

Wymondham Town Council

Annual Report 2009-10



What the Town Council has been doing for Wymondham in the past year June 2010

Mayor reflects on twelve months in office



Town Mayor Cllr. Peter Broome

It all started in May 2009 when I was elected by my fellow councillors to the prestigious posts of Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as an ambassador for the Town at the many functions and meetings I have attended.

This annual report will give you a flavour of some of the activities undertaken by the Town Council over the last year on your behalf, and the contributions we have been able to make to ensure that Wymondham continues to thrive and prosper.

I am pleased to see that work is under way to refurbish and improve the Central Hall and I am sure you would want me, on your behalf, to congratulate the trustees on their hard work and wish them every success in the future. When I undertook this role my main project was to improve the appearance of the Market Place and make it a safer environment for those visiting the Tourist Information Centre or admiring the wonderful Market Cross, and I am pleased that this work has now been completed.

Personal highlights of the year included the Dickensian Evening and St Georges Day

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Who are your Town Councillors?

Or more appropriately, in a review of 2009-10, who were the councillors during the past year? The names and brief contact details of the current Town Councillors are set out below.

Abbey Ward

Mr S N Dumbrell (607820)
Mr D W S Fletcher (601482)
Mr A N Howell (604373)

Cromwells Ward

Mr N Ward (607192)
Mrs D Hockaday (603087)
Mr J Turner (607615)

Northfields Ward

Mr L C Elston (603456)
Mr M J Gibbins (600432)
Mr J F Mooney (604482)

Rustens Ward

Mr K J Cooper (602966)
Mr C Foulger (605920)
Mr M R Goldspink (600615)

Town Ward

Ms A Andrews (607786)
Mr P N Broome (600829)
Mr F Davila (605817)

Town archive goes internet

Wymondham is fortunate in having a very rich archive of local material, ranked as one of the best town archives in Norfolk after the great collections of Norwich, Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Thetford.

The Town Archive contains many thousands of documents relating to the life and history of Wymondham and the surrounding area. It includes property deeds, wills and probates, maps, plans and ephemera. It also has a collection of more than 2,000 photographs from the late 19th century to the present day. There are more than 16,000 names of people and places recorded in computer and card indexes so that relevant documents can be rapidly retrieved and made available to users.

The Archive has now launched its new website giving quick and easy access to users worldwide. A selection of photographs is on display together with news and articles of interest. A list of the subjects covered in the collection gives users an idea of its breadth and the sort of documents they might ask to see. Questions that other people might be able to solve are also displayed.

Archive Chairman Richard Fowle said "This is an exciting move forward for the Archive and giving an e-mail address also provides the ability to communicate swiftly with our users".

The Archive is housed in the Town Council Offices. It is run entirely by volunteers, and is open for public use from 10.00am to 1.00pm every Tuesday. Volunteers to help with cataloguing are always needed.

The new website can be found at <http://eoe.xarg.co.uk/wymondham-archive/> The e-mail address is wymondhamarchive@hotmail.co.uk



Wymondham Town Council

How it works, what it does, where your money is spent

How does your Town Council work for you?

The 15 members of Wymondham Town Council are all unpaid volunteers, elected by Wymondham people every four years. Each year the councillors elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The full Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month. It takes questions from the public, notes minutes from its committees and receives reports from representatives on outside bodies. It also approves all payments to suppliers from the preceding month and discusses issues relevant to the town.

Some of the Town Council's functions are delegated to three main committees and these meet on Tuesdays in accordance with the schedule published in 'About Wymondham' and on the council website. Each committee consists of five members who elect their own chair and vice chair. These committees are

Leisure & Environment, which supervises the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the Council's recreation areas such as Ketts Park, Browick Road recreation ground and the Spooner Row playing field. It is responsible for ensuring that play equipment meets health and safety requirements and that residents have access to leisure facilities. It is also responsible for other open spaces such as the Tolls Meadow nature reserve and the Becketswell amenity area.

Planning Lighting and Highways liaises closely with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council on all road, pavement and lighting issues affecting the Wymondham parish. It takes a strategic planning overview for the town and works in conjunction with the county and district councils. While it does not grant planning approvals (normally the responsibility of South

Norfolk Council) the Town Council is consulted on all applications affecting Wymondham. Its remit also includes the Grade 1 listed Market Cross and the provision of Tourist Information Centre facilities provided by the council staff.

Finance & General Purposes manages property owned or leased by the Council including the cemetery, allotments and the chartered Friday market. It is also allocates funds under the Council's small grants scheme and is responsible for machinery purchases and the Council's administration team.

Agendas are posted on the Town Council notice board and agenda and minutes for council meetings are published on the council website, and these indicate the starting time. Public participation is allowed at all meetings at the allocated time.

Taking a closer look at planning

Planning can be a complex and often contentious matter. The Town Council's Planning Lighting and Highways Committee works within a planning policy framework which explains how planning applications are dealt with, and how decisions are made.

South Norfolk Council has the final say in planning matters. Quite often they will delegate decisions to area sub-committees or, in some non contentious cases, to planning officers in consultation with local members. All applications are forwarded to the Town Council for comment, and details of these are

posted on the council noticeboard. Plans are available for consultation in the office, or through the South Norfolk Council website, and considered at a council or committee meeting where they are on display for discussion.

Letters from the public commenting on applications are welcome, and time is always allowed at the start of meetings for public comments to be made in person. The Town Council will then comment to the district council in the light of the local plan and other policy guidance, taking into account any public comments and the considered views of its members.

Mayor reflects on 12 months in office *continued*

celebrations organised by the Wymondham Lions. Without their dedication and hard work these events wouldn't take place. I should also mention the new doctors' surgery, which is a real asset to the town and will undoubtedly be in demand as Wymondham continues to grow.

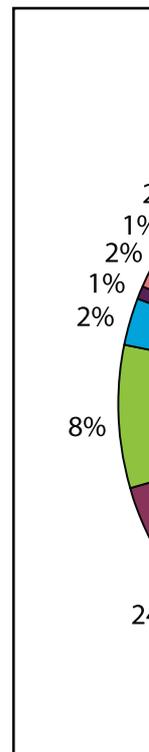
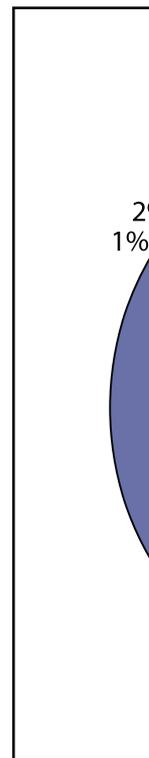
My nominated recipients for this year's Community Fund awards were the Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper and the 1st and 2nd Wymondham Scout Groups. It was a pleasure raising funds for these very worthy causes, and it is only when you visit them that you fully appreciate the tremendous work they undertake.

As an historic market town we continue to face pressure from both developers and central government for new housing, and I am sure that my fellow councillors are committed to representing your views and will always put 'Wymondham First' when making decisions on your behalf.

Finally can I say a big thank you to everybody who has supported me over the last twelve months, especially my long suffering wife Anita, and the Town Council staff. I would like to extend my best wishes to my successor, Cllr. Colin Foulger.

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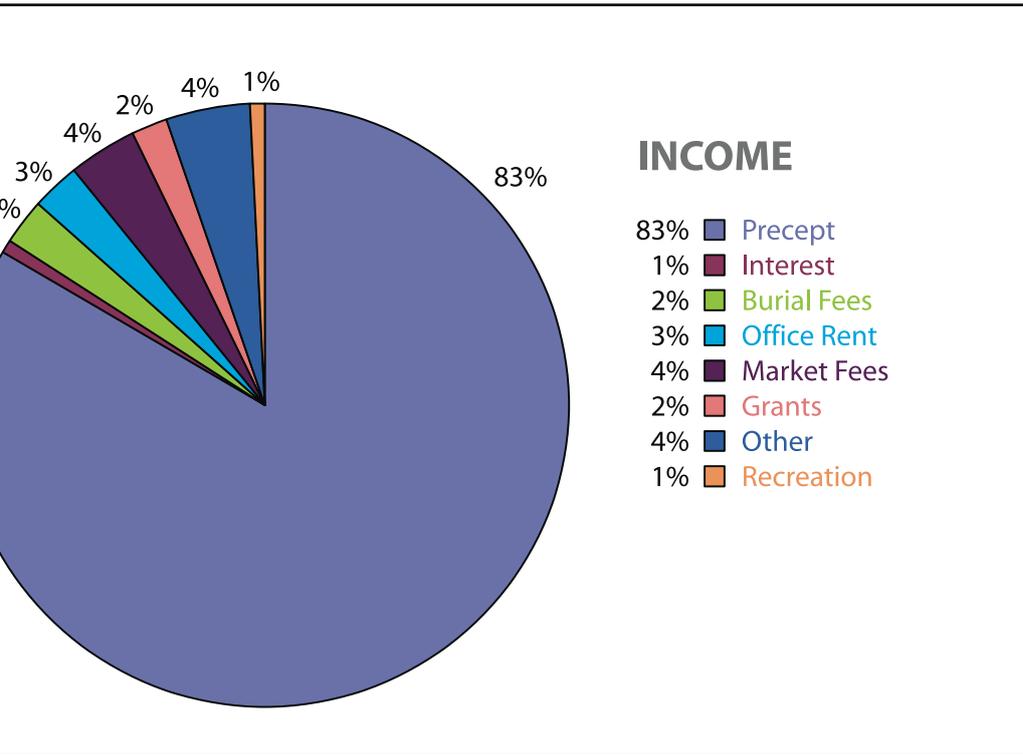
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Annual Report 2009-10

Receipts, grants, income and expenditure – Council finances explained

Where the money comes from, and where it goes, are set out in these two diagrams:

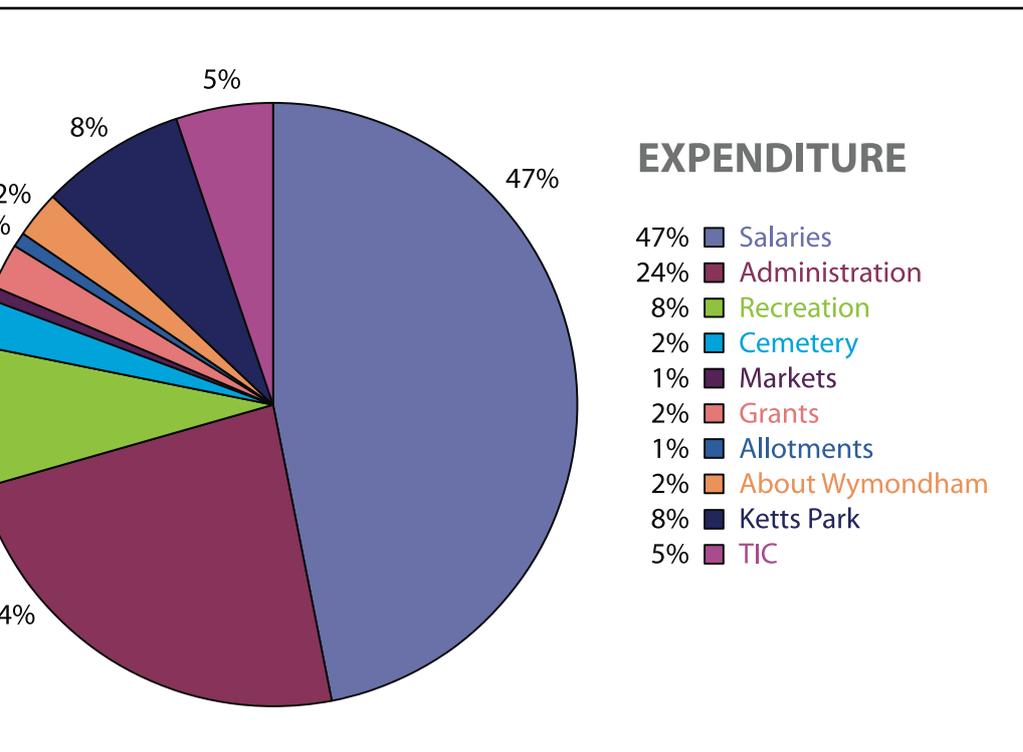


The Town Council is required by law to set a budget each year, which then determines how it is financed for that year.

Income is obtained from a number of sources such as market fees, leisure activity fees, burials, rents, grants and income on investments. It is also prudent for the Council to maintain a general reserve to cover emergencies together with earmarked reserves for specific projects. The largest source of income is the precept, which in the 2009-10 financial year was £317,230, equating to £64.59 per annum for a band 'D' property.

Expenditure included the costs of maintaining our offices at 14 Middleton Street and the salaries of the Town Clerk, administration support staff and groundsmen as well as the Tourist Information staff. The Town Council also maintains various amenity and play areas such as Ketts Park, Tolls Meadow and the cemetery. Play equipment is replaced as part of a rolling programme of refurbishment.

Another important part of our work has been in supporting local groups through our grants scheme. Each year the Town Council makes grants to local organisations to help with projects.



Grants were awarded in 2009-10 to

Citizens Advice Bureau	£3000
Wymondham Music Festival	£1500
Spooner Row Primary School	£1400
Robert Kett School	£615
Pabulum Cafe	£750
Wymondham Photographic Society	£250
Total	£7515

Mayor's Community Fund gives £1,000 to local organisations

Established several years ago, the Mayor's Community Fund invites donations and raises money through fundraising events. This year the main fundraisers were a dog show at Kett's Park and a fashion show in the Fairland Church Centre.

Each year the Mayor nominates one or more organisations which will benefit, and he was pleased to present £500 to the Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper and £250 each to the 1st and 2nd Wymondham Scouts.



Every one a winner – prize winning dogs and owners at the fundraising dog show



Tourist Office recognised – again!

For the second time running Wymondham's unique Tourist Office in the Market Cross has been judged the best visitor information centre in the annual Tourism in Norfolk Awards.

The judges commended its warm welcome, excellent service and depth of local knowledge. Supervisor Jan Sutton said that the award recognised the dedicated efforts of all the staff at the TIC.

Civic award for community volunteers

Wymondham Town Council was pleased to present the annual civic award to two long-standing members of the community.



Brenda Ford (right) has made a significant contribution to Wymondham life for many years. She was a member of Wymondham Town Council and Norfolk County Council, and Town Mayor for two years (1985-7). Actively involved in helping to maintain the gardens at Chandlers Hill and the Bridewell Museum, she has also worked tirelessly to raise funds for orphaned Romanian children.

The second award was presented to Mollie Warman who has contributed to the work of the Royal British Legion, and has been its chairman for the last five years. She was Head Teacher at Browick Road First School for many years, and now spends much of her time as the manager of Wymondham Abbey's gift shop.

Town Mayor Cllr. Peter Broome commented: "I am sure that both our recipients have been involved in and given freely of their time on many more occasions than are mentioned here, and it is an honour to present these awards to two very worthy recipients".

And lots more!

For more information about Town Council activities in 2009-10, and the contribution made to Wymondham community life by local clubs, societies and organisations, back copies of *About Wymondham* may be found on the Town Council website at wymondhamtc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

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