



Barton Upon Humber Town Council

Annual Report
2020-21



St Peter's Church, Barton.

A Word from the Mayor

It has truly been a very strange year with everyone having to adapt to a different way of living. Since taking the role of Mayor in September there has been very little work attending events and more work looking at how the council can help the town through the restrictions and lockdowns.

We have also had a change in the Town Council office personnel and I would like to thank Tracey, Clare and Carol for the great job they have done in keeping the council running despite not yet being able to attend a face to face meeting. They have some great ideas to help the council move forwards and I look forward to working together going forwards

I believe we can be very proud of the community spirit in Barton throughout this, with people pulling together to support those shielding, businesses adapting to a new way of working to help them survive. The number of people volunteering also seems to be more than ever from delivering food, marshalling vaccination clinics and litter picking.

As the government's roadmap looks to return us to a more normal life I hope that we will take some of these things forward and embrace this and continue to show everyone how great Barton can be. I look forward to beginning a new Mayoral year in May and plan on stepping up fundraising for my Mayoral charity which is the Humber Rescue, that is in increasing demand and need the support more now, than ever.

Councillor Ben Troop



Your Councillors at a glance

Councillor Alvin Chapman is a member of the Community, Environment and Personnel Committees.



Councillor Ann Clark is a member of the Planning and Environment Committees.



Councillor Jonathan Evison is a member of the Environment and Community Committees.



Councillor Neil Jacques is a member of the Environment and Planning Committees.



Councillor Nigel Pinchbeck is a member of the Planning Committee.



Councillor John Sanderson is a member of the Planning and Personnel Committees.



Councillor Carol Thornton is a member of the Environment Committee.



Councillor Alan Todd is a member of the Community and Finance and General Purposes Committees.



Councillor Ben Troop is currently Barton Town Council's Mayor as well as being a member of the Community and Finance and General Purposes Committees.





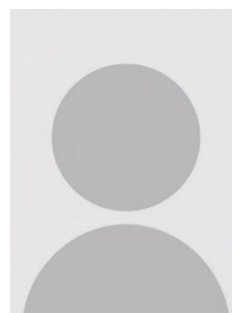
Councillor Keith Vickers is a member of the Planning Committee having resigned from the Finance and General Purposes and Personnel Committees in January.



Councillor John Paul Vickers is a Member of the Community Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committees.



We have a vacancy after the resignation of Councillor Janet Oxley. Look out for details of your new Councillor. Elections will be held on Thursday 6 May.





Finance & General Purposes

I hope you are all well, I never thought I would be writing this report on the backdrop of a worldwide pandemic. COVID-19 is something we are all trying to live with and a year on there are signs to be optimistic with the uptake in the vaccination. I would like to thank everyone who has taken time to volunteer or show any act of kindness to help us look after our most vulnerable members of our community.

I have recently taken over as the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee in January 2021, I would like to thank Cllr Keith Vickers for his commitment to this role and leaving the Town Council's finances in good order. In a year so much has changed the Picnic in the Park and the Christmas Festival had to be cancelled, and the Town Clerk retired. I would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work to the role. We have welcomed a new Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk to the town. Both are settling in well and have helped upgrade the office which has meant all councillors are able to access and meet using Microsoft Teams and embrace the "new way" of doing things.

I am proud the Town Council could donate to the Barton Meals on Wheels scheme during the darkest days of the pandemic facilitated by Liz Bennet and her team at The Ropewalk. Over 10,000 meals were delivered to Barton residents by local volunteers, the Barton Area Food bank also received a donation and a recent donation to the Barton Community Kitchen based in the Trinity Church meant families could access a meal on a daily basis.

