

ANNUAL REPORT

From Baildon Town Council



Chair's Introduction

It was an honour to serve as Chair of the Council for a fifth term.

The year 2019/20 began with the local elections, when all twelve council seats were opened for contest. Ballots were not required, because the number of candidates standing for election equalled the number of vacancies in five of the six wards, with West Ward retaining one vacancy. This vacancy and two others caused by resignations, were filled by co-option. Overall, at the local elections, six councillors retired, six were re-elected (three serving a full year) and five were newly-elected. One further co-option is pending. I would like to thank all the outgoing councillors for their public service.

After a busy introduction to the new term, we concluded the year in the most unusual circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic. Baildon can be proud of the community response.

Cllr Joe Ashton

*Baildon Town Council (South Ward)
Chair of the Council*

Baildon Hybrid Library

It has been a year of considerable upheaval at Baildon Library which has included:

- Bradford Libraries funding cuts;
- Industrial action by paid staff due to reduction in staffing levels;
- Closure of Ian Clough Hall and uncertainty about where Baildon Library would move to;
- and finally, the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the nationwide lockdown.

Despite all this, our volunteers have continued to do a sterling job. 44 volunteers have given 3,044 hours of their time to keep the library open for the community.

As well as supporting paid staff on the front desk, volunteers have also been involved in:

- Thursday Storytime sessions - up to 30 under five year-olds join Jill and Jane for stories, songs and crafts;
- Book Promotions and Displays have been created by Rosie who spends a lot of time selecting books and creating eye-catching decorations;
- A mural of the Solar System was created in the children's area for the Summer Reading Challenge, 'Space Chase';
- Monthly Family History Drop-in Sessions have been run by Rosemary, Linda, Jill and Isobel and are open to all library users who are researching their family history;
- Volunteers, Paul and Rosemary, have been busy indexing the Baildon Library History Archive to make these available to the public;
- Rosie, Rosemary, Paul & Jane spent many hours working on the Art Collection to make the stock available to the public - this is now on hold due to the relocation of the library;
- A fortnightly Craft & Chat group has taken place on Fridays.

Baildon Town Council has also supported local charities through the library:

- A collection for the food bank at St Hugh's Community Centre for Christmas;
- A donation point for the Red Box Project Bradford;

- A successful coffee morning raised £216 for Macmillan Cancer Support;
- A donation point for the Shipley Area School Uniform Bank.

The Town Council has also worked with local groups to create displays and events in the library including:

- Dementia Friendly Baildon;
- St James' Church;
- Zero Waste Baildon;
- Fairtrade Baildon;
- Baildon Imagination Library, and;
- A local children's author, Emma Greenhalgh, delivered a story and craft session to promote her new book, Firefighter Ruby, as part of International Women's Week.

Everyone at Baildon Town Council would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all our volunteers, we wouldn't have a library in Baildon without all of their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work.



Bracken Hall Countryside Centre

This year saw the return and redisplay of many local artefacts including the carved Heygate Stone, a bronze-age cinerary urn, and many other items, on loan from the Bradford Museums and Galleries Service. This necessitated a complete reworking of our exhibition space. We further reclaimed the Wildlife Garden, a popular inclusion in the 2019 Baildon Open Gardens event. The Garden was also utilised by many activities including our ever-popular Wild Wednesdays, Baildon Men's Shed, and Bracken Tots (our regular pre-school sessions).

The Centre welcomed guests from near and far as casual visitors and for a wide range of special events including guided walks, workshops, and anything from handweaving to cacti. Our themed educational activities, changed every month, proved popular. The value of the Centre was recognized by the UK Acoustics Network with sponsorship to further develop acoustic displays and activities.

Our work, including being open to the general public every Saturday and Sunday afternoon, could not have been done without the generosity of volunteers. Virtually everything that has been achieved at the Centre this year was done with the assistance, initiative, effort, inventiveness, and enthusiasm of our volunteers. Please get in touch if you feel you could contribute.

