

2019/20 MAYOR'S REPORT

At the annual Council meeting on 17th May 2019 I was elected Town Mayor and Cllr Joe Coughlan my Deputy Mayor. After 30 years' experience in private legal practice I retired in 2015 and joined Kirkbymoorside Town Council in October 2018.

My first year as Mayor has been varied and it has been quite a steep learning experience with the past five months sadly being dominated by the coronavirus situation. However, I am delighted to start my report with positive news. Last year's Community Award was presented to Sarah Louise Ashworth at the annual town meeting on 7th May 2019. 'Miss Sarah' was nominated by a former pupil for having inspired and motivated so many young people in the community over the years, providing them with the opportunity to discover a love for dance and an appreciation of the performing arts. Congratulations to Sarah and thank you for your contribution to the community.

Congratulations also to the volunteers involved with the Kirkbymoorside library which continues to celebrate its success as a volunteer run Community Library. This service is invaluable to the community and I'm sure everyone is very appreciative that it has been retained through the hard work and dedication of the team involved. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at the library so please do not hesitate to go along and ask any of the volunteers for information.

The Town Council continues to support the library financially by paying a license fee to occupy the office at Church House thereby contributing to the cost of rent of the building, in addition to contributing to the cost of utilities and cleaning.

Other grants awarded in 2019/20 include:

£3000 to All Saints Parish Church to contribute towards the cost of grass cutting and maintenance of the churchyard.

£750 to Kirkbymoorside History Group to cover the printing and advertising costs associated with the Kirkbymoorside Heritage Day on Saturday 20th July 2019.

£500 to Moorsbus CIC for £500 to cover the associated costs of one bus for two days service

£1300 to Kirkbymoorside Community Library to contribute the annual cost of cleaning Church House.

£1560 to Next Steps Mental Health Resource Centre to contribute towards the cost of the annual rent

£340 to Kirkbymoorside Flying Club to repaint the cabin at the sports field

An additional £2500 was awarded to the Kirkbymoorside Town Brass Band from the development fund to contribute towards the cost of the new concert hall. Works to the hall were completed in 2019 and the Kirkbymoorside Town Brass Band held their re-opening concert on 22nd September.

Precept

At the Ordinary meeting of the Town Council in October recommendations were received from the Finance Committee regarding the budget for 2020/21 and it was unanimously agreed to once again retain the precept at £74,000, an increase of £500 only, the first increment in 7 years whilst not compromising on service provision.

The Audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019 was concluded with no matters raised (Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)).

Parking & Traffic

For several years the Town Council has been trying to address concerns about traffic and safety of pedestrians on West End. Finally, on 18th February 2020 the proposal to change the speed limit to 20mph for the full length of Westfields from the A170 and branching onto Tinley Garth and West End was finally approved by North Yorkshire County Council Highways Authority.

Additionally North Yorkshire County Council Highway Authority approved the Town Council's license application for the installation of three planters on the roadside of the pavement between 36 and 40 West End, to act as an obstruction to vehicles, so preventing them from driving on the pavement.

This agreed action is in direct response to concerns of the affected residents of West End and the subject of traffic concerns on West End has been considered by the Town Council at many meetings over the course of the last three years, clearly demonstrating the need for action. The Town Council approved the installation of planters at the ordinary meeting of the council in January. It was noted that building works were scheduled to be undertaken that required the erection of scaffolding in this location so it was noted that the planters will be installed once the scaffolding is removed. Due to the coronavirus situation the scaffolding is still in situ at the time of this report. It is hoped that works will progress soon.

Please be reminded that there is 1 hour free parking available in the Town Farm car park between 12 midday to 2pm.

Please be aware that the Town Farm car park is owned and regulated by Ryedale District Council. On-street parking is regulated by NYCC. The Town Council has no authority on parking or any matters pertaining to the highways and can only make representation on behalf of the residents to the relevant Authority.

If you witness and illegal activity please report this to **101**.

Miscellaneous

The Moorside Room continues to host a variety of functions and events including but not exclusive to:

- The Open Studios exhibition in 2019 and the next exhibition in 2021 (the 2020 Open Studios has unfortunately been cancelled due to the coronavirus situation);
- Musical Memories sessions on the first Tuesday of every month;
- Meetings and training venue for local groups, charities and businesses;
- Fund raising events hosted by CLiC, St Catherine's Hospice, Marie Curie, the WI;
- Repair Cafe hosted by the Environment Group.

