



SILSDEN TOWN COUNCIL



Newsletter and Annual Report
June 2011

Mayor's Retirement Statement from Michael Elsmore

I have decided to retire as a councillor after serving the Council for twenty years, and it has been a privilege to have served twice as Mayor. As part of my Mayoral duties I have tried to be actively involved in all parts of the community by supporting various town events and representing Silsden at a number of civic occasions outside the area. Notable occasions have been the Proms on the Farm, the Gala, Silsden football club, school events, Remembrance Sunday, and British Legion amongst many, and working with community and voluntary groups.

In my twenty years I hope that I have made a significant contribution to the council and its relationship with the residents of Silsden. One of my roles has been to improve relations with the district council, working in partnership to get the best deal for the community. I am happy to say that this has happened to greater extent. To do this you need the support of fellow councillors so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all, both past and present.

One of my main aims as a Councillor was to be approachable to Silsdeners, so by introducing the surgeries, the residents were able to come to raise issues or concerns on a one to one basis, over a cup of coffee, regarding their town or just coming for a chat. With the support of a ward councillor it enabled queries to be dealt with efficiently. I hope that these will continue as it is an important to be able to listen to the people.

I have represented the council on the YLCA (Yorkshire Local Councils Associations) and over the years have been their Chairman and now as their President, it will enable me still to give Silsden a voice on local issues.

Finally I thank you, the residents of Silsden, for your support over this time.

Gala Committee Update

This year's gala is on Sun July 31 , weather permitting we are on the park, if wet we will be on Bradley Road. This will be this committee's 5th gala and we are still raising money for projects here in Silsden. The Gala Committee are currently erecting the Town Bandstand in the memorial gardens, and are hoping to have the official opening before the end of June, and have no further project after the bandstand is complete, so if we make any money this year this will be reserved until a suitable project is put forward. In 2010 we purchased the Town Christmas tree lights which were situated in the Memorial Gardens and erected the fence around the tree, this year's project is the bandstand and is in memory of our dear friend Graham Inman who was the backbone of the Gala for over 30 years. The committee sincerely hope you all come and support us so we can help to make Silsden that little bit better.

The Committee will be organising the bonfire as usual on the green in Bradley Road for the 1st Saturday in November, a very successful evening with growing crowds each year.

We are also holding another Christmas Market which will be held on the last Sunday in November.

Chris Atkinson: Chairman Silsden Gala.

April saw start of new financial year and the Town Council were please that they were able to reduce the precept paid by the majority of residents.

May, a new council with the election of Christopher Atkinson as Mayor for Silsden. The council also said goodbye to Michael Elsmore who retired, both as Mayor and Councillor after giving over 20 year service to the Town Council.

The council look forward to working with the people of Silsden, ward councillors and Bradford Council to make Silsden an even better place in which to live

Silsden Youth Council Update

2010 to 2011 has been a very successful year for Silsden Youth council in many aspects, with the opening of the 7Up Playground Project, and we have many new projects in their infancy. However we have been faced with the Retirement of Pat Bottomley Silsden Youth Council Co-Ordinator after many years, Pat had been the driving force of the Youth council whose dedication and hard work, has lead to many developments for the Youth of Silsden, including the MUGA, skate park, etc. This has in turn brought new faces to the Youth Council with the recent election of Cllr Karen Conway, Cllr Margaret Croft.

We have also changed the meetings to the Last Tuesday of each month, details of which are on Silsden.net. We would love to see new members, or simply young people with an idea, which they could drop in at the start of the meeting with no commitment to coming every month.

Karen Conway - Silsden Youth Council Co-ordinator,

Margaret Croft, Youth Council Co-ordination and Gina Bazylewicz, Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor's Report

The past twelve months has seen the Town council make continued progress.

We welcomed two new councillors in August, to fill the vacancies left by Cllrs Edwards and Phillips. Cllrs Lee Asquith and Jonathan Crewdson were co-opted following interviews. (However Cllr Crewdson has since resigned due to ill health)

Dog fouling continues to be a problem with the few dog owners allowing their animals to foul the footpaths in the Town. There has been a campaign initiated by the Keighley Area Committee which is on going and due to end in November.

Eventually we managed to get permission from the Environment Agency (after 18 months of being passed from person to person) to clear the beck of rubble that came down in January 2008, this was cleared by David Isherwood in August. It has looked a lot better since. A piece of land at Bridge St came available for purchase by the Town Council. Hard work by Cllr Naylor and the Clerk has resulted in acquiring this, and it is now in the process of being transferred to us at a minimum cost.

Newsletters have continued to be produced every three months. Also this year we have had them delivered by one of the Scouting Groups and the Town Council has given them donations for their efforts.

Elections for the Town Council happen every four years and the new council has just been elected but there are still four vacancies to fill.

We have continued with to work well with **Bradford Council** and working with our ward councillors helps to get things done here in Silsden. The regular surgeries held on Friday morning together with a ward Councillor, have proved effective in trying to solve problems brought to us by residents.

Mayor's Report con't

The local **Neighbourhood Police Team** (NPT) continues to work closely with us. We welcome a member of the team to all our main meetings and receive a comprehensive report on the events over the previous month.

The Town Council has continued to be represented on various committees and meetings which have been able to support the work we do. These committees meet three or four times a year and reports are received at the monthly council meetings. We meet with other Parish /Town Councils at the **Liaison Group** with Bradford Council, this group works to improve workings with the District Council. We also meet at the **South Pennine Branch** of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations with councils from Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees. There are occasional meetings held with Steeton Parish Council as part of the Joint Transport Committee which concerns itself with issues over public transport in our area.

