

Horwich Town Council
Annual Report
2014/2015

The Council's budget for the financial year 2014/2015 has continued to provide considerable financial support for many local organisations who have applied for 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, with Horwich Heritage continuing to enjoy a greater degree of independence in the running of the Heritage Centre which attracts many visitors. The management of the Resource Centre benefits from being managed by a Sub Committee. Members of this Committee are in regular contact with the users of the Centre and much has been achieved to improve the Centre for the benefit of all users, including funding interior improvements with plans in place for necessary exterior work to front windows and the Saddlery. The Committee are looking at ways of raising the profile of the Centre and making it more accessible for the community of Horwich and this has included new initiatives including weekly Citizens' Advice sessions, a parent and toddler drop-in and a monthly movie afternoon.

The Council's Homewatch Liaison Officer Keith Jackson, in partnership with the local police is working to increase the number of schemes in Horwich.

'Horwich in Bloom' the annual gardening competition run by the Council, managed by an advisory committee of Councillors and members of the public was once again a great success and makes a valuable contribution to improving the overall street scene in Horwich.

Work has been completed on the new town guide, due to be published in summer 2015. The Council's website 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. Council have allocated funds for a refurbishment of the website in 2015 – 2016. A new, professionally produced quarterly newsletter has been well received and is available at various locations in the town.

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 benefitted from a new lighting scheme in 2014, provided by Bolton Council.

Council has consulted throughout the year with the 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, 'Rivington Chase' which will have a major impact on the town's infrastructure.

Council's involvement with Fairtrade continued during the year, with some very successful promotional activities taking place. In the year of centenary commemoration of the start of World War 1 in 2014 Council set aside budget funding for this purpose and various events and activities took place, including the illumination of Rivington Pike with a red poppy during Remembrance Week, as a joint initiative with Chorley Council. The annual Remembrance Parade and Service continues to flourish due to the promotional efforts of the Town Council and its support for the Royal British Legion in Horwich and there was a record attendance in 2014.

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, including the revival of Horwich's twinning link with Crowborough in East Sussex. The 25th anniversary of the twinning agreement between the two towns was commemorated by both Town Mayors being present at re-signing ceremonies held at Town Council meetings in both towns.

Staff have adapted well to considerable change over the last twelve months, working with Councillors to develop the role of the Council & maintain high standards of professionalism in the Council's activities. There has been a new appointment of an Administration & Outreach Worker, following a staffing restructure process, with the aim of promoting the role of the Resource Centre and the Town Council in the wider community.

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 2013/2014. 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, the internal system for financial control has been reviewed and several Council policies including health and safety have been reviewed and updated.

This has been an ambitious Council, laying the foundations for a new Council to build upon and continue to contribute to the ongoing success of the community of Horwich.

Councillor R. Silvester
Town Mayor
2014/2015

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 2014

BALANCE SHEET:	£
In Reserve Account	16,000
Current Assets:	
Debtors	0
Bank Balances	82,785
Cash in hand	56
Total Assets:	98,842
Current Liabilities:	
Creditors & accruals	2,352
Net Current Assets:	96,490
Financed by reserves:	
Capital Account	25,000
General Fund	71,490
Total:	91,371

Total expenditure under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 £ 17,655
Limit: £ 107,861 (Electorate 15,453 x £6.98 per elector)

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

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