Post Covid-19 the Moorside Room will be the venue for the Kirkbymoorside workshops held by Next Steps Mental Health Resource Centre.

The third annual community Tidy Up exercise was held on 14th April 2019. This year's event was scheduled to be held on 4th and 5th April 2020 was deferred due to the coronavirus situation. It is hoped that a similar exercise will be held in September 2020 in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy.

The Town Council purchased a commemorative bench which was installed on Pump Hill, outside the newsagents on Market Place.

The two silver birch trees that were not thriving in the planters on Piercy End have been replaced by healthy Rowan trees.

Grace Lane Vets relocated their surgery to Kirkbymoorside from Hutton le Hole.

Works to the new Kirkbymoorside Town Brass Band Hall were completed in 2019 and a concert was held in the new hall on 22nd September.

The Town Council's application to Ryedale District Council for S106 funds to improve the equipment at the basketball court in Old Road play area was successful and the works are currently suspended due to the coronavirus situation but it is hoped that once completed the court will be appreciated by the youth in the community.

Christmas

Repairs were carried out to the manhole on Market Place which houses the town Christmas tree, including a custom made lid. A flower tub is stationed on top of the manhole during the year, which is very kindly maintained by a local resident.

Every year the two town trees are gifted to Kirkbymoorside by Holts Farms. Thanks on behalf of Kirkbymoorside community for this very generous arrangement. This year the trees were adorned with new Christmas lights. Thanks also to the organisers of the Christmas tree scheme and everyone who put a tree up in the bracket outside their house, which adds to the Christmas decorations for all to enjoy, and sets Kirkbymoorside apart each year.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Best Dressed Christmas Window as follows:

1st Place 'Essential Beauty' at 3 Market Place

2nd Place 'The Fabric Shop' at the Home Decorating Centre, 7 Market Place

PLANNING

MANOR WOODS, LAND OFF WESTFIELDS, KIRKBYMOORSIDE

On 18th February the Ryedale District Council Planning Committee granted conditional approval of the application submitted by Countryside Properties for residential development of the land off Westfields. The development will consist of 225 dwellings comprising, 44no. 4 bedroom, 119no. 3 bedroom and 51no. 2 bedroom dwellings and 20no. 1 bedroom dwellings together with associated landscaping, public open space to include children's play areas, highways improvements, and allocation of land for expansion of Kirkbymoorside Primary School.

Concern had been expressed by members of the Town Council and the public with regards to the limited consultation period and the absence of adequate notices being issued. The absence of site notices was explained by virtue of the fact that this application was ongoing, however, it is still the opinion of the Town Council that the scale of the application should have warranted an extension to the consultation period and more publicity of the amended application.

In response to this planning application the Town Council made clear to the Local Planning Authority, Ryedale District Council that the Standard Conditions detailed in Annex A of the Appeal Decision Appeal Ref: APP/Y2736/A/14/2217803 must be strictly adhered to. Furthermore concerns about the landscaping, access and additional environmental considerations were detailed in the response.

The Town Council reiterated concerns regarding the impact on the infrastructure of the Town that an increase of 225 dwellings in Kirkbymoorside would have. The development will result in approximately 430 additional electors which would equate to an approximate 17% increase in the electorate. The Town Council appealed to members of the Ryedale District Council Planning Committee to bear this impact in mind and recognise the importance of monitoring the development to ensure that it is designed and delivered in the best interest of the locality.

I attended the Planning Committee meeting to make oral representations on behalf of the Town residents.

WAINDS FIELD

The application to continue development at the Wains Field site was approved in October 2019:

18/01313/MFUL | Erection of 32no. dwellings comprising 2no. two bedroom dwellings, 12no. 3 bedroom dwellings and 18no. four bedroom dwellings with associated garaging, parking and access | Land To North Of Wains Field Kirkbymoorside YO62 6JG Conditional approval as recommended and subject to S106 agreement

OLD HIGHWAYS DEPOT

The most recent application for the Old Highways Depot was received in November 2019 as follows:

19/00252/FUL | Change of use of Highways Depot (sui generis) to a mixed use of B1, B2 and B8 Uses as listed on the Building Schedule on Drawing No. KWL/093/02/02 Rev.A Proposed Block Plan & Location Plan together with removal of 8 no. temporary buildings as listed, the re-positioning of 2 no. portable buildings and formation of additional parking spaces | North Yorkshire Highways Depot Manor Vale Lane Kirkbymoorside YO62 6EG **Refusal as recommended with an additional highways reason for refusal**

19/00922/FUL | Change of use of Highways Depot (sui generis) to a mixed use of B1 and B8 Uses and removal of 8no. portable containers and cabins as listed on the Building Schedule on Drawing No. KWL/093/03/02 Rev.B Proposed Block Plan & Location Plan | North Yorkshire Highways Depot Manor Vale Lane Kirkbymoorside North Yorkshire YO62 6EG **Conditional approval as recommended**

CO-OP

Application 19/00206/FUL in respect of the demolition of existing car showroom and erection of Co-op retail store with associated car parking and access at Kia Motors, Piercy End Kirkbymoorside North Yorkshire YO62 6DT was approved by the Planning Authority

The most recent application for this development is as follows:

19/01172/COND | Discharge of condition 13 of planning approval 19/00206/FUL dated 02.08.2019 | Kia Motors Piercy End Kirkbymoorside North Yorkshire YO62 6DT

The Town Council Planning Committee agreed the discharge of condition 13 subject to the Planning Authority's determination and look forward to the application progressing.

In April 2020 works began to clear the site.

The course of the year's events returns us full circle to the Kirkbymoorside Community Award and I am delighted to congratulate this year's recipients, John and Chris Simmonds, who were nominated by members of the Kirkby Fruit Project:

The Kirkby Fruit Project (KFP) was formed in 2012, under the auspices of Kirkbymoorside Environment Group, to pick and distribute surplus apples in the local area to help prevent them being wasted. Very quickly it moved on to the production and sale of apple juice, cider and, to a lesser extent, other local fruit products. In 2018-19 (the most recent year for which figures are available), it processed some 6 metric tons of apples, producing 1218 bottles of juice for sale, 1114 bottles for 'buy back' (a scheme for juicing apples for return to the donor) and 671 bottles of cider. For more information on the Project's activities, please see their website <https://kirkbyfruitproject.wordpress.com>

Sales give rise to an annual profit, which in recent years has been in the region of £2000. This is distributed to 'good causes' in the town and nearby villages on the basis of consensus among the volunteers. In 2019 funds were distributed as follows:

- Kirkby Library £240, to purchase two book shelves
- KMS Tennis Club £500, towards kitchenette in the proposed new club house
- Friends of KMS School £500, parking safety banner and bollards
- KMS 10k Run £256, for safety barrier hire for the event
- KMS History Group £180, to purchase equipment to aid display making
- Marton Village Hall £284, towards purchase of stacking armchairs
- KMS Band £250, towards the cost of a wide 2.5 octave glockenspiel.

From the beginning, the group has operated as a co-operative without formal officers (except for a treasurer), decisions being made by consensus among the volunteers at any one time.

John and Chris were instrumental in setting up KFP, and remain its focal point, not least because they provide space for the large equipment without which it would be unable to function. John manages the accounts, and Chris organises the volunteers, in addition to both taking a share of the work (picking apples, pulping, juicing, bottling, pasteurising, labelling, bottle washing) as well as being wholly responsible for ordering bottles, storage, distribution to sales outlets in the town, and organisation of two annual market stalls.

KFP products are not available anywhere outside the town. Purchasing them brings shoppers into the town, and there are reports at the Christmas market of their value as a unique gift. The Project meets a very real need in saving produce that would otherwise go to waste, and enhances the town's reputation for environmental awareness. Finally, the distribution of profits gives much valued support to other groups in our community.

CORONAVIRUS

The past few months have been very strange and difficult but they have also demonstrated the strength and resilience of everyone in our town. The Town Council would like to take the opportunity to celebrate all our local heroes and offer everyone heartfelt thanks for taking the necessary safeguarding measures to help protect our community.

Thank you to the volunteers who have stepped up and offered their time and generosity of spirit to support fellow members of the community. To the businesses who have remained open throughout the coronavirus situation and their staff who continue to provide so many services that are vital to our community, thank you. To the businesses and their staff who are still operating behind closed doors and those who have had to close in order to keep our communities safe, but have been waiting in the wings ready to get back to work, thank you. To the children, parents and grandparents for staying home and having to sacrifice time spent with extended family and friends, thank you. To everyone who has had to self-isolate, forgoing the privilege of social interaction to keep our community safe, thank you.

Please continue to follow the government guidance and stay safe. Thank you.

Nick Holroyd

Kirkbymoorside Town Mayor

May 2020