



Greetings from the Mayor

As we start 2024, I want to wish you all the best for the coming year.

I'm delighted to share the relaunch of the Town Council's newsletter. Previously, the Council stopped the printed version in favour of an e-newsletter, but we found that not many people were accessing it online. Communicating with local residents is important to us, so we are trialling a paper newsletter to share information about some of the Council's work, so you can see what we are doing.

We are keen to hear your views on anything in this newsletter, and you are welcome to attend our monthly Full Council and Committee meetings. Details are on the website, where you will also find recent newsletters and other updates. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Jamie Walls



Youth Update



Young people are important to us, and we provide a grant to Blend to support youth services across our community. We have extended this support by funding The Old Farm Bus to provide free Youth Club sessions to 11 to 16 year-olds. More details, including how to book, can be found on our Facebook and website's Events page.

As part of our plans for the next couple of years, we are considering a programme of refurbishment of recreation grounds, following the success of the Three-Cornered Rec project. We have budgeted £25,000 in the next financial year to make this happen.

We are also looking into where and how we can provide an accessible Wheeled Sports Facility for a wide range of people to enjoy using skateboards, bikes, scooters, and roller skates.

New Community Orchard for Belper

The Town Council is working on a plan to turn land at the top of Snowberry Avenue into a community orchard. With fruit trees, wildlife areas and seating, it will become a lovely place for all to enjoy. Some local residents told us about water flowing down the hill in wet weather so we are looking into this and amending our plans before we publicise them to see what you think. We would love to involve the local community in caring for the orchard too.

Allotments and Garden Sharing

The Council has allotment plots off Hunter Road. Although the waiting list is currently closed, we are always looking for land to provide more allotments. In the meantime, the Lend and Tend national scheme, which Belper Town Council supports, aims to connect those who want to share gardens. Check them out at www.lendandtend.com





What Does Belper Town Council Do?

Belper Town Council consists of sixteen elected Councillors, five part-time office staff and the four-person Outdoor Team. It serves Belper and the neighbouring villages of Milford, Makeney, Farnah Green and part of Blackbrook. Our website has a wealth of information on the services we provide, including upcoming agendas, minutes of previous meetings, events and news.



The Council is responsible for some facilities in the town including the Memorial Gardens, the Market Place, Coppice and Gibfield Lane car parks and Strutt Street public toilets. It is also responsible for many of the floral displays throughout Belper and Milford.

The Council organises quarterly litter picks of Belper Town Centre and provides some footpath maintenance, seating, waste bins and grit bins.



The Council organises several annual events including the Christmas Lights Switch On, Larks in the Park at the River Gardens and the monthly Market held in the town's Market Place. We provide the Christmas lights and large Christmas trees in Belper and Milford. The Council also supports many more events organised by other bodies. It provides funding for organisations such as Belper Leisure Centre, Fleet Arts, Citizens Advice and charity and community groups that benefit the town.



The Council meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm, and members of the public are welcome to attend at St John's Chapel, The Butts. Regular Committee Meetings are also held here. Please visit our website for the full meetings calendar. As well as serving as the Council's office, the Chapel is also the town's Heritage Centre, being the oldest building in Belper. The Heritage Centre is open to the public on weekdays, from 9.30am - 12.30pm.



Please see our website and Facebook page for more details. You can phone or email any queries to us and we will always be happy to point you in the right direction. We often receive enquiries about the following services which are managed by other councils:

Amber Valley Borough Council: Planning applications, council tax, environmental health, housing matters, household refuse and recycling collection, electoral register and voting. Find out more on their website: www.ambervalley.gov.uk

Derbyshire County Council: Education, social services, roads and pavements (including gritting and street lighting), libraries and trading standards. Find out more on their website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk



What's On in 2024

For full details on all our events,
visit our website



February

Sat 10th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

March

Sat 9th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

April

Sat 13th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

May

Sun 5th, Mon 6th **Arts Trail**
All day, throughout Belper
Sat 11th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place
Sun 12th **Plant Fair**
10am-3pm, Market Place

June

Sat 8th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place
Sun 30th **Larks in the Park**
2pm-4pm, River Gardens