What does this all mean for the financial year 2021-22? We have approved a council tax levy of £166,781.00 for the town which will equate to £44.09 per band D property. This is a freeze on the previous year's council tax something the whole council agreed was important when setting the precept. This budget gives us the opportunity to continue to work with our fantastic community groups, we wish them well for the forthcoming year.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and commitment to present a balanced budget which does not put any extra burden on Barton residents. Some of the highlights to look forward to restrictions permitting (a final decision will be taken later in the year) could be the return of Picnic in the Park, the Christmas Festival and improvements to the Christmas lighting. We donate to the Barton Tourism Partnership and we are hopeful they will be able to put on a couple of COVID safe performances in Baysgarth Park throughout the summer.

The Town Council has budgeted for improvement works for the Assembly Rooms along with CHAMP and is looking forward to welcoming residents back to enjoy their special events and occasions there. I will look forward to hopefully seeing you all throughout the upcoming months with people gathering and enjoying themselves in our fantastic town once more. In the meantime please stay safe.

Councillor Paul Vickers



Planning

As we are all aware the 2020 / 2021 Covid lockdowns and the accompanying rules have made many of us adapt how we carry out our roles. As with the majority of Town and Parish Councils BTC has moved council and committee meetings online, to ensure safe distancing for councillors and for residents who wish to engage with the various committees. Members of the public are welcome to attend all online full council and committee meetings.

Over the past year BTC planning committee has considered approximately 76 planning applications, slightly more than 2019/2020. These consisted of a broad range of applications including: - in the region of 400 new residential houses, modifications and extensions to existing houses, work to buildings within Barton's conservation area, work to be carried out to trees under the protection of TPO's (tree preservation orders) changes of use of existing properties, commercial advertising signs and retail change of use applications.

Applications of note include the development of Hewson's Mill site into residential housing, to include the mill itself, an extension of the Falkland Way estate with 317 new homes, major work to improve the facilities at the Joseph Wright Hall and an extension to Baysgarth School with new car parking facilities.

As a statutory consultee Barton Town Council is invited, by North Lincs Council, to consider every planning application that is submitted for within the boundary of the town, the Planning Committee looks in detail at each application and, following a vote, states whether we wishes to object to the application, giving reasons, or accept the application but pass comment on any part of an application that it feels should be modified.

The Committee's remit is to ensure that planning applications and amendments comply with the resultant location and use criteria, with the current Local Plan and with the additional rules that apply in the Conservation Area. Flooding risks continue to be a concern and the Committee draws this to the Local Authority's attention where it feels it should be investigated further.

There are strict guidelines on what may or may not be taken into consideration when the Committee considers an application, these are "material planning considerations" and "non material planning considerations" and it must adhere to the planning guidelines. As a statutory consultee North Lincolnshire Council invites Barton's Planning Committee to consider planning applications, however it should be noted that North Lincolnshire Council is the decision-making body.

The Planning Committee meets every three weeks, dates of meetings together with a meeting agenda, showing plans to be discussed, can be found on the Council's website <http://bartontowncouncil.org.uk/> and are also displayed in the notice board outside the Town Council Office at the Assembly Rooms in Queen Street. The plans can also be found on the North Lincolnshire Council website at <https://apps.northlincs.gov.uk/>. Residents are welcome to come along to our meetings and if they wish they can request to speak at the meeting on specific agenda items. They can also make representation to the Committee in writing.



It should be understood that this Committee's remit is to carefully review all Barton's planning applications and to make the Town Council's views known to North Lincolnshire Council. Our interest is on behalf of the town as a whole, and we cannot become involved in personal matters or disputes arising from such applications.

Finally I would like to thank all committee members for their efforts throughout the past year.

Councillor John Sanderson

Environment

Another year has passed and what a year. I, like many others are looking forward to a more normal year ahead. We decided very early in the pandemic to do some practical things and quickly marked out 2M lines on pavements around a number of Shops, GP Surgery etc, and we leafleted the whole town with useful contact numbers. In addition we gave financial support to The Ropewalk hot meal service and would like to thank all the volunteers that supported this over many months. The Town Council has repainted the gable end behind the bus shelter to improve the look of the Market Place.