We are currently in the process of producing a **Town Plan**, which will update the Design Statement that was issued after a survey in 2001. The working group are at present putting together a new questionnaire which could be trialled this summer and then issued to a wider population later in the year.

As you can see work of the Council is not just attending our monthly meetings but these extra meetings help to keep our voice heard in order to promote and improve facilities in Silsden.

Finance Report

The financial year 2010/11 was the seventh year of raising our own precept through the community charge. That year we raised £39700 by setting a rate of just over £13.00 for a band D property. Please note that these are yet unaudited accounts. Each year the accounts are audited internally by an auditor appointed by the Town Council and externally by HM Government appointed auditors. The accounts can be viewed after the main audit, look out for notices at the Town Hall later in the year. Below is a summary of the expenses of the Town Council for that year.

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|------------------------|---------------|
| Administration costs | £2357 |
| Salaries of the clerks | £9176 |
| Audit fees | £ 433 |
| Membership fees | £128 |
| Insurance | £ 1330 |
| Newsletters | £2270 |
| Projects | £9922 |
| Donations | £2800 |
| Christmas Lights | £7114 |
| Christmas tree fence | £3525 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>£ 434</u> |
| Total: | <u>£39489</u> |

Grants received during the year totaled about £6000

Donations and projects included:

- Silsden Gala committee
- Multi-Use-games Area
- Silsden Cricket Club
- Silsden Park rangers
- Manorlands
- Chris Brown Trust
- Proms on the farm
- Rehoused memorials in Town Hall
- Beck clearance
- Overhaul of Christmas lights

Silsden Neighbourhood Policing Team Annual Report 2011

Wharfedale and Ilkley Neighbourhood Policing Team continue to be committed to serving the people of Craven Ward. The team consists of myself as Inspector, Sgt Jo Beecroft, 4 Police Constables and 8 Police Community Support Officers. We are all based at Ilkley Police Station.

Reported crime figures continue to be low in Silsden and this year has fallen from 205 reported crimes in the year 2009/10 to 191 reported crimes in the year 2010/11. In simple terms this equates to significantly fewer Silsden residents having to suffer the upset and inconvenience that crime brings. You can help in reducing this figure further. Firstly: ensure that your houses and cars are always locked, particularly over the coming summer months when (hopefully) we will be spending time in the garden. Secondly: report any suspicious incidents, vehicles or people, there have been a number of incidents of minor theft of items which can be weighed in for scrap, eg; bikes, garden gates, washing machines– you are the 'eyes and ears' of the community and many crimes each year are either prevented or detected due to the information of local residents.

Ilkley neighbourhood Policing team have a code of conduct, 'our local commitment to you'. Please check our website: www.westyorkshirepolice.uk/npt/silsden. If you have any issues, then tell us why and give us the opportunity to improve.

Also on our website is an ongoing update from PCSO's Jon and Andy in relation to their day-to-day work and the issues they face. Please take time to have a read.

The team have also been involved in problem solving a number of issues raised by residents. These involve anti-social use of vehicles in the Ryefield Way area, youths and anti-social behaviour and inconsiderate parking near to the schools and on the canal bridge. We have also held a number of motor-vehicle related action days targeting speeding, mobile phone use and pavement parking. Many of these problems are still ongoing and we will continue to work with residents and other statutory agencies in the coming year.

And finally, the views of all Silsden residents are important to us. Please consider attending a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting or the Neighbourhood Forum when you have the opportunity to meet and question local officers. Details can be obtained on the NPT website or on the telephone number below.

To discuss any issues or if you need advice, please contact the Wharfedale and Craven Neighbourhood Policing Team on (01274) 475301 or by e-mail: hanpt1@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
(We will get back to you within 24 hours.)

Inspector Sue Sanderson

Silsden Town Councillors/ Contact Nos.

(Fuller details, addresses etc available on the Town Hall noticeboard & via www.silsden.net)

| | |
|---|---|
| Christopher Atkinson (Mayor) | 655057 |
| Lee J Asquith | 658359 |
| Karen Conway | email: Karen@silsden.net |
| Alison Coward | email: alison.coward@silsden.net |
| Margaret Croft | 653664 |
| Francis Huggens | 653216 |
| Adrian Naylor | 07803 503643 |
| Keith Savage | 07949 282109 |
| Town Clerk: Mrs L. Corocoran | 670005) |
| email: silsdentownclerk2@blueyonder.co.uk | |
| Deputy Clerk: Gina Bazylewicz | email: deputyclerk2@silsden.net |

Craven Ward Councillors

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Michael Kelly | 01943 831208 |
| Andrew Mallinson | 01535 656171 |
| Adrian Naylor | 07803 503643 |

Silsden Town Council Meeting dates 201-12

Agenda displayed on Town Hall noticeboard.

Main Meetings

9 June 2011
7 July 2011
4 August 2011
1 September 2011
6 October 2011
3 November 2011
1 December 2011
5 January 2012
2 February 2012
1 March 2012
5 April 2012
3 May 2012 (AGM)

Planning Meetings

23 June 2011
21 July 2011
18 August 2011
15 September 2011
20 October 2011
17 November 2011
15 December 2011
19 January 2012
16 February 2012
15 March 2012
19 April 2012
17 May 2012

All meetings start at 7.30 pm unless the Agenda states otherwise.