



SILSDEN TOWN COUNCIL



Newsletter and Annual Report
June 2007

Introduction

Welcome to the 10th newsletter which for the second time incorporates the Annual Report.

Annual Town Meeting:

This meeting was held at Aire View Infant School on the 22nd March and was attended by about 35 residents. The Mayor gave his annual report outlining the events over the past year much of which appears in this newsletter. There were no questions from the meeting which was then followed by a Neighbourhood Forum meeting organised by the Keighley Area Committee.

April Meeting:

- Representatives from the Silsden Cricket & Football Club gave a presentation regarding their project for a new pavilion. The Town Council agreed to write a letter of support for lottery and other funding.
- A working party was set up to liaise with Bradford Council to consider the best way to refurbish the Town Hall.
- The Charter for working with Bradford Council was signed. There will be an official signing in Bradford in June.
- The Council agreed to donate £600 to the Silsden Town Band for 30 jackets



- The Council has objected to a planning application at Swartha House Farm for the demolition of an agricultural building and to erect a live/work residential unit together with a second application for 4 living/work units on the same site. This was on the grounds of overdevelopment, mindful of the other developments on the same site. There were concerns raised about highways as the roads in the area are not capable of coping with the extra traffic. The final decision rests with Keighley Planning Committee.

May Meeting:

- The retiring Mayor, Cllr Michael Elsmore, welcomed councillors for the new term including Cllr T Maddock joining the Town Council for the first time. It was pleasing to note that for the first time in sixteen years the Council has not had to co-opt to make up a full council.
- In his retiring statement Cllr Elsmore commented on the progress made by the Council over the past two years. The closer relationship with Bradford Council was commented on which has resulted in more investment in Silsden. He thanked the clerks, all councillors, both Town and District, for their support.

(continued...)

(May Meeting continued)

- Elections: Cllr Liz Trainor was elected Mayor of Silsden and Cllr Keith Savage was elected the Deputy Mayor.
- Following a request for policies and strategies from Bradford Council on CCTV, a proposal was put to the Town Council to consider part funding for a CCTV set up in Silsden. The Council decided to put this forward again at a future meeting.
- Bus timetables: Cllr Elsmore had pointed out to Metro at a recent meeting that the 762 bus to and from Keighley does not meet trains to and from Leeds. A reply was received from Keighley & District which was far from satisfactory. This issue will be continued to be looked at over the next few months.
- A request from the Youth Council for support funding of the children's play area in the playing fields was discussed and it was decided to set aside £3755 in case of need after further discussions with Bradford Council. The Council did not want the scheme to falter after the YC raised over £50,000 for the project.

Town Hall

The Town Council has received £22000 from Bradford Council to decorate and refurbish the Town Hall. A working party has been set up to consider the works to be done and to arrange for quotations from local firms to carry out the job. It is hoped that the works will be completed by December 2007.

A further £19800 was used to refurbish the back room so that it can be used for groups to use the internet.



Mayor's Overview

It has been an honour to be the Mayor of Silsden for the past two years, to be the Civic Leader and to lead the Council. I feel that we have succeeded in being more approachable and accountable with the newsletters, public meetings, surgeries and also attending public occasions throughout the year. More residents now know that we have an active Town Council and a Mayor.

During my second year as Mayor, I have continued to support local activities, including the Christmas Extravaganza, visiting and supporting the old people's homes in Silsden, and being closely involved with the two schools. Whenever attending Civic events in the district I have been able to promote the town of Silsden

And, of course, over and above this there has been my obligation to the Council. I feel that together we have made great strides. I hope that this may continue.

The charter with Bradford Council has been signed and there is an official signing to take place in Bradford in June.

We have had yet another excellent Christmas lights display and thanks must go to Cllr Lawrence Walton and his team for their efforts.

(continued....)

(Mayor's Overview continued)

The crowning glory this year has been the awarding of **Quality Status**. We have had to satisfy seven criteria:

Electoral mandate
Qualification of the clerk
Council meetings
Communication
Annual reports;
Accounts
Ethical framework



Our submission went to the West Yorkshire Panel (set by the Government) and we easily met the standards set down. This is official recognition that we are doing things correctly. There are only 420 QP councils in the whole country, so we are amongst the elite.

Cllr Michael Elsmore

Planning

This past year has been dominated by the largest planning application to be made in the Silsden Area for many years.

On October 11th 2006 a special meeting was held to discuss a planning application for the land behind Sykes Lane by Bryant Homes part of Taylor Woodrow and was attended by Harvey Pritchard a member of Planning Aid who provided independent advice on what could be considered to be "Material Planning Considerations". Anyone who wishes to either support or object to a proposed planning application must base their arguments on points which are material to the planning process rather than just expressing their opinion.

As a result of this advice and the subsequent representations made by the people of Silsden, this application has undergone a major review and has been reworked by the developer in light of these comments and the comments of the Ward Councillors, Silsden Town Council and the Planning Department at Bradford.

The application was resubmitted in May 2007 and contains changes to the original proposal based on the representations received. The meetings held to date and the representations made have had an effect, the developer has listened to people's concerns and changes have been made. It remains to be seen what the final outcome is but one thing is certain the views of the people of Silsden have been listened to.