I would like to congratulate Friends of Baysgarth Park and North Lincolnshire Council on the completion of the paths in Baysgarth Park. This was possible after we were awarded substantial funding from both North Lincolnshire Council, Barton Town Council and WREN Landfill; these new paths have further enhanced the park. Additionally the Town Council has repainted a number of seats and fitted new seats on Far Ings near the Humber Bridge access ramp and Fleetgate/Newport junction.

Unfortunately, the Best Kept Garden and Hanging Basket Competition could not go ahead due to Covid restrictions, but it will be held again this year, we are hoping for a few more businesses to enter, and it would be great to have more residents entering their gardens and hanging baskets too. The entry form for 2021 will be in the July Bartonian, copies will also be available from the Town Council Office from June 2021. Further to this we are rethinking the awards night to attract a bigger attendance.

We plan to continue with our own hanging baskets and planters around the town centre, these can be seen from the Beck area, along Burgate, High Street, King Street and George Street. The flowerbeds on Ferriby Road and Barrow Road will be planted with spring and summer plants.

Thank you to all the volunteers, including members of Barton Civic Society, Barton Lions Club and Barton Rotary Club for their help. I would also like to thank the Barton Baggers litter picking initiative which is really reaping dividends.

Councillor Jonathan Evison



Community

The Committee's aim is to make Barton a better place to live by staging events in the town such as the Picnic in the Park and the Christmas Festival, as well as assisting with donations for others such as Bike Night and the Barton Carnival.

As a result of the pandemic unfortunately none of this happened, the benefit to the town was that we managed to use the money saved from this to help the council support the Foodbank, Meals on Wheels and the community kitchen.

Some of the money saved from the cancelled Christmas Festival will also be invested into some great upgrades to the town's Christmas lights that will be displayed this year, We are also reviewing the supply of the town's Christmas tree as a result of some issues with the tree in 2020.

A date has not been set this year for the Picnic in the Park yet as the committee are determined to be able to hold the event and have delayed the decision to allow us the best chance of holding a great event, The Christmas Festival and light switch on this year will be held on Saturday 27th November and we hope to come back with a bang bringing a bigger and better festival than before.

The committee is also looking to look at ways of expanding how it supports the town including supporting local businesses and events and would be happy of any feedback on ways that we can help.

Councillor Ben Troop

The Neighbourhood Plan

Developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Barton in a pandemic has proved challenging, but the process is about to speed up. It is now over 18 months since the Town Council started the process which then had to be approved by North Lincolnshire Council. This did not come through until a year ago.

A small committee of Civic Society members chaired by Veronica Pettifer organised the delivery of a survey to every house in the town last September. The returned surveys were analysed over the autumn and various volunteers came forward to help with the detailed work of the topic specific sub groups and the Steering Group. Early in 2021, the interim Steering Group was augmented by Cllr Jon Evison as the NLC representative , with Cllrs Nigel Pinchbeck and Paul Vickers representing Barton Town Council. Other Steering Group members are Liz Bennet and Neil Jacques, with Veronica Pettifer as chair.

By the time of the Annual Town Meeting volunteers will have been notified which sub group they are on and hopefully as the current lock down eases, work can begin in earnest.



The Town Council Office will take on the administration of the Neighbourhood Plan as the new Town Clerk has experience of developing a plan from a previous role. Plans are also being made for an online consultation in conjunction with the May edition of the Bartonian.

Councillor Neil Jacques



Annual accounts 2020/21

Barton Town Council accounts are subject to External and Internal Audit. Residents are given the opportunity to inspect the accounts every year once they have been approved by the Full Council and submitted to the External Auditor. This public notice will be clearly displayed on the notice boards and the website and social media areas around June/July each year.

This year has been very different to other years from a financial point of view. The Council supports many community groups and events with financial donations, however many of these have been put on hold due to COVID-19. Donations have been made to groups supporting the community during the pandemic for continued support to the town during one of the most challenging years the nation has faced. The Council has continued to support services within the town such as the local bus services and the public conveniences as well as doing its best to ensure Christmas time was festive and cheerful. Additionally this year the Council has upgraded its IT system to a modern mobile working environment which has enabled members of staff to work from home with no reduction of productivity. Also savings continue to be sought within the administrative area and printing and postage will continue to be reduced over the next financial year.

The Council is committed to operating its services in the best environmental way that it can and further reductions to the carbon footprint will always be sought and acted upon. The Council is committed to sourcing local goods and services wherever possible whilst maintaining a high standard of delivery of services within the town.

Finances are discussed at the Finance & General Purposes Committee which is the committee that oversees the council finances. Finance documents are available for anyone to view. Committee meeting dates for the next civic year are available and all residents are welcome to attend the meetings.

Tracey Broughton

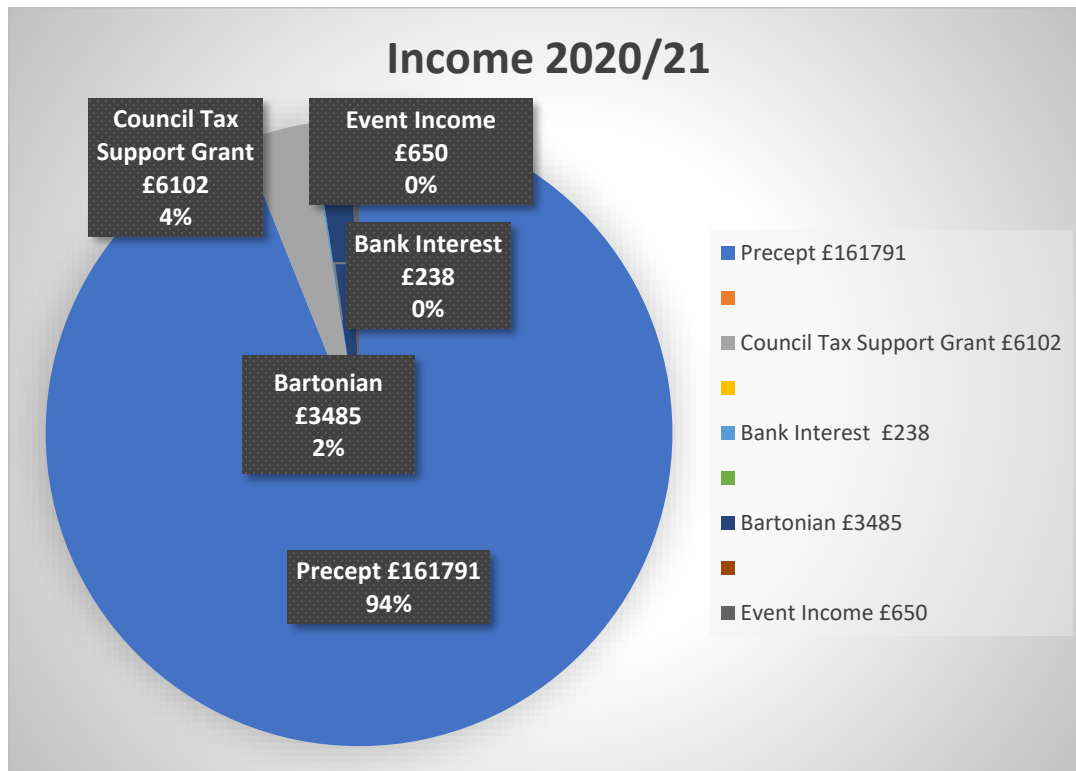
Town Clerk/RFO Barton Upon Humber Town Council



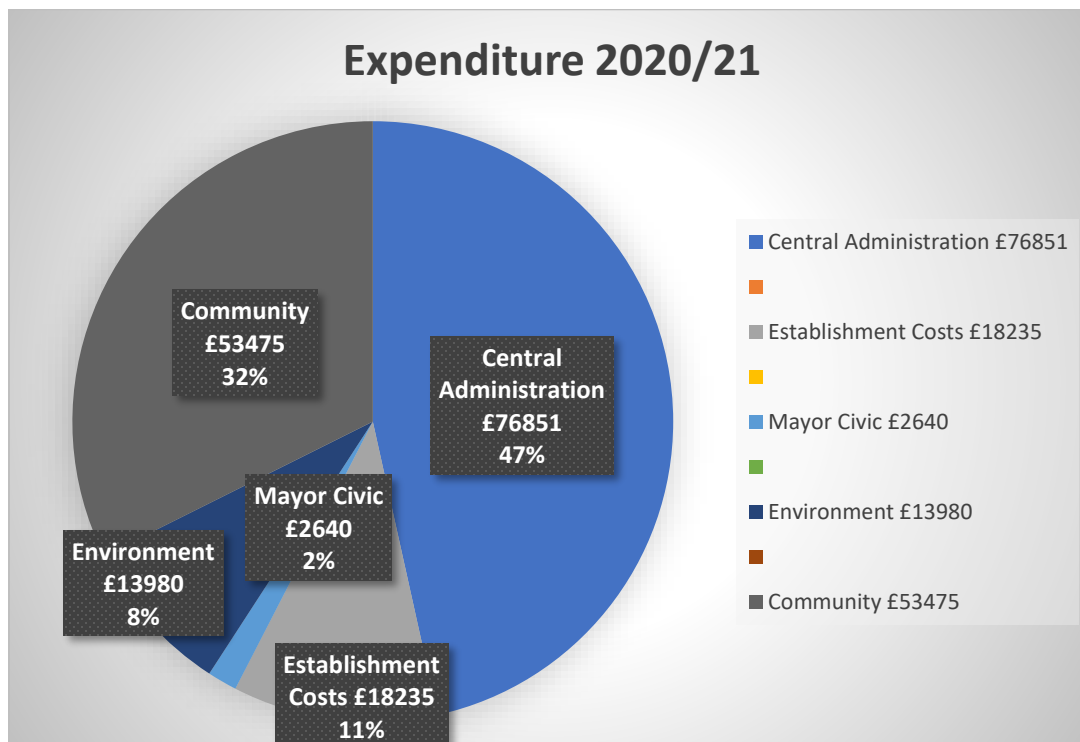
Waters' Edge Visitor Centre and Country Park, Barton.



Where does the funding come from?



Where does the money go to?





Grants awarded

In previous years, before the current pandemic Barton Town Council has award grants each year to many local community groups to help them put on events in the town, hopefully we will be able to continue this in the future. Previously we have supported:

- Barton Arts - £1,800.00
- Barton Bike Night - £2,000.00
- Barton Carnival - £1,000.00
- Barton Lions Bonfire & Firework Display - £2,000.00
- Barton Tourism Partnership - £6,000.00
- Barton Senior Alliance (Service & Tea) - £160.00
- Friends of Baysgarth Park - £12,000
- Christmas Lantern Parade - £3,000

Barton Town Council gives funding each year to North Lincolnshire Council to support the running of the Town Bus and for Public Conveniences in the town to be open at a weekend:

- Town Bus Grant £1470
- Barton Public Conveniences £1960
- Maintenance of Town Clock £200

- Remembrance Sunday Parade £750
- Rural Car Scheme £500

Barton Town Council pays for traffic management for the Remembrance Sunday Parade and towards the Voluntary Car Service.

- General donations (Section 137) £200
- General donations (Empowered) £1,321

Barton Town Council makes one off donations to Barton based community groups.

In 2020 additional donations were made during the pandemic to:

- Barton Area Foodbank - **£2,000.00**
- The Ropewalk, emergency hot meal service - **£7,500.00**
- Waterside Artist Co-operative, support community kitchen - **£2,500**



Any requests for grant funding from Barton Town Council must be made by completing the Town Council Grant Application form. Details can be requested from the Council Office via email: info@bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk

The Future of the Assembly Rooms



A Grade II Listed building built in 1843 and owned by Barton Upon Humber Town Council. The Town Council has set up a Working Group to look at the renovations required and prioritise them into order. The Council will be working in the future with interested groups from within the town and any advice and input is welcomed. It is hoped that any urgent repairs and renovations will be completed within the next few months. The Council has put aside some reserves and will be looking for grant funding to assist with the costs. The Working Group will report to the Full Council as well as the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Once plans have been put into place the Council will share these with the community.

