

Horwich Town Council
Annual Report
2011/2012.

The Council's offices have now found a permanent base at Horwich Resource Centre.

Horwich Resource Centre and Horwich Heritage Centre continue to thrive with the Council's support. The Management Committee of the Centre has recently funded the redecoration of both the interior and exterior of the Resource Centre, along with the installation of a new boiler in the Heritage Centre.

The Council's budget for the financial year 2011/2012 continued to provide considerable financial support for Horwich Carnival and the Festival of Racing as well as Horwich Heritage.

In addition, many local organisations have applied for small grants to help to pay for a wide range of activities throughout the year, including a separate grant budget specifically to fund projects to benefit children and young people. The Council's current budget also has provision within it to continue to provide this essential financial help. The introduction of grant awards evening have proved to be a success giving local organisations an opportunity to meet each other and share knowledge and experiences.

The Council has also continued to provide the town centre CCTV Scheme, along with the Christmas Lighting Scheme. 'Horwich in Bloom' the annual gardening competition run by the Council and kindly sponsored by Horwich Resource Centre Management Committee was once again, a great success.

6,000 copies of a new town guide were published in Summer 2011, proving extremely popular with both residents and visitors alike. Our website www.horwich.gov.uk remains popular and Council authorised a complete refurbishment of the site. Local organisations make good use of the free publicity for their events by advertising on the 'Horwich Live' page. A quarterly newsletter is also available.

Horwich Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service continue to benefit from record attendances. Civic Medals were awarded to Mrs Lesley Allon and Mrs Shirley Holt for their long and outstanding service to the young people of Horwich.

Council has consulted throughout the year with the Unitary Authority, Bolton Council, on a wide range of matters of importance to the Parish including the future of the Horwich Loco Works site and the Town Centre Action Plan and Lottery funding was secured in partnership, for activities for young people based at the Leisure Centre. Council has received regular updates from the police about their efforts to ensure the safety and well being of residents etc.

The Council's involvement with Fairtrade continues with some very successful promotional initiatives taking place. The Council's determination to encourage civic pride in our town carries on with the installation of another civic plaque, contributing greatly to the ambition of creating a heritage trail through the Parish.

The Town Mayor has had a busy year, performing a wide variety of civic duties, assisted by the Deputy Town Mayor who has given every support during the year.

Staff have adapted well to change over the past year. Linda Challender, the Town Clerk has retired after a long career with the Council and Members expressed their best wishes for a happy retirement. The Assistant Town Clerk, Carol Hutchinson has taken over the responsibilities for the running of the Town Council, working with Councillors to develop the work of the Council.

The external auditors found no matters for concern for the financial year 2010/2011 and the internal auditors continue to report that they are satisfied that financial controls and systems are effective. The annual risk assessment has been undertaken and the internal system for financial control has been reviewed.

Councillor P Baxendale
Town Mayor 2011/2012