Richard White, Bracken Hall Countryside Centre Manager



Community Committee

While 2020 may have started auspiciously, reflecting on 2019 has made me realise what we have achieved. This has been my first year on the council after a number of years supporting the Higher Coach Road Residents Group and I was as surprised as pleased to find myself in the Chair's seat for the Community Committee. Such was the drive and enthusiasm for community spirit among the councillors we even increased the number of spaces on the committee to allow for everyone wishing to support such an integral part of our responsibilities the opportunity to do so.

We gave out a record number of Skylark grants (small pots of funding for local projects) and received applications from a wider than normal range of organisations. These grants supported:

- Sending local young residents to Austria to represent Great Britain at the World Gymnaestrada,
- The delivery and development of a men's health group (that moved to online delivery during lockdown)
- Baildon Imagination Library to help ensure 300 children of pre-school age in Baildon receive a book every month
- Baildon Friends of the Earth to build nest boxes for swifts to help protect declining numbers
- Baildon Village Pre School to pay for a new office computer and to purchase outdoor equipment
- Baildon Rangers with a trip to Gdansk at the European Jamboree

All funds well spent I think you'll agree...

We have made a commitment to the review of community organisational funding in preparation for the end of the current 3 year rounds. While this has been temporarily halted by the interruption of Covid-19 it is still on the agenda for the committee. Currently we financially support Baildon Buddies, Baildon Community Link, St Hugh's and HALE (Health Action Local Engagement charity) (in total providing funding of £43,000 per annum) who continue to provide outstanding resourceful and value for money services in our community.

We remain inspired by the projects that we support and the outcomes they achieve for the people of our town. Inspired by the people we meet at events, at committee meetings and in Baildon in general; and inspired by the community spirit and generosity we observe and receive as residents – especially in these difficult times.

Our committee members are as diverse as they are committed and the committee has gone from strength to strength in its membership since April 2019. Presuming that the rest of 2020 does not bring Godzilla to our doors (the way it's gone so far I wouldn't bet against it) bring on 2021 and let's see what we can achieve!

Cllr Joseph Kean
Chair of Community Committee

Skylark Grants

Many of the projects mentioned in this newsletter are funded directly by the Town Council but the council also has a community group grants scheme – the Skylark Grants offering grants of up to £500 (see our website for details of eligibility).

During the 2019/20 council year, six Skylark Community Grants were awarded to the following groups:

Saltaire Gym Club (who operate from a Baildon school) received £1,000 towards coach travel for a trip to Austria to attend the 'World Gymnaestrada' event where they were representing Great Britain. 26 gymnasts travelled to Austria and the trip was a great success creating lasting memories for all those involved.

The group **Reach Your Potential** received £500 to help to fund a project to support men in isolation in the BD17/18 area, supporting their mental and physical health and connecting people through activities.

Baildon Imagination Library were granted £500 to help ensure 300 children of pre-school age in Baildon receive a

quality, age appropriate book every month through the post to share with their parents to encourage literacy and the love of books.

Baildon Village Pre School received £500 to pay for a new office computer to keep accurate records and to purchase outdoor equipment such as balance bikes and a tepee.

Baildon Friends of the Earth have used a grant of £500 towards the cost of materials to build nest boxes for swifts and to produce leaflets about the swifts that visit Baildon and how we can protect these birds which are declining in numbers.

Finally **Baildon Rangers** received £900 to assist with a trip to Gdansk to attend the European Jamboree.



Allotments

Over the last year there have been several developments at Baildon Horticultural Society. The introduction of Smallholder Plots has enabled many rare breeds of poultry to be officially kept and resulted in a much increased waiting list. The new Committee has embarked on a full review of the Constitution, Rules and Procedures to bring us in line with contemporary standards.

