



2023/24

Selby Town Council Annual Report



Gill Bell
Town Clerk
2023/24

Introduction

This Report describes the main achievements of Selby Town Council during 2023/24. It also gives details about the services provided by the Council.

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

Website: www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk.

The Town Hall office is open 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. - Monday to Friday
(The office is closed to walk-ins on 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, except August and December. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting.

Four Committees cover the principal areas of the Council's work: "Finance and Staffing," "Land and Property," "Environment Committee" 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/IT, Health, Safety and Welfare 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), 49 Crosshills Lane, Selby, YO8 4RU

Selby West

Mr M Dyson (Cons), 19 Park Row, Selby YO8 4PR
C Laskey (Lab), 15 Richard Street, Selby, YO8 4BN
K Arthur (Con), 12 Portholme Road, Selby, YO8 4QQ
G Jordanowski (Con), – vacated office January 2024
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 2023/24 the following Councillors held office:

Town Mayor

Cllr. K Franks

Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr. F Matthews

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 thirteen 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 and Bondgate Community Woodland.

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 also includes 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 of the event and food is available.

This year, due to the very wet conditions, it was unsafe to build the bonfire, however the fireworks display went ahead as normal and was spectacular and was well attended considering the weather. 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 Marketplace 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 switched on the lights.

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 3rd Saturday every month, is immensely 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 and the very popular Oktoberfest.

Recreational Facilities

The Town Council continues to maintain the play areas and update the equipment where required. New equipment was purchased and installed at the Community Centre play area. A public consultation was held, and local residents and users of the play area were asked to choose their favourite scheme. We also maintain Bondgate Community Woodland, on behalf of Selby Community Trust, which is a beautiful place for walks, picnics and enjoying nature – we have recently installed 2 fully accessible picnic tables to this area. There are many sculptures to view and a bug hotel to explore.

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 North Yorkshire Council who takes them into account when making planning decisions. A total of fifty-four applications had been considered by the Town Council during the year.

Promoting Selby

Selby is a thriving town with a deep 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) 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 initiative-taking 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. Following the success last year, along with the Christmas Window competition for the Town's businesses, we again 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 2024, the Town Council awarded grants totalling £30,320.

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. Look 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, YO8 4AJ.

Telephone 01757 708449

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REFLECTION OF MY YEAR AS SELBY TOWN MAYOR (KEITH FRANKS MAY 2023 – MAY 2024)

I would like to start this note to firstly thank all town councillors for allowing me the opportunity to fulfil the prestigious appointment of town Mayor, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time conducting this role and the opportunities that it has offered. My wife Janet and I have attended many exciting events during my time as Town Mayor, but I have tried to capture some highlights below.

A very memorable event early in my role was the attendance of the Rotherham Yorkshire Day, this was fantastic, hosