invited to the Town Council meetings and are given the opportunity to report on crime figures and to raise any relevant matter.

Providing Community Facilities:

All Council meetings are held in St John's Chapel which also serves as the Heritage Centre. The Heritage Centre is generally open to the public each weekday morning and the last Saturday in each month (except in August and December) when Belper Historical Society is in attendance. Both the Council Chamber and Heritage Centre in the Chapel are available for hire by the community for meetings and events. In the past year the Chapel has been used as a venue for private bookings by the following groups and organisations:

Amber Valley Borough Council	Friends of Belper River Gardens
Belper Arts Trail	Herbert Strutt Charity
Belper & District Keyboard & Organ Club	Matthew Smith Almshouses Trust
Belper & District Road Safety Committee	North Mill Trust
Belper & District Scouts Association	Rough Truffle Choir
Belper Historical Society	Transition Belper
Belper United Charities	World War 1 Commemorative Committee
Belper Well Dressing Committee	World Heritage Conservation and Planning Panel
Development Group	
Derwent Valley Mills	
Derwent Valley Line Partnership	

Providing Allotments:

The Council provides a number of allotments sited at Hunter Road. They are managed by the Allotment Association in partnership with the Town Council. All the plots are in use and there is currently a waiting list. A large field on the Parks Estates has recently been leased from the Borough Council to provide an additional amount of allotments for Belper residents.

Provision of Car Parking:

The Council provides valuable free parking facilities at the Coppice Car Park at the rear of the Market Place, Gibfield Lane and in the car park on the right hand side at the bottom of Derwent Street.

Monthly Farmers' Market:

Belper's Farmers' Market has gone from strength to strength since it first began in 2001. The Market is a highly respected and is very well attended with visitors from all over the area enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and vast selection of quality produce which is always on offer.

Organising Events and Entertainment:

The Council has organised the following events this year:

- **Larks in the Park** – A series of musical and other entertainment held on Summer Sunday afternoons in Belper's River Gardens.
- **Summer Food Festival** – King Street was alive on a Sunday in July with a wide range of foods to suit all tastes
- **Open Gardens** – 25 private gardens opened over a weekend to members of the public.
- **Christmas Food Festival** – Following on from the success of the Summer Food Festival a Christmas Festival has now become an annual event in the town centre.
- **Proctor's Spring and Autumn Fairs** – A long standing traditional fair visiting the Coppice car park and the Market Place twice a year
- **Remembrance Day Service and Parade** - (with the co-operation of the Royal British Legion) held at St Peter's Church.
- **The Christmas Light Switch On** – "Christmas light switch ons" take place both at Milford and Belper on the last Friday in November.
- **The Christmas Eve Carol Service** – Over a thousand people attend this open air service on the Market Place.
- **WW1** – The Council has been involved with a number of commemorative ceremonies during 2015 and will be doing so for the next two years until 2018 to mark the centenary of the First World War. A giant 100 foot "WW1" sown in poppies was on display on the hillside on the Chevin for all to see. This was sown in 2014 by members of Belper Army Cadets, Town Councillors and local volunteers. 25 million poppy seeds were sown as a touching reminder of every man and horse killed in the 'war to end all wars' from 1914 – 1918. A simple but poignant reminder to never forget the fallen of World War One.

STAFF

The Council employs three office based staff: Town Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Assistant Town Clerk who work between 60 hours per week. The Council employs three outdoor staff members and one cleaner/caretaker.

Courses attended:

The Clerk, Assistant Clerk and two members of the outdoor staff have attended courses and gained qualifications.

FINANCE

The Council's finances are regularly monitored by a Finance Working Party. Set out below is a summary of the Council's income and expenditure for the year 2015/2016.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE YEAR 2015/16

INCOME

PRECEPT	226650
GRANT	11931
SPONSORSHIP –	
Xmas, Flowers, Food Fest	17564
MARKET RENTS	5561
LETTING FEES	1301
MISC	8876
TOTAL	271883

EXPENDITURE

STAFF	123504
GEN ADMIN	27838
ELECTION EXP	6857
OUTDOOR MAINT	8689
VEHICLES/EQUIPM	3877
ARTS	11508
MISC GRANTS	32936
COMM SERVICES	22342
TOURISM	16925
CHRISTMAS	14864
MARKET PLACE	3903
FLORAL	10245
MAYOR	2251
COPPICE MISC	9
TOTAL	285748
NET	-13865

BELPER TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

2015/2016

TOWN MAYOR
DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Dan Booth
Councillor Gary Spendlove

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor John Nelson
Councillor Joe Booth

TOWN CLERK 01773 822116

<u>WARD</u>	<u>COUNCILLOR</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
<u>CENTRAL</u>			
	Melvyn Cluskey	42 Lowlands Road Belper DE56 1HN	07914 696922
	John Nelson	4 Wilmot Road Belper DE56 1JF	01773 823112
	Peter Hurst	212 Derby Road Marehay Ripley DE5 8HX	07467 349344
	Dan Booth	1 Cottage Court Belper DE56 0SR	07794 256377
<u>EAST</u>			
	Norman Bull	214a Sandbed Lane Belper Derbyshire DE56 0SN	07971 126320
	Kay Charlton	2 Cook Close Belper DE56 0JJ	01773 826927
	Sean Allison	72 Mill Lane Belper Derbyshire DE56 1LH	07872 147912
	Colin England	5 Brafield Close Belper DE56 0EU	01773 820520

<u>NORTH</u>	Neil McCready	33 Peak Close Belper DE56 1AL	07771 965721
	Joe Booth	11 Broom Close Belper DE56 2TZ	01773 829229
	Gary Spendlove	Meadow Croft Gorse Lane Kirk Ireton Nr Ashbourne	01773 822340
	Tim Sutton	Sunny Bank Holly Bush Lane Makeney DE56 0RX	01332 840156
<u>SOUTH</u>	Peter Arnold	31 Derby Road Belper DE56 1UU	01773 880507
	David Smith	3 Foundry Lane Milford Belper Derbyshire DE56 0RN	01773 823502
	Paul Hillier	3 Derwent Avenue Milford Belper	07870 970310
	Ben Miller	12a Highfield Road Belper DE56 1NZ	07773 766090