We were grateful to the Town Council for the provision of a grant to enable us to purchase a new noticeboard which has been a boon in helping us communicate with our 'non-internet' members.

We also, in conjunction with the Town Council, have been able to sort out the long-term flooding problems at the Charlestown site.

The Annual Show in September was a great success, unfortunately the Coronavirus has curtailed this year's show together with the priorities we had set ourselves for 2020. We hope to return to the development and expansion of the Society when the pandemic is over.

John Turner, Chair of Baildon Horticultural Society

Baildon Neighbourhood Watch

This year has seen a remarkable growth of 'Neighbourhood Watches' in Baildon, going from 94 in May last year to 143 to date! That's over a third of Baildon's streets covered and has resulted in a huge reduction in crime, especially residential burglaries which in this quarter last year went down over 50%.

Sgt. Terri Green states "this is largely due to #baildonarmy reporting Livetime with good quality community information, raised awareness, crime prevention advice and simply looking out for each other" - well done Baildon.

In October I held a 'Pop-Up' stall in the Co-op to promote Neighbourhood Watch which was very successful & attracted five new coordinators. All coordinators are signed up by myself and provided with a coordinator pack including street signs and are fully supported by myself and West Yorkshire Police (WYP).

The Annual NHW Meeting was unfortunately postponed due to Covid-19, but will go ahead as planned soon with guest speakers from several WYP departments including Drugs, Crime Prevention, 101/999 Contact Centre and of course our Neighbourhood Police Team. Everyone attending will be given a free 'goody bag' of crime prevention gadgets, so keep an eye out for the date to be announced.

Cllr Maggie Town, Lead Coordinator Baildon NHW

Photo by Robin Weedon



Baildon Tree Planting Partnership

One of the most important projects of the Environment Committee this year has been the Tree Planting Partnership. This scheme was instigated by a Baildon resident, Richard Nottidge, who came to Baildon Town Council last year to help him develop and deliver a plan for planting trees at various sites across the Baildon area.

Trees are an important ally in combating climate change as they store carbon dioxide and emit oxygen. Both nationally and regionally there have been major tree planting schemes and Richard believed, and the Council agreed, that Baildon should be part of this and, indeed, lead the way for the district.

It was agreed to set up a Tree Planting Partnership and the group "The Forest of Bradford" was enlisted to help with advice and on-the-ground training. Many other groups have since been involved such as Baildon Runners (who have also provided sponsorship money), 2nd Baildon Guides, Friends of Hallcliffe Garden, Baildon Youth Council, Glenaire School and Titus Salt pupils as well as many others who have done the hard work of planting the trees.



Since Christmas nearly 1,300 trees have been planted on four sites and over 100 people have been involved. The next stage is to identify community volunteers to be Tree Wardens to look after the trees. The plan for next year is more ambitious and several landowners have already agreed to have trees planted on their land. Already a number of other town councils have approached Richard for advice about starting their own tree planting schemes. This is a fantastic example of what can be achieved by volunteers and is also an example of the Town Council supporting a resident's volunteer group in the right way.

Cllr Alan Clubb, Chair of the Environment Committee

More news from the Environment Committee

In other news from the Environment Committee... there have been improvements made at the Bracken Hall Countryside Centre (BHCC). A new security system has been installed, the main area has seen a major revamp to improve access and exhibits for visitors. Old artifacts such as the millstone have been returned from storage by Bradford Council.

Another volunteer group supported by the Chair of the Environment Committee (Cllr Alan Clubb) is Zero Waste Baildon set up by Julia Donoghue and Chris Flecknoe. This group is starting to make an impact in Baildon with events at the Co-op to put a spotlight on the huge problem of plastic usage on foodstuffs. In addition the Harley Davison event in August last year, although a huge success for the Town, created masses of plastic waste including the use and disposal of over 30,000 single use plastic glasses. The group, supported by the Council, are looking at ways of reducing the use of plastic at this event by using compostable glasses, mugs and food containers. Discussions with pubs and clubs has started and the initial response has been favourable.

A potential future project that the Environment Committee is engaged with, and one which will have a major impact on the village, is the 'Pennithorne Green' improvements.

This idea was first proposed by a member of the Golf Club - Andrew Burgess - who came to the council to ask if we could help improve the area around the new clubhouse. The initial idea has now morphed into the potential to create a community amenity - something like a village green. This project is in its infancy but already some planning has been done to target the large mound next to the clubhouse to create a rockery garden with volunteers from Hallcliffe Garden involved. Before any further work is started the Council will engage with the community, especially the residents near the area, to collate ideas for what should be done for the benefits of the whole community.



News from the Economy Committee

Baildon wins top awards!

Our restored public toilets on Northgate were entered for 'Loo of the Year' and we were delighted to receive a platinum award. A special mention was made of the fantastic murals. Thanks to all the Love our Loos volunteers who have supported this project.

We supported the World Championship Women's Elite race as it passed through Baildon on 28th September 2019. Thanks to fantastic support from BIG Baildon and Hollins Hall Hotel, a total of £3,690 was raised.

Baildon Town Council contributed nearly £2000, which funded all the festivities and in particular the Baildon Landart. All five schools in Baildon were involved, including children aged 5 to 15 years, led by Tim Curtis, local artist, cyclist and Baildon resident. The design, which displayed a bicycle with turning wheels, was featured on the BBC coverage of the event, and went on to become the winning Landart entry for the region, awarded by Welcome to Yorkshire. A fantastic team effort!



Improving transport in Baildon

'Finding a Way' is the partnership between Baildon Town Council and the Higher Coach Road Residents Group, which has been working hard to identify and implement a solution to the reduced bus service to Higher Coach Road. The Partnership has worked closely with West Yorkshire Combined Authority who have agreed to joint fund with BTC a new part time community bus service, which was due to commence in May 2020. Sadly, due to the coronavirus crisis, this start date has been postponed, but it is hoped to commence later in 2020

Friends of Baildon Station is supported by BTC and continues to both make improvements and press for more. The appearance of the station is transformed by the work of Baildon Station Blooms. Other projects have continued, including the push for toilets at Shipley Station, efforts to create a new safer pedestrian access to the platform, a two way display screen, and most recently discussions with the owner of the station building to secure its future.

Leeds Bradford Airport has unveiled ambitious proposals to invest in a brand new terminal, which aims to have net zero emissions on Airport operations by 2023. Baildon now has a seat on the Airport Consultative Committee through the Town Council. This is improving the dialogue between Baildon residents and the Airport Authority.

Supporting other community groups

This work is underway continuously, but a few further examples have not yet been mentioned:

Baildon Harley Partnership: 2019 was a magnificent Harley Rally - the sun shone and Baildon was thronged with people. Local pubs and cafes put on a wide range of live music over the weekend, and the Harley Rideout on Sunday was a huge success. The new road closure arrangements on Northgate appear to have gone well and improved safety for the very significant crowds. Baildon Town Council is pleased to support the Harley Rally financially.

Baildon Walkers are Welcome goes from strength to strength providing a varied programme of walks throughout the year, and working hard to improve walking routes. Financial support for 2020 has been approved.

Christmas lights 2019

Baildon enjoyed another spectacular display over the festive period and thanks must go to local firm Christmas Plus Ltd, who are the Town Council's appointed contractor. In addition, over 20 local businesses re-joined our Christmas Lights Partnership Scheme, contributing over £1000 towards the cost of the display. Our Christmas lights switch on after Baildon at Christmas, was well supported and enjoyed by all.

The orders for 2020 lights are already made, and we confidently expect them to be bigger and brighter than ever!



Baildon Youth Council

Baildon Youth Council is a platform for young people in Baildon to develop their skills, have a voice, be more actively involved in their community and make a positive impact in their community. Over the last year ten Youth Council members have been enthusiastically involved in a range of activities.

