

**WELCOME MESSAGE FROM
COUNCILLOR KEITH HEPPLER, J.P.
LEADER OF HETTON TOWN COUNCIL**



Welcome to the 2013/2014 Annual Report, this is the full report of the Council activities, a summary will be published in the next Hetton Town Courier Newsletter which is delivered free to all 7,000 homes in our district.

The Report has been produced and made available prior to and for the Annual Meeting of the Council, which is to be held on Monday 19th May, 2014 at 7.00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, the Hetton Centre.

The Annual Meeting is a meeting where electors of the parish of Hetton can attend and provides an opportunity for residents to review and discuss with the Town Council the year's activities.

Hetton Town Council serves the villages of Easington Lane, Hetton Centre, Low Moorsley, East Rainton and Hetton Downs, with a population of 16,000 plus people in nearly 7,000 properties.

The Town Council is unique in the City of Sunderland being the only grass roots first tier of Government, however, our neighbouring authority of Durham is fully parished with more than 100 such authorities, providing a very strong voice for the residents. Hetton Town Council are however members of Durham County Association of Local Councils and gain great benefits from the training, advice and information of being involved with all neighbouring local councils, both large and small.

There are around 9,500 Parish and Town Councils within England, as the first tier of Local Government who work closely with other agencies and principle authorities in order to provide and achieve the best for their immediate local communities.

The town Council has 21 members, four of these are also Sunderland City Councillors; Councillor Mrs. F. Anderson, Councillor J. Blackburn, Councillor R. Heron and Councillor D. Tate all hold important positions with the City and champion our area at the highest level. Indeed I congratulate Councillor Heron who had had the honour of serving as the Rt. Worshipful Mayor of the City of Sunderland this year. He has done a magnificent job in fulfilling First Citizen,

provided me personally with major issues, but all the years that I have been privileged to lead the Council.

Meetings of the Town Council are held in the Council Chambers. The Hetton Centre. The Agenda for the meeting is published one week prior to the Meeting and is placed on public display on the Notice Boards at the Hetton Centre and in Hetton Library. All Meetings are open to the public, the Council are happy for persons to give their views or comments during the specified Public Participation time.

If possible the mayor, who chairs the meeting, will give an immediate answer, but the Council cannot take any decision at such time. In accordance with the Standing Order of the Council, no decision can be taken without notification on the Agenda. It is more probable that your comments will be noted, then discussed at the next Meeting.

However, if you have any minor issues, e.g. street lights not working, litter problems etc. these can be reported to the Town Clerk for action on the night.

Minutes of all Meetings are published and available to the public from Hetton Library, Public Notice Board in the Hetton Centre, Front Street, the Town Council Office and on the Council's website.

The Minutes are also distributed to City Council Chief Officers, local M.P. and local police teams. Hetton Town Council has the Quality Council status, a nationally recognised chartermark, proving the Town Council is managed in a professional manner.

The Civic Year rapidly develops and each year many issues are discussed, argued and hopefully resolved, to the benefit of all residents.

Each year my colleagues examine and discuss many local issues which are important to each and everyone of us, it is difficult times, not just locally, but nationally, however, I can assure every resident that the Councillor Members of Hetton Town Council are committed 100% to ensure the Hetton District is

REPORT OF HETTON TOWN COUNCIL

YEAR ENDING 30th APRIL 2014

The Annual Report 2013/2014 is published not only to comply with Government Statutory Legislation, but to ensure that all local residents of Hetton-le-Hole and District, their working partnership and other community groups will be able to obtain a copy in order to evaluate and understand the workings of their own, unique Town Council, the only such tier of Local Government within the City of Sunderland.

Hetton Town Council, formed following Local Government re-organisation in 1974, the Parish area is taken from the former Urban District boundaries and are from Broomhill and Rainton Gate in the north to Snippersgate on the southern perimeter, including the villages of East Rainton and Moorsley in the west.

In the latest Census, figures published indicate that within the Town Council boundary there are approximately 16,000 residents living in almost 7,000 households, with an average owner occupation of properties being in excess of 60% and car ownership in the region of 35%.

The 21 Members of the Town Council who represent the District on a voluntary commitment, continue to examine, consult and lobby on many varied and important aspects of our community under the guidance of the Mayor of the year, Councillor Mrs. Doris Turner.

The Council is represented on many organisations, community groups and consultation forums where all matters of public life are examined.

At present the Town Council meets every 3rd Monday of the month (excluding August) at 7.15 p.m. in the Council Chambers (Room No. 1) at the heton Centre, this arrangement is reviewed annually. Everyone is welcome to come along and see what is going on and what the Members are hoping to

NEXUS	-	Many public concerns regarding
Go-Ahead Northern	-	public transport services were examined At a Public Meeting and Council meetings
Northumbria Police	-	Various meetings and issues
Gentoo	-	Housing issues
County Durham Foundation	-	Funding opportunities
Hetton Town Trust	-	Community issues
City of Sunderland Council	-	Development of community use at Elemore Golf Club Regeneration & Planning Strategy and Development of new housing Licencing applications Northumbria in Bloom Highway development Community Development issues Traffic signage and road safety issues Hetton Downs Renewal Project

MAYOR'S LETTER TO ALL



What a fantastic, interesting and fulfilling year I have enjoyed as the Mayor of Hetton Town Council. I am extremely proud, humbled and honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve the community in such a position. I have enjoyed meeting so many individuals and groups during the year, there is truly so much going on in our district. I have been so lucky to have met so many of our volunteers. It never fails to amaze me how many dedicated, hard working and inspirational people we have in our town area, who despite the difficult present financial climate, I am heartened by the spirit still shown by organisations.

At every opportunity I have tried throughout my year not only to raise funds for my nominated charity, but to profile and raise knowledge of Hetton Town Council. We are unique and provide a superb voice for our district, believe it or not, many other areas are envious of our own grass-roots authority.

This year my nominated chosen charity has been Parkinson's U.K., which is a wonderful organisation helping many thousands of sufferers and their families. A percentage of the money raised over the year will go to the Sunderland Branch and the majority going to help with the research carried out by Professor Burn at the Newcastle RVI.

I would like to thank John Price our Town Clerk for all the help given to me during my year of office. Special thanks go to my friend, Ann Huitson, who agreed to be my Mayoress and she has been a valued and superb Mayoress this year. I thank her most sincerely. The Mayor's Chaplain this year has been Rev. Gill McBride, who led the Mayor's Civic Service and other events.

As most people are aware Hetton is a very close-knit community and I am privileged to serve the people of the Hetton Ward on Hetton Town Council. During my term of Office as Mayor, I have had the pleasure of visiting various primary schools to present awards and saw for myself the wonderful work the teachers do in these schools. I have listened to the Hetton Lyons and Eppleton Academy School Choirs as they performed at the opening of Church Fairs, the Hetton School Band at the switching on of the Hetton Christmas Lights and also Easington Lane Primary School choir at the switching on of the Easington Lane Christmas Lights. I also presented Bikability Awards (which we knew as Cycling Proficiency Awards) at Eppleton Academy, Hetton Lyons Primary and Hetton Primary. I toured the local residential homes in Hetton at Christmas and one gentleman asked me if I was wearing a toilet chain around my neck. I said it would make a rather expensive toilet chain!

I attended the Disabled Club Christmas Party at Easington Lane as well as the Senior Citizens Christmas Party. These two organisations have been run for many years by volunteers.

I have presented Awards to young members of Hetton Hawkes Cycling Club, which hold races in Hetton Country Park and also take part in cycling events in other parts of the country. This club is also run by local volunteers.

During my Term of Office I had the privilege of opening the new Tesco Express Store. It is good to see an old school building being put to a new use. It had been used as a small supermarket for a number of years but Tesco have done an excellent refurbishment of the building and special thanks to the builder, for the display of local scenes of Hetton in years gone by, on the outside of the building.

Another old building was resurrected, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Limestone Landscapes. This was the old Smithy at Bog Row which has been brought back to life and I was invited to unveil the wall plaque. Limestone Landscapes, along with the history Group and Green Watch, are in the process of producing a Village Atlas and a preview of this will be given at an environmental day which is being held on 30th May in the Hetton Centre. The launch of the Atlas will take place sometime between June and September. Notices will be posted around the area when date is confirmed. I also attended the opening of Hetton Band Hall at Beamish Museum. It's great to think that we have a street of houses and now the Band hall from Hetton in Beamish Museum.

Last but not least, I must thank his Hon. Worship, the Mayor of Sunderland, Cllr Bob Heron, who is also a Member of Hetton Town Council, for ensuring I was invited to the major events held in Sunderland. I will never forget the wonderful sight of the 4th Regiment Royal Artillery marching past Mowbray Park when they received the Freedom of the City and talking to the Officers at the reception afterwards. Also meeting the Mayor of St. Nazaire and Niall Quinn as they received the Freedom of the City as well as Mr. Trevor Mann, who also received the Freedom of the City for his work at Nissan. As a keen Sunderland supporter I was thrilled to meet and speak to Gus Poyet, the Sunderland AFC Head Coach, after he had switched on the Sunderland Christmas Lights.

My Mayor's Civic Annual Dinner held on 25th April, 2014 contuse to provide an excellent networking event for Hetton Town Council. In addition, this year my charity benefited by more than £1600 from fundraising proceeds. I do hope that everyone will feel I have worked with enthusiasm and

HOW IS THE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCED

Hetton Town Council has rigid procedures and controls to ensure all financial matters are carefully considered, managed and conducted as a totally transparent and fair operation.

The Council has a Finance and Resources Committee made up of a group of Councillors, including the Council Leader and Deputy Leader, the Finance Committee is Chaired by Councillor W. L. Glover and the Committee meets Bi-monthly. Whilst the meetings are open to the public to attend, under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 100A (4), any item on the ~Agenda which contains confidential information (i.e. financial information relating to individuals or commercially sensitive), the public are excluded at this point on the Agenda.

The Finance Committee must submit all recommendations to a meeting of the Full Council for approval and resolution. The Town Council follow an adopted set of Financial ~Regulations which are published in booklet form and are available for public inspection, as are the Minutes of the Finance Meeting once approved by Full Council.

Councillor Glover says 'All residents of Hetton-le-Hole and District can be assured that all financial matters and transactions are examined and strictly adhered to procedures in order to ensure a robust, fair and transparent system, which gives the maximum value for money to all. The Members of the Finance Committee all give a tremendous amount of their time and energies, at no cost to the community. I thank them, as Chairman, most sincerely.'

The Town Council raises a small precept Council Tax on each of the properties in Hetton District which originally were in the boundaries of the old Urban District Council prior to 1974.

It is accepted that no-one enjoys paying any sort of tax, however, it is hoped that the Town Council can give real value for money to the 16,000 resident living in 6,800 properties in the District, ensuring a safer, brighter, attractive district.

For the sixth year in succession the Town Council have voted to have **no increase whatsoever** to the tax levied and operate under a stand still budget. Most of the properties in Hetton come under 'Band A' category and pay annually a figure of £8.75, this amounts to 17p per week, much less than half the price of a first class stamp!

So what do you get for your money? The Town Councillors do not receive

Hetton Town Council 2013-14

HETTON-LE-HOLE WARD



Councillor

Mrs. F. Anderson

'The Willows'



Councillor

W. L. Glover

7 Alexander Drive



Councillor

Mrs. D. Turner

58 Bailey Way



Councillor

C. R. Nairns

23 North Road



Councillor

J. Steel

'Heppedune'



Councillor

A. R. Wilkinson

3 Woodlea Close

EASINGTON LANE WARD



***Councillor**

J. Blackburn

8 Hartside Gardens



Councillor

Mrs. J. Blackburn

58 Lillywhite Terrace



Councillor

D. Todd

18 Moorhouse Gardens



Councillor

A. Maddison

4 Ullswater Avenue



Councillor

Mrs. E. Richardson

19 Bedford Street



Councillor

Mrs. M. A. Adamson

13 Lyons Avenue

HETTON DOWNS WARD



Councillor

G. W. K. Hepple

44 St. Cuthbert's Close



Councillor

Mrs. J. Heron

26 Low Downs Road



Councillor

R Heron

26 Low Downs Road



Councillor

W. S. Robinson

14 Doxford Terrace



Councillor

Alan Robson

57 Coptleigh

EAST RAINTON and MOORSLEY WARD



Councillor

Mrs. D. Storey

1 Ennerdale Street



Councillor

R. D. Tate

25 Ennerdale Street



Councillor

John Cummings

Paddock Lodge

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Have been made to a range of groups, including elderly, sporty, schools, musical and individuals. The Town Council are actively developing a renewal plan for street furniture and seating, you may have already seen new seats in high Moorsley and High Street, Easington Lane.

The Council also assists many community projects such as, the Town Centre Christmas Illuminations and Entertainment. We were able to put in infrastructure, purchase, illuminate and erect Christmas Trees on the village green locations in Moorsley and East Rainton, therefore, trying to support the outside areas as well as the Town Centre, Hetton Public Firework Display to give the people of the town something to enjoy and of course produces your own Hetton Town Courier Newsletter distributed to each household four times a year.

Each new Civic Year the Town Clerk resents a Report outlining justification for new budget requests for the forthcoming year.

'The proposed budget/council expenditure for the new financial year April 2014 - March 2015 is set out to accommodate financial commitments and aspirations of the Town Council. In line with current National and Regional situations, it is accepted that in this acute financial climate the Town Council should introduce a flat NIL increase for the forthcoming year 2014/2015 giving a freeze on salaries and all council expenditure, which will in real terms introduce a reduction in available expenditure.'

Extract Council Expenditure 2014/15 Precept budget maintained nil increase.

Supplies and Services	Estimated Expenditure
Lease photocopying/printing/stationery/telephone	1,230
Accountancy Services	
Government Audit Annual Return	560
Internal Accountancy Control	400
Public Liability Insurance	600
Website Management	360
Quality Council and training for members & Officers	200

Members

Civic Matters

Remembrance & Special Events	1,500
Christmas Illuminations Project	3,000

Publicity & Town Council Newsletter

Four publications	2,000
Newspaper advertising	250

Council Operation

Statutory Publications	400
Administration Support Services	400
Salaries & NIB	34,680
	£65,720

Financed By

Precept on Council Tax, 7,000 properties
V.A.T. Refund
E.Q.P. Community Grant
Interest on Investment

Hetton Town Council currently has at 31/3/14 investment reserves. However, if the Council accept the Report and proposals as outlined, the expenditure raised will meet requirements and current expenditure from the levied Precept and not need to use any of the reserves.

This in turn will of course encourage good housekeeping and careful monitoring of expenditure will enable investment to be maintained at the level until 31st march, 2015.

The Council has a financial strategy to ensure financial control and accountability, some of the principles are:

- (i) To continue to be seen as forward thinking and progressive and contributing to the town's regeneration initiatives.
- (ii) To maintain the existing level of expenditure on issues, but at the same time recognising that these need to be reviewed.

Planning Consultations

Whilst Sunderland City Council are the principal planning authority and all planning applications are determined by them, Hetton Town Council has an important role which is set out in planning Legislation and that is of a statutory consultee body.

Every application submitted from within Hetton and District is put before the Town Council at a meeting for the views and use of local knowledge to consider the merits for the plans; applications, whether it's for a small kitchen extension or up to a major development for 300 dwellings, they are all examined.

The Town Council can make comments relating to perhaps traffic and road safety issues, localised existing problems and as to how the application may affect other local residents and other agencies which may be able to make relevant comment and of course, other government agency consultees, e.g. The environment Agency. Or of course the Members will demand a site meeting to view matters with a Planning Officer.

Obviously planning applications also involve either support or objections from local residents and groups, who may present their case to the Town Council for support and suggestion.

The Town Council often meet and discuss issues in this way. Again a unique extra voice for the residents of Hetton-le-Hole.

In any one Civic Year, the Town Council may well consider more than 100 applications for the district.

During the past year the Town Council Planning & Development Sub-committee have been consulted and discussed several important issues which could have a major effect on the infrastructure of the Town.

Three large housing development applications have been submitted for

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CHAMPIONS OF THE COMMUNITY?

THE Town council promote a scheme whereby members of the community who are devoted to an organisation or group and spend many hours of their personal time working hard for the benefit of others, are acknowledged. The unsung heroes, making everyone's life a little better, a big 'thank you' to them. The recognition of such people is not only seen as appropriate awards to them, but also reflect community life in our district, again fostering Civic Pride and worthiness to the Town.

In this the ninth year of the scheme, many nominations were received and via a very careful selection process, they were presented with their Silver Salver Awards by the mayor of the Council at the Annual Dinner in April.

The Council are asking for your help. If you know someone -simply contact your local councillor and make the nomination and then it is hoped to reward the person with a public presentation of an engraved Silver Salva by the Mayor. This year the persons receiving the Award were:

Dr. Baldasera who has recently retired from Hetton medical Practice after more than 30 years of loyal service to the Hetton community. He was much valued, loved and trusted by many of he will be missed greatly in the whole community, not only as the local GP but also a personal and family friend to many.

Janice Robson-Parmley has been recognised for her years of superb service as Area Officer of Age Concern. She supported and developed many groups and became a sincere friend to many.

Public Participation

Hetton Town Council's Meetings have an official Public participation item included on the Agenda.

This is part of the Council's drive to give local residents the opportunity to express their views on issues that might affect them. At each of the Council's full Council Meetings the mayor gives the public present the opportunity to make their views known or to suggest new ideas they'd like Town Councillors to consider.

Your item may be discussed immediately or noted and discussed at a lagter meeting. If you have minor issues or those that need dealing with urgently, i.e. stteet lights not working or litter problems, you should write a short outlining the issue and leave it at the Town Council's Offices in the Hetton Centre where it will be dealt with immediately.

In the recent Civic Year there has been a strong public attendance at all of the 20 meetings held. The residents have been given the opportunity to highlight issues of



GRANTS TO THE COMMUNITY

Hetton Town Council each year try to encourage and assist local groups or organisations to take advantage of the Grants Award Scheme. The scheme is in place not only to support those in the Town who are involved in leisure or cultural activities. Grants can either be a cash award, where appropriate, or by the purchase of equipment, coaching or

services.

All requests submitted on the appropriate form, obtainable from the Town Council Office, are required to be accompanied by full detailed estimates of requirements and balance sheet of the organisation.

Here are some of the Awards made in the last financial year:

Hetton Lyons Primary School	- Maypole Dancing Event
East Rainton Cricket Club	- Equipment and repairs
Houghton Round Table	- Sponsorship of Public Firework Display
Eppleton Banner Group	- Attendance at Durham Gala
Elemore Banner Group	- Attendance at Durham Gala
Hetton School	- Attendance Award Scheme
Hetton Juniors F.C.	- Equipment and Ground Fees
Hetton Lyons Cricket Club	- Ground support
Moorsley Residents Group	- For social events
Hetton & Eppleton Community Hall	- For social events
Easington Lane Senior Citizens Club	- For social events
Elemore Ladies Club	- For social events
Hetton Town Trust	- Advertising support
Age U.K. (Hetton)	- Grant for social events
Eppleton Cricket Club	- Grant for Junior Team equipment
Hetton Greenwatch Environment Group	- Grant to support activities

Exciting new funds are available to residents of Hetton & District, funds which may be able to support larger capital and development needs.

Thanks to a partnership with Hetton Town and E-On Climate and Renewables, a substantial commitment has been made to the area by introducing a community fund for the benefit of local community organisations.

E-On has worked for four years in our district on the Wind Turbine Project at Eppleton, which culminated on the official opening of the Wind Farm in June 2010 and the fund looks set to continue E-On's interest in the area. All groups are eligible to apply for the fund, which is intended to help in all aspects of benefiting community groups.

The scheme is administered by County Durham Community Foundation; which allocates grants to local good causes that make a real difference to people's quality of life and community involvement.

The grants are considered by a panel of independent members, which includes Members of Hetton Town Council and the applications are assessed to meet various criteria.

For full details and to apply on-line visit www.cdcf.org.uk or contact Town Clerk, John Price at the Hetton Centre on (0191) 553 6600.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK



We all know that nationally the country is suffering a very difficult time and locally also each year continues to present many challenges for the Town Council and individual Members, change and development are paramount and the need to face these matters, is at times difficult, we are fully mindful of the current financial climate and restraints.

I am really delighted to report that yet again, for the fifth year in succession the Town Council have frozen Council Tax Precept, a NIL increase for residents, a remarkable achievement. However, this will of course mean a reduction in funds available for Council operations and desires. The Town Council, as all organisations, works hand in hand with many partners to seek to ensure maximum efficiencies and benefits and continues to present all manner of issues to Sunderland City Council for action and resolutions if possible.

Since the signing of the 'Charter of Working' in 2009 and more relevant the fact that in 2010 the Council achieved a 'Quality Status' Award. This results in the Town Council being confident and can stand proud when working in partnership with colleagues, providers and other agencies.

The Town Council acts as a catalyst between public and local authority to resolve and lobby on specific matters, this is a unique benefit for the people of Hetton-le-Hole within the City of Sunderland and should not be undervalued.

I again acknowledge and thank the support and patience of City Council colleagues and Hetton Town Council Members, especially during the past 12 months when major issues, including proposals for major housing developments, which would change the face of our district with an increase of up to 1,000 new dwellings is being carefully examined, together with all of the implications related to such as traffic congestion and control, the effect on the schools in the Town and of course on the environment.

Many matters raised by Members are difficult to resolve in a short period, however, in general, Hetton Town Council provides a unique service and voice to the people of Hetton-le-Hole and District. The management of Council business and all full Town Council meetings are open to the public, when the public can scrutinise, contribute to and highlight matters of concern, we really appreciate attendance at every Council Meeting by residents and Friends Lobby Groups, who have participated in the meetings 'Public Participation' item on each Agenda, where their interest and expertise has been valued.

The Town Council is determined to face many changes and difficulties of public life, within the guidelines and restraints of finance and Government

