

RETIRING MAYOR'S STATEMENT – Councillor Melanie Davis

This has been the third time I have been Mayor of the Town and, having retired, I have been able to participate in lots of local events. Looking back it is clear that the Mayoral year has a definite structure which is laid down by all the work that the Town Council does to mark the various events which have become part of our calendar. These events are supported and supplemented by lots of other regular events organised by many of the other great organisations in the town.

All the events encourage people to come out and join together as a community to mark and celebrate national and local happenings throughout each year and I think the Town Council which is only a minor authority in terms of local government, should feel proud of the exceptional work it does in this regard. None of it would take place without the hard work of our team of staff and volunteers, including Councillors, who undertake many roles often at unsocial hours and in bad weather just as part of their day job and still find the enthusiasm to support the 'extra' events throughout the year.

I would like to thank the various other community and voluntary sector organisations who work tirelessly to deliver support and services to members of our community who are vulnerable, lonely or disadvantaged. These are difficult times for many people and families so anything that we can do to raise people's spirits or provide a real helping hand makes a real difference.

I would also like to thank our various statutory services for the amazing work they undertake on a daily basis often without the financial resources they deserve – people who work in our National Health Service, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Police, our schools and local government. They are the glue which holds our society together and if we fail to fund them properly then that society will unravel.

The Mayoral role is largely a civic one and anyone who undertakes it will be invited to various events both in the town and around not only North Yorkshire but neighbouring counties as well. Each person who undertakes the role will do it in a different way but anyone who is Mayor is always assured of a warm welcome and, in my experience, a chance to learn more about our town and its people. As I have already said, the mayoral year does have a pattern of regular events delivered by the Town Council and many other organisations in the town but there are always some new events or one-offs of a more cyclical nature.

This year the Abbey hosted the annual Miners' Memorial Day service and it was amazing to see the Abbey decked out with banners belonging to the various pits and Trades Unions. For me it was a particularly poignant service because it was not only a memorial service for the people who worked and died in the industry but for the industry itself now there are no working pits left. On a happier note, the Abbey also hosted the Selby Young Musician Competition which showcased the many talents of our young people and schools and was a joy to attend.

I was also invited to be a judge at the North Yorkshire County Council Schools Debating Competition which is organised to encourage young people to learn more about local government and hopefully participate in local democracy later in life. The confidence and knowledge exhibited by those young people gives us all hope for the future.

So thanks for everyone for their support, good humour and welcome throughout the year and good wishes to Eva as she takes on the role – I know she will enjoy it

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## **Introduction**

This Report describes the main achievements of Selby Town Council during 2017/18. It also gives details about the services provided by the Council.

### **Selby Town Hall**

Selby Town Hall is a fabulous building used by a variety of local groups throughout the day and evening.

In 2017 the Town Hall became a licenced venue to hold Weddings and in 2017 and 2018 several weddings have been held in the venue.

The Town Hall hosts performances throughout the year and there is a dedicated website [www.selbytownhall.co.uk](http://www.selbytownhall.co.uk) where tickets can be purchased as well as from the town hall office.

It is used by Selby Community Globe Cinema which is run by volunteers and invites people to come and see up to date films at a very reasonable price on Monday evenings, Thursday mornings and during school holidays.

### **Selby Town Council**

The Town Council Offices are at the Town Hall, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ.

Tel No. 01757 708449 or Fax No. 01757 213761.

Email address: [admin@selbytowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:admin@selbytowncouncil.co.uk) Website: [www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk).

The Town Hall office is open 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m - Monday to Friday.

Selby Town Council was established in 1974 when the Selby Urban District Council was abolished and the Selby District Council and the Town Council were formed.

### **The Council and its Committees**

The Council meets at the Town Hall at 7.00 p.m. on the last Monday of each month. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting. The main areas of the Council's work are covered by three Committees: "Finance and Staffing", "Land and Property" and "Town Hall Management Committee" with meetings held quarterly and bi-monthly. Working Groups are set up to provide support for the Town Council's other activities.

### **Town Councillors**

#### **Selby North**

Ms M Davis (Lab), 47 Doncaster Road, Selby YO8 9BT - 01757 706373

G Harding MBE (Lab), 3 Ebor Court, Selby YO8 4YS

F Matthews (Lab), 47 Doncaster Road, Selby YO8 9BT - 01757 706373

S Shaw-Wright (Lab), 28 Armoury Road, Selby YO8 4AY - 01757 708849

J Thurlow (Lab), Marbrae, Foxhill Lane, Brayton YO8 9EL - 01757 702774

### **Selby South**

Ms S Andrew, (Lab), 62 Abbots Road, Selby, YO8 8AU – 01757 706056

Ms E Lambert, (Lab) 20 Hardy Street, Selby, YO8 8DQ – 01757 708450

C Laskey (Lab), 106 Millgate Selby, YO8 3LD

J Leake (Cons), 62 Denison Road, Selby, YO8 8AQ – 01757 700497

Mrs W Nichols (Lab), 8 Bainbridge Drive, Selby, YO8 4QN – 01757 708091

T Walker (Lab), 39 Bainbridge Drive, Selby YO8 4QN – 01757 707816

### **Selby West**

K Arthur (Cons) 12 Portholme Road, Selby, YO8 4QQ – 01757 709072

C Dickinson (Cons) 36 Barlby Road, Selby, YO8 5AA – 01757 706205

Mr M Dyson (Cons), 19 Park Row, Selby YO8 0PR - 01757 705129

Mrs M Fagan (Cons), 1 Thatch Close, Selby YO8 9DB - 01757 704903

I Lawton (Cons), 12a Barff Grove, Thorpe Willoughby, Selby YO8 9LZ

Ms G Lockley (Lab), Hillfield Farm, Selby, YO8 3ND – 01757 290428

### **St James Ward**

Mrs J Shaw-Wright (Lab), 28 Armoury Road, Selby YO8 4AY - 01757 708849

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor are elected annually in May. The Chairs of the Town Council Committees are appointed at their first committee meeting. During 2017/18 the following Councillors held office:

#### **Town Mayor**

Cllr. Melanie Davis

#### **Deputy Town Mayor**

Cllr. Eva Lambert

#### **Chair Finance and Staffing Committee and Town Hall Management Committee**

Cllr. Fred Matthews

#### **Chair of Land and Property Committee**

Cllr. Ms M Davis

Selby Town Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out any Council business (apart from the Mayor who receives an annual allowance to cover travel and out of pocket expenses).

## **Staff**

### **The Clerk and RFO of the Council**

Karen Mann

### **Resource Manager and Sexton**

Andy Argyle

### **Markets Manager**

Gill Bell

### **Arts Officer/Manager**

Chris Jones

There are twelve members of staff in total working at the Town Hall, the Cemetery and Scott Road Community Centre.

## **Council Facilities**

The Town Council manages the town's Cemetery on Westbourne Road, along with three play areas, at Barwic Parade, Flaxley Road and Wistow Road. The Town Council also carries out the administration for Selby Community Trust and manages Scott Road Community Centre, including the play areas and Bondgate Woodland. The Town Council own the Longmann Hills Farmhouse which is at the rear of the Cemetery and currently let. The Town Council also run the Market.

The Town Council provides allotments – Stonebridge - Bawtry Road, Pymble - Flaxley Road and Westbourne Road allotments.

## **Council Events**

A new event took place in March 2018 – Funeral Fair. This was held in Selby Abbey and gave people an opportunity to be informed about what needs to be in place when a loved one died, including funeral arrangements, florists, solicitors and lots of organisations took part in the event. It was well attended and will be an annual event held each year.

Every year the Town Council organises an annual Family Fun Day in June. As well as lots of events for young children at the Community Centre, the day included brass band concerts in the park for the older residents it also holds a live band concert on the Portholme Road Recreation Field. The event is free of charge to all that attend.

Due to the popularity of the Selby Town Council Beer Festival which started in July 2010, this has become an annual event.

The Food & Drinks Festival was taken over by the Town Council in 2017 with financial support from Selby Town Enterprise Partnership (STEP). Since the first year in 2015 the event has grown and last year there was a professional chef demonstrating throughout the day as well as entertainment for people to enjoy. This event will be an annual event.

The Bonfire event and fireworks display was spectacular and it was well attended each year. This is a free event to all local residents that attend. There are local caterers providing high quality, cheap refreshments at the event. The local radio station, Minster FM were also in attendance.

The Christmas lights were installed in the town to great appreciation from residents and visitors to the town. In 2017 local shops and businesses sponsored the lights being installed along Finkle Street and Micklegate. There was also a Christmas Craft Fair on the Market place during the day with Santa in attendance. The Mayor attended and turned on the lights with the help of their grandchildren and Ben Ofeudo from Phats and Small. There was a "Best Dressed Christmas Window Display" competition held throughout the town this year. Lots of

shops and businesses entered the competition and the Mayor found it extremely hard to judge the competition. Prizes were provided by local businesses as well as the Town Council.

### **The Town Hall Arts Centre**

A wide programme of music, drama and events has continued at the Town Hall during the year. The venue has had several sell-out performances, and the programme has a vast range of diverse shows. National Theatre Live has eight shows sent to the Town Hall by satellite per year and these are well received by local residents and visitors to the Town.

### **Recreational Facilities**

The Town Council in conjunction with Selby Community Trust has invested monies raised through developers' contribution from the District Council on the Community Woodland area working with local schools to plant hedging and trees for the local community to enjoy. There are also sculptures and seating installed on the Community Woodland. In 2017 additional Dog Walking facilities were added to the woodland and a trim trail for exercise was also installed.

### **Planning**

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications. As such it is responsible for commenting upon all the applications which fall within the Town. These comments are passed to Selby District Council who takes them into account when making planning decisions. A total of 101 applications had been considered by the Town Council during the year.

### **Employment**

Like many market towns in the UK, Selby's employment patterns have changed, and continue to change. Whereas shipbuilding, coal mining, agriculture and related industries were once the major employers in the area, more recently large industry has given way to more diverse pattern of employment.

Within the town itself, retail, leisure and local government are the main employers. In the immediate surrounding area food processing, logistics and distribution, glass manufacturing and power generation provide local job opportunities. Over the past few years, as local employers recruited more widely, Selby has welcomed a significant number of people from EU Accession countries, especially Poland.

Selby is also a convenient base for people to commute to York, Leeds, Doncaster and Hull.

There have been several new restaurants and shops opened in Selby in 2017/18 which encourages local people and visitors to stay in town to eat and shop.

### **Promoting Selby**

Selby is a thriving town with a great sense of community and is fortunate to have many residents who give willingly of their time and energy. The Council is always looking at ways to promote the town to the outside world. The Town Council website ([www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk)) is a useful point of information. The Town Council has also taken a more proactive approach with the local press and media and has issued a number of press notices to publicise events and decisions.

In September 2010 Selby Town Council took over the running of the traditional Monday market from the District Council. The Town Council sees this function as a major part of attracting people to Selby. There was a new Saturday Craft and Farmers Market, held once a month on the Market Place, introduced in 2015. The Bank Holiday Markets attract visitors from all over the UK.

## **Selby Twin Towns**

Selby is twinned with Carentan, France and Filderstadt, Germany. People from Filderstadt visited Selby in September 2017. The Town Council provide the twinning groups a grant each year to help fund outings for the visitors from the twin towns.

## **The Civic Function**

The Council has continued to play an important Civic role. The annual Remembrance Service was well attended. The Mayor has represented the Town at various functions throughout the Town and District and has also undertaken a number of local engagements, including attending many events organised by clubs and organisations based within Selby.

## **Annual Competitions**

Every year the Council holds the Selby in Bloom Best Kept Garden/Allotments Competition. There is also an annual painting competition held for the local primary schools.

## **Grants to Voluntary Groups**

The Council gives financial support to a number of local clubs and organisations. £49,389 was provided to 26 Groups in Selby in 2017/18.

In 2017/18 the District Council passed on £43,094 of the Central Government Grant and in 2018/19 £39,074 will be passed on to the Town Council.

In 2017/18 the Heritage Lottery Fund provided £9,000 towards the Cemetery Project and various activities took place in the Cemetery as well as a new large noticeboard was installed.

Locality, Central Government, provided grant funding for the Town Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan is hoped to be completed in 2018/19.

## **Highways and Traffic**

North Yorkshire County Council is responsible for Highways matters but the Town Council takes an active interest in traffic issues by advising the County Council of matters of local interest, and alerting them to matters of concern.

## **How Your Money is Spent**

Each December, the Town Council sets a budget for the next financial year. The money is collected from the properties in the town by the District Council as part of residents Council Tax (Precept). The money raised is used to provide services and events during the year.

## **Conclusion**

Selby Town Council welcomes views from residents and people working here on any aspect of life in the town. Please contact your Councillor or the Town Council at the Town Hall, York Street, Selby, Selby YO8 4AJ.

Telephone 01757 708449 - Fax 01757 213761

[www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk)