

# **SELBY TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Annual Report 2022/23**

### **Foreword**

#### My year as Mayor

I have had several engagements in the year I have been Mayor the first being the ceremony in Wakefield Cathedral for the ceremony for their new Mayor, who had previously taught at Selby High School for many years.

I have attended many events within the Town and seen the work of many volunteers who are supporting our community through very difficult times. I particularly enjoyed my visit to the Civic Society and saw for myself the amount of work they do to try and maintain our heritage in often difficult times with planning applications.

I also had a wonderful time when the local schools had several pupils entering our painting competition which this year was based on the Queens Jubilee, some great entries and so difficult to choose the winners, then when we had we presented prizes at the Town Hall.

Then the best kept Gardens, allotments, retail premises. Again, some wonderful displays unlike the weather, eventually myself and Cllr Davis had to abandon to another day as we were soaked.

Many events after this but quieter in the summer months.

The event arranged for our grants distribution again recognised the many groups that volunteer to people in need from our older generation to the very young.

Which takes us to September and the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

I went with the Town Clerk to lay flowers in the Abbey on behalf of the Town Council and the public we represent. I attended the proclamation that the District Council arranged again in Selby Abbey.

I also attended the Service at the Abbey, which was particularly poignant as I spoke about my memories of the late Queen's Visit to the Abbey when she gave out the Maundy Money in 1969.

I have memories of standing opposite Timothy Whites {now boots} with my Mum as the Queen passed to go to Selby Grammar School for the reception.

The weather was very kind that day, the sun shone throughout.

We now move to the Remembrance Service in our wonderful Abbey so many people in attendance for a very special event to remember all our fallen in both the First and Second World Wars.

Extra emotional this year as again we had the military band.

Moving towards one of my last events the unveiling of the Miner's wheel on the 29th April, again the town council celebrating of the Town's Industrial Heritage.

As the Granddaughter of a miner who lost his sight in a pit accident in the North East, it means a lot to be to be part of this event.

I want also to pay tribute to Canon John Weetman who along with his team have hosted many of the events for our Town.

I do want to reflect on the ready steady cook event in the Abbey where John and I competed against each other.

I arrived at the Abbey to be told that John was very nervous about the event and when we met up, I could see that was very true, he asked me if I was and did I do much cooking, I didn't really reply, avoiding responding.

We eventually went on stage, were given ingredients, the host asked us both what we would be cooking, John said a cheese omelette, I decided to do pasta in a white sauce with some onions and sausage. We set about the task and ended about 30mins later. We then had the vote to which the host announced me as the winner, I graciously said let's call it a draw and promptly confessed to having catering qualifications and had worked in school meals, the George Hotel, Carentan house and Riccall pit site during the development of the Selby coalfield.

You should have seen John's face, he then tried my pasta dish, which he said was very nice, I then suggested he ate it for his dinner, which he promptly did. He also divulged that he was the one who had suggested me as his opponent.

I want to thank Gill, the Town Clerk, and the other Town Council Staff for their support over the year, I could not have managed without them. Also, fellow members who have supported me at a number of events.

Councillor Wendy Nichols  
May 2023

## **Introduction**

This Report describes the main achievements of Selby Town Council during 2022/23. It also gives details about the services provided by the Council.

### **Selby Town Hall**

Selby Town Hall has had an uplift in 2022/23 with the windows in the Arts Centre completely refurbished, and the railings and front doors repainted. It is a fabulous building used by a variety of local groups throughout the day and evening.

### **Selby Town Council**

The Town Council Offices are at the Town Hall, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ.

Tel No. 01757 708449

Email address: [admin@selbytowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:admin@selbytowncouncil.co.uk)

Website: [www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk).

The Town Hall office is open 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. - Monday to Friday.

Selby Town Council was established in 1974 when the Selby Urban District Council was abolished, and the Selby District Council and the Town Council were formed.

### **The Council and its Committees**

The Council meets at the Town Hall at 7.00 p.m. on the last Monday of each month. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting. The main areas of the Council's work are covered by three Committees: "Finance and Staffing", "Land and Property" and "Town Hall Management Committee" with meetings held quarterly. Selby Town Council holds working group meetings to organise Selby in Bloom, Annual Family Fun Day and the Bonfire and Fireworks events. There are also working groups for the website and market provision.

### **Town Councillors**

The next election is in May 2027. Current Council members are:

#### **Selby North**

F Matthews (Lab), 47 Doncaster Road, Selby YO8 9BT

S Shaw-Wright (Lab), 28 Armoury Road, Selby YO8 4AY

G Lockley (Lab), 3 Holme Close, Selby, YO8 3AF

R Harrison (Lab), The Bungalow, Fir Tree Farm, Wistow Common, Selby, YO8 3QZ

K Franks (Lab), 35 Leeds Road, Selby, YO8 4HU

#### **Selby South**

Mrs W Nichols (Lab), 8 Bainbridge Drive, Selby YO8

M Davis (Lab), 47 Doncaster Road, Selby YO8 9BT  
S Andrew (Lab), 62 Abbots Road, Selby, YO8 8AU  
H Davis (Lab), 17 Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9BS  
T Beharrell (Green), 17 Church Avenue, Selby, YO8 4PG  
J Proud (Lab), 6 Abbots Road, Selby, YO8 8AU

### **Selby West**

Mr M Dyson (Cons), 19 Park Row, Selby YO8 4PR  
C Laskey (Lab), 106 Millgate, Selby, YO8 3LD  
K Arthur (Con), 12 Portholme Road, Selby, YO8 4QQ  
G Jordanowski (Con), 2 Hollywood, Selby, YO8 4YB  
M Lawton (Con), 82 Abbots Road, Selby, YO8 8AU  
I Lawton (Con), 12a Barff Grove, Thorpe Willoughby, Selby, YO8 9LZ

### **St James Ward**

J Shaw-Wright (Lab), 28 Armoury Road, Selby YO8 4AY

### **OFFICES**

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of the Town Council Committees are elected annually in May. During 2022/23 the following Councillors held office:

#### **Town Mayor**

Cllr. W Nichols

#### **Deputy Town Mayor**

Cllr. K Franks

#### **Chair Finance and Staffing Committee**

Cllr. F Matthews

#### **Chair Land and Property Committee**

Cllr M Davis

Selby Town Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out any Council business (apart from the mayor who receives an annual allowance to cover travel and out of pocket expenses).

### **Staff**

#### **The Clerk of the Council (Responsible Finance Officer)**

Gill Bell – 01757 708449

#### **Facilities Manager**

Tony Hargreaves – 01757 708449

#### **Deputy Town Clerk**

Stacey Remde – 01757 708449

There are twelve members of staff in total working at the Town Hall, the 1811 Building, Cemetery and Scott Road Community Centre.

## **Council Facilities**

The Town Council manages the town's cemetery on Westfield Road, along with three play areas, at Barwic Parade, Flaxley Road and Wistow Road. The Town Council also carries out the administration for the Scott Road Community Centre, for Selby Community Trust including the play areas.

The Town Council provides allotments – Stonebridge - Bawtry Road, Pymble - Flaxley Road and Westbourne Road allotments.

## **Council Events**

Every year the Town Council organises an annual Family Fun Day in June. As well as lots of events for young children at the Community Centre, the day included brass band concerts in the park for the older residents it also holds a live band concert on the Portholme Road Recreation Field. The event is free of charge to all that attend.

The Selby Town Council Beer Festival which started in July 2010, is an annual event and is held in July/August on the Saturday closest to Yorkshire Day. Around 20 Yorkshire beers and 5 Yorkshire ciders are the stars of the event. Live bands play on the evening if the event and food is available.

This year's bonfire and fireworks display was spectacular and was particularly well attended. This is a free event to all local residents that attend. There are local caterers providing high quality, affordable refreshments at the event, along with children's rides.

The Christmas lights were installed in the town to great appreciation from residents and visitors to the town. The now Annual Christmas Market and Annual Switch-On event is hugely popular held on the Market place during the day with a local radio station in attendance, appearances from the "famous" Christmas Tap Dancing Turkeys, as well as Santa. Further entertainment was provided by local school choirs and bands. The Mayor attended and turned on the lights with two children from the crowd.

## **The Town Hall Arts Centre**

A wide programme of music, drama and events has continued at the Town Hall during the year. The venue has had several sell-out performances, and the programme has a vast range of diverse shows. National Theatre Live has eight shows sent to the Town Hall by satellite per year and these are well received by local residents and visitors to the Town.

## **Selby Markets**

In September 2010 Selby Town Council took over the running of the traditional Monday market from the District Council. The Town Council sees this function as a major part of attracting people to Selby. Although the Market has shrunk in recent years, largely due to the population working

outside of the Town, it still provides a variety of quality stalls, and the Market/Events Manager is always on the look out for interesting stalls to add to the offering.

The monthly Farmers and Craft Market, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, is very popular and often has new pop-up stalls in addition to the regulars.

The Market/Events Manager has introduced additional speciality markets throughout the year, including Night Markets.

### **Recreational Facilities**

The Town Council continues to maintain the play areas and update the equipment where required. We also maintain Bondgate Community Woodland, on behalf of Selby Community Trust, which is a great place for walks, picnics and enjoying nature. There are many sculptures to view and a bug hotel to explore.

### **Selby Coalfield Mining Memorial**

This year we have installed a memorial to the Selby Coalfield. The memorial is an original (half) wheel from a working coal mine. We had the wheel refurbished, painted, and mounted on a brick plinth. Each of the Selby Coalfield mines names have been engraved on metal plates and fixed on the spokes of the wheel. The memorial is located at the Bondgate Community Woodland and benches have been installed to enable people to sit, reflect and remember those who lost their lives. The memorial was unveiled on 29<sup>th</sup> April, where past employees of Selby Coalfield gathered to listen to speeches and memories from guests including the Mayor of Selby Cllr W Nichols, and a blessing was given by Canon Weetman.

### **Planning**

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications. As such it is responsible for commenting upon all the applications which fall within the Town. These comments are passed to Selby District Council who takes them into account when making planning decisions. A total of fifty-five applications had been considered by the Town Council during the year.

### **Promoting Selby**

Selby is a thriving town with a great sense of community and is fortunate to have many residents who give willingly of their time and energy. The Council is always looking at ways to promote the town to the outside world. The Town Council web site ([www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk)) is a useful point of information, and the Town Council produces a bi-annual newsletter which is widely circulated in the town. The Town Council has also taken a more proactive approach with the local press and media and has issued a number of press notices to publicise events and decisions.

## **The Civic Function**

The Council has continued to play an important Civic role. The annual Remembrance Service was well attended. The Mayor has represented the Town at various functions throughout the Town and District and has also undertaken a number of local engagements, including attending events organised by clubs and organisations based within Selby.

## **Annual Competitions**

Every year the Council holds a number of competitions including the Selby in Bloom Best Kept Garden/Allotments Competition and an annual painting competition held for the local primary schools. This year, along with the Christmas Window competition for the Town's businesses, we held a hunt the Snowman competition leading up to the Christmas Market Event where both winners were announced.

## **Grants to Voluntary Groups**

The Council gives financial support to a number of local clubs and organisations. In May 2023 the Town Council awarded grants totalling £27,734.

## **Highways and Traffic**

North Yorkshire Council is responsible for Highways matters but the Town Council takes an active interest in traffic issues by advising the Council of matters of local interest and alerting them to matters of concern.

## **How Your Money is Spent**

Each December, the Town Council sets a budget for the next financial year. The money is collected from the properties in the town by North Yorkshire Council as part of residents Council Tax. This goes towards the upkeep of the Town Councils properties, facilities and events we put on in the Town.

## **Conclusion**

Selby Town Council welcomes views from residents and people working here on any aspect of life in the town. Watch out for our Community Engagement gazebo popping up at events throughout the year, we will be happy to listen to you and welcome your ideas. Please contact your Councillor or the Town Council at the Town Hall, York Street, Selby, Selby YO8 4AJ.

Telephone 01757 708449

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