The Assembly Rooms, Barton

Welcome Back!

Town Council staff and Councillors are preparing to welcoming you back into Barton Upon Humber Town Council Offices and Meetings.

Council meetings are due to return to face to face meetings from the 7th May 2021. There will be additional COVID-19 safety measures in place. These include 2 metre social distancing between each person and face masks to be worn upon entering and until departing the building. The Council is looking at ways to include the public from 7th May to at least the 21st June safely. There will not be sufficient space in the meeting room for any more than the number of councillors and staff and live streaming of the meetings is being considered.

The office is open and has remained open all through the pandemic. Please feel free to make an appointment with Town Council staff or call in. We must operate with only one visitor in at a time. We do have a barrier of Perspex between the public area and the staffing area to ensure everyone's safety.



Town Council Staff Changes

There have been changes to staffing within the Town Council during the past year which saw Shirley Richards retire as the Town Clerk and Tracey Broughton take on the role in October. Carol Clark stepped down from her role as Deputy Town Clerk and took on a part time administrative role within the Council. Clare Bramley filled the Deputy Town Clerk position in November.

Owing to the difficulties presented due to the pandemic it has not been the easiest transition to new roles however all staff members are embracing the challenges they are faced with and endeavoring to offer residents a valuable and essential service.



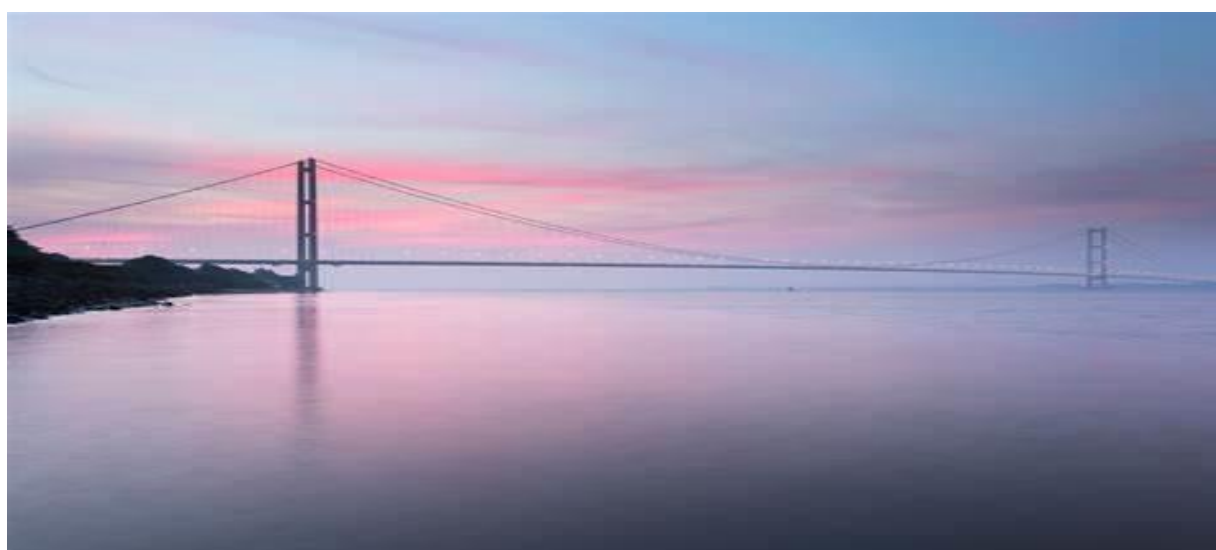
Carol Clark
Admin Support



Clare Bramley
Deputy Town Clerk



Tracey Broughton
Town Clerk



View of Humber Estuary.