

Horwich Town Council
Annual Report
2013/2014

The Council's budget for the financial year 2013/2014 has continued to provide considerable financial support for many local organisations who 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 along with financial assistance given to groups for accommodation costs at Horwich Resource Centre. Horwich Carnival, Horwich Heritage and Horwich Festival of Racing have also received financial assistance as supported organisations of the Town Council. The Council's current budget also has provision within it to continue to provide this essential financial help for the many local and voluntary organisations within the Parish.

Horwich Resource Centre and Horwich Heritage Centre continue to thrive with the Council's support. A lease agreement has been signed with Horwich Heritage to allow them a greater degree of independence in the running of the Heritage Centre which continues to attract many visitors. The management of the Resource Centre has been brought back under the control of Council with the setting up of a Sub Committee for this purpose. Members of this Committee are in regular contact with the users of the Centre and continues to look at ways of improving the Centre for the benefit of all users, including funding interior re-painting, new window blinds, a hall carpet and a new kitchen floor. The Committee are looking at ways of raising the profile of the Centre and making it more accessible for the community of Horwich.

The Council has appointed a Homewatch Liaison Officer Keith Jackson who performs the same role at Westhoughton, working in partnership with the local police and increasing the number of schemes there and it hoped that this success can be repeated in Horwich.

'Horwich in Bloom' the annual gardening competition run by the Council, was once again a great success and makes a valuable contribution to improving the overall street scene in Horwich.

A new town guide was published in the summer and as always has proved extremely popular with both residents and visitors to the town. Our web site www.horwich.gov.uk remains popular and local organisations make good use of the free publicity for their events available on its 'Horwich Live' page. The quarterly newsletter continues to be circulated throughout the town and there are plans to develop this publication further in time for the new civic year.

The Lighting of the Civic Christmas Tree Service continued to mark the start of the festive season in the town and was well attended by all ages and once again welcomed the involvement of Horwich Rotary Club and local schools. Horwich Remembrance Sunday parades continue to benefit from record attendances, in part

due to the Council's promotional efforts and general support for the Royal British Legion in Horwich.

Council has consulted throughout the year with our Unitary Authority, Bolton Council, on a wide range of matters of importance to the Parish such as planning issues including the future development of the former Loco Works site and working in partnership has provided joint funding for the installation of traffic speed control measures on Green Lane.

Council's involvement with Fairtrade continued during the year, with some very successful promotional activities taking place. A committee was set up to work with community groups for the centenary commemoration of World War 1 in 2014 and plans are in progress for various events and activities with the Council setting aside budget funding for community involvement in this important year.

The Town Mayor has had a very busy year, performing a wide variety of civic duties, with the support of the Town Mayoress and assisted by the Deputy Town Mayor.

Staff have adapted well to changes, especially over the last six months, working with Councillors to develop the role of the Council & maintain high standards of professionalism in the Council's activities. The role of a Town Councillor remains both voluntary, with Members not receiving either any payment or claiming any expenses.

The External Auditors found no matters for concern for the financial year 2012/2013 and some issues arising were addressed and the Internal Auditors continue to report that they are satisfied that all financial controls and systems are effective. The annual risk assessment has been undertaken and the internal system for financial control has been reviewed.

Councillor C. A. Root
Town Mayor
2013/2014.

Councillors' Contact Details:

Also available on our website www.horwich.gov.uk

Claypool Ward:

Vacant Seat

Councillor S. Rock
64 Ainsworth Avenue
Horwich
Bolton BL6 6LX
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Bridge Ward:

Councillor K. Denton
25 Fearnhead Avenue
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Councillor K. Ramamurthy
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Councillor J. Silvester
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Vale Ward:

Councillor K.J. Helsby, M.B.E.
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Councillor C.A. Root
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Church Ward:

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Councillor L. McCartin
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Lever Park Ward:

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Councillor K. McKeon
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All Councillors can also be contacted via:

Carol Hutchinson, Town Clerk, Horwich Town Council Office, Room 1, Horwich
Resource Centre,
Beaumont Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 7BG

Tel: 01204 691090

Email: townclerk@horwich.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS: AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

BALANCE SHEET:	£
Invested with Bolton Council	15,000
Current Assets:	
Debtors	9,148
Cash in hand & at bank	75,191
Total Assets:	99,339
Current Liabilities:	
Creditors & accruals	7,968
Net Current Assets:	91,371
Financed by reserves:	
Capital Account	25,000
General Fund	66,371
Total:	91,371

Total expenditure under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 £ 13,475
Limit: £ 107,861(Electorate 15,453 x £6.98 per elector)

A full copy of the Council's accounts are available by contacting:

Carol Hutchinson, Town Clerk, Horwich Town Council, Town Council Office, Room 1,
Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 7BG

Tel: 01204 691090

Email: townclerk@horwich.gov.uk