July

Sun 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th **Larks**
2pm-4pm, River Gardens
Sat 13th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place
Sun 14th **Young Traders**
10am-3pm, Market Place

August

Sat 3rd, Sun 4th **Pride**
All day, throughout Belper
Sun 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th **Larks**
2pm-4pm, River Gardens
Sat 10th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

September

Sun 1st **Larks in the Park**
2pm-4pm, River Gardens
Sat 14th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

October

Sat 12th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

November

Sat 9th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

December

Sat 14th **Farmers Market**
8.30am-1pm, Market Place

Planning an event? Tell us about it and we will share the details on our website and social media! Email the details to admin@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk or complete the form on our website. Belper Town Council will also consider applications for small grants from organisations wanting to arrange events that contribute to the town. See our website for more details.

We are looking for people to run Sunday Markets. For more information please email: deputyclerk@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

Events News

Hundreds of people in Belper and Milford enjoyed the Christmas Lights Switch On. Sadly, the Winter Food and Gift Fair was cancelled due to the thick snow and the December Farmers Market too, as forecasts of heavy winds would have made the stalls dangerous. It is a difficult balance. We really felt for stall holders and the public, but safety comes first. We always aim for Belper's Carols to be on Christmas Eve but this year was a particular challenge and they were held on Friday 22nd. Thank you for your understanding on these difficult decisions. We are working on achieving the best balance for 2024.

Thank you to everyone involved in providing a wonderful range of entertainment throughout the town in 2023. Visit our website and Facebook page for the most up-to-date details about events in 2024.

Nature-Friendly and Peat-Free Flower Displays for Belper

To help wildlife thrive in our wonderful flower displays, we will be planting more long-lasting perennial plants and shrubs, like the ones at St John's Chapel and Belper Station, and fewer bedding plants.

Bedding plants have been cultivated to keep flowering brightly without needing insects and have little or no nectar or pollen. They only last a year and are mostly grown in compost containing peat, which releases carbon into the atmosphere, speeding up climate change.



Photo courtesy of Kate Pudney

Wildlife-friendly flower display at the railway station

Over the next three years, the flower beds and planters which the Town Council team look after, will start to look different, with more natural, softer colours and shapes, and more wildlife!

Budgeting For Our Community Services

The Council's Budget for 2024-2025 balances the cost-of-living crisis against the need to maintain our services despite the pressures of inflation.

With the savings we have made, along with an increase in the precept of 24p per week for a Band D house, we can continue to finance groups which support everyone in the town such as Fleet Arts and Citizens Advice, maintain our outdoor events and markets and look after our award-winning gardens and green spaces. Our small grants scheme will continue to provide funding for a range of events and initiatives across the town.

We must maintain assets such as St. John's Chapel, the most historic building in the town, the Coppice car park and the Memorial Gardens, all of which need health and safety repairs. We also plan to improve our play areas, finalise the creation of Snowberry Community Orchard and make Belper more environmentally sustainable.

We feel that this limited precept increase offers value for money and will enable us to maintain the standards in Belper that we value and enjoy.

Belper has a Car Club!

Many car owners with low mileage would save money by using a car club instead. Belper's Car Club is supported by the Council and Derbyshire Community Transport. Its two vehicles, parked in the Coppice Car Park, are available for residents to book in advance. It's an initial £20 to join, then £5 an hour. See derbyshirect.org/the-car-club

Community Champions Awards

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding personal contribution to Belper, our community or our beautiful surroundings? Nominate them for a Belper Town Council Award! The presentation will take place at the Mayor's Civic Service in April and each recipient will be presented with a certificate and a prize to thank them for their role in making Belper the great place it is. See our website for more details. Closing date 14th February.

Changing Places Toilet at Belper Library

People with disabilities, who may need extra space or equipment, can now use the new toilet facility within town comfortably and with dignity. Available during library opening times:

Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri 9.30am - 5pm
Tuesday 9.30am - 7pm
Saturday 9.30am - 4pm

Share your feedback

Let us know what you think about our first paper newsletter.

Email your comments to admin@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk



www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk



admin@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk



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Belper Town Council