Youth development:

- Personal development sessions around positive relationships, personal goal setting and empowerment through youth takeover sessions.
- Completed first aid training with the British Red Cross
- Completed ASDAN Award Accreditation in Volunteering
- Fundraising through bag pack, activities at local events and selling Christmas crafts; raised a total £430.34 in last four years.
- Engaged with over 500 young people across Baildon through outreach and detached sessions, school drop ins and youth consultations; to collate, share and represent the views of young people's issues.
- Delivered awareness activities around young people's issues including: bullying, sexuality, mental health, education and careers, risky behaviours and anti-social behaviour, including making well-being booklets and well-being "positivity bags".
- Provided social activities for young people, as a reward for their hard work volunteering but also to reduce isolation and loneliness by promoting social inclusion, positive relationships and team building.

Youth partnership:

- Proactively working with other youth organisations in Baildon to develop youth page on website and deliver youth events across Baildon including; intergenerational projects, afternoons teas, christmas events and get togethers, art projects and trips. To tackle issues such as isolation, loneliness, health and to improve community assets and community cohesion. With special thanks to Baildon Link, Spongetree, St Hugh's Community Centre and Higher Coach Road Residents Group.
- Working with local schools to promote youth activities, deliver awareness sessions around anti-social behaviour and offer youth drops ins. With special mention to Titus Salt School, Baildon C of E Primary and Glenaire Primary.
- Attend community meetings such as: Environment Committee Partnership Meeting, Shipley Youth Summit and Town Council Meetings

Community involvement - youth council members volunteered their time to support the following events:

- Baildon at Christmas - setting up and managing the stalls at Ian Clough Hall, tidying and cleaning after event, supporting Baildon Belles café and running their own fundraising stall
- Baildon Open Gardens - delivering outdoor craft activities for young people
- Tree planting
- Litter picking
- Previous years - Dragon Boat Race, Saltaire Festival, Baildon Carnival, Tour de Yorkshire



How your money was spent in 2019/2020

Office Staff (3 employees)	£58,000
Admin costs	£10,000
Fees / Training	£6,200
Communication	£3,000
Baildon Buddies	£3,000
Neighbourhood Watch	£1,500
Village CCTV	£1,500
Christmas Lights / Bunting	£11,500
Baildon Library (including 1 employee)	£17,500
Skylark Grants	£5,000
Supporting Local Groups	£14,000
Bracken Hall CC (including 1 employee)	£17,700
Youth Groups	£18,000
Community Development	£40,000
Environment (including 1 employee)	£22,000
Playgrounds	£4,000
Northgate Toilets	£12,000
Allotments	£3,000
Ian Clough Hall	£100
Total Expenditure	£248,000

Contact Us

BAILDON TOWN COUNCIL

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Council Meetings

Sept 14th	Governance Committee
Sept 17th	Planning Committee
Sept 29th	Ian Clough Hall Buildings and Redevelopment Committee
Oct 8th	Planning Committee
Oct 12th	Full Council
Oct 20th	Community Committee
Oct 27th	Economy Committee
Nov 3rd	Environment Committee
Nov 9th	Governance Committee
Nov 12th	Planning Committee
Dec 10th	Planning Committee
Dec 14th	Full Council
14 Jan 2021	Planning Committee
19 Jan 2021	Community Committee
26 Jan 2021	Economy Committee
2 Feb 2021	Environment Committee
8 Feb 2021	Governance Committee
11 Feb 2021	Planning Committee
8 Mar 2021	Full Council Meeting
11 Mar 2021	Planning Committee
16 Mar 2021	Community Committee
23 Mar 2021	Economy Committee
30 Mar 2021	Environment Committee
8 Apr 2021	Planning Committee
12 Apr 2021	Governance Committee
26 Apr 2021	Annual Town Meeting