Cllr Adrian Naylor

Annual Report 2006-7

Again this year the Town Council has continued to be more available to you the residents. We have continued to have surgeries regularly on Friday mornings at the Methodist Church and now have district councillors and the police in attendance – this has meant that we can deal with queries much faster.

- There was another coffee morning held last November with the two schools, Youth Council, guides, fire brigade, community first responders and police in attendance.
- We have continued producing quarterly newsletters. Some are delivered with the Keighley Target but there are always copies available in the post office, library and Town Hall.
- The Silsden Town Guide has proved most popular and the 2007 edition will have been published by now.
- The Town Council organised a public meeting to hear views/opinions about the Sykes Lane development.
- Forum meetings, which are held jointly with Keighley Area Committee, have been held over the past year and will continue as they have proved successful in enabling you to raise issues with both the Town Council and Bradford Council

Projects

- Support for local groups and societies has continued and details of recipients are published in this Annual Report.
- We have found it very difficult to get anywhere with the bench in Elliott Street (known as “the parliament”). As it is on land maintained by the Highways Department we have to go through an appointed contractor. This has proved impossible. However we will not give up and hopefully can solve the problem soon.
- The new Town signs have been welcomed and make for a better entrance to the town.



- Bus services – At last year’s annual town meeting it was noted that the 713 service was to be withdrawn. The Town Council working with the district councillors and Metro secured funding for Jacksons to run one bus a day from Waterside to Keighley from July of last year. It has been well supported and we have received requests to improve the service.

Finance Report

The financial year 2006/7 was the third year of raising our own precept through the community charge. That year we raised £29100 by setting a rate of just over £10.36 for a band D property. Please note that these are yet unaudited accounts. Below is a summary of the expenses of the Town Council for that year.

Administration costs	£2413	
Salaries of the clerks	£8786	
Audit fees	£ 385	
Membership fees	£ 878	
Youth Council	£ 750	
Insurance	£1000	
Training	£ 166	
Newsletters	£1725	
		£16103
Projects: Silsden Carnival committee	£1000	
Multi-Use-Games Area	£1000	
Housing Needs Survey	£ 800	
Swimstart	£1000	
Silsden Park Rangers	£ 400	
Civic regalia	£ 910	
Community First Responders	£1000	
		£ 6110
Donations:		
3 rd Keighley Scouts	£ 400	
Silsden Art Club	£ 250	
Proms on the Farm Admin costs	£ 100	
Gloucester Ave Housing Assoc	£ 500	
Silsden Over 55s Club	£ 350	
Silsden U16s Football trip	£ 500	
1 st Silsden Scouts	£ 500	
Other small donations totalling	<u>£ 480</u>	
		£ 3080
Carried forward to 2007/8		<u>£ 3807</u>
		<u>£29100</u>

SILSDEN YOUTH COUNCIL

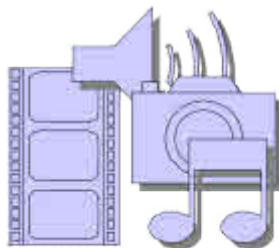
These young people are raising money for a variety of activities and causes.

- 1) Project 4 -Toddler's Play Area – The Youth Council designed a questionnaire for all parents of younger children in Silsden. These were distributed through Aire View School, all local pre-school groups, through the post office, library and the Town Hall. The play area has been planned from all the suggestions received by the Youth Council. There has however been one problem: we were advised by Bradford Parks & Landscapes to make the area smaller. The Youth Council would not accept this as it also cut down on the equipment chosen. We are trying to resolve this but it may cost more than the £50,000 estimated.



- 2) Silsden Youth Council are also hoping to collect pencils, pens etc. for the children in a village in Sierra Leone. Details of this will appear in the Town Council Chamber window.

- 3) Project 3 – Media Equipment for the Youth Centre – this equipment is being ordered and will be installed shortly.



As you can see these activities provide many learning skills which help our young people become responsible, confident adults.

Cllr. Pat Bottomley
Co-ordinator of the Youth Council

Silsden Town Councillors/Contact Nos.

(Fuller details, addresses etc available on the Town Hall noticeboard)

Elizabeth Trainor (Mayor)	210496
Keith Savage (Deputy Mayor)	657529
Christopher Atkinson	655057
Patricia Bottomley	657352
Anne Brown	656431
Alison Coward	email: alison.coward@siltsden.net
J Alan Edwards	via Clerk
Michael Elsmore	655795
Tim Maddock	658821
Adrian Naylor	07803 503643
Andrew D Phillips	214143
Lawrence Walton	via Clerk

Craven Ward Councillors

Michael Kelly	07971 149569
Andrew Mallinson	07971 274785
Adrian Naylor	07803 503643

Silsden Town Council – Meeting Dates 2007-8

(All meetings start at 7.30pm unless the Agenda, displayed on the Town Hall noticeboard, states otherwise)

Main

7 June 2007
5 July 2007
2 August 2007
6 September 2007
4 October 2007
1 November 2007
6 December 2007
3 January 2008
7 February 2008
6 March 2008
3 April 2008
1 May 2008 (AGM)

Planning & Finance

21 June 2007
19 July 2007
16 August 2007
20 September 2007
18 October 2007
15 November 2007
20 December 2007
17 January 2008
21 February 2008
20 March 2008
17 April 2008
15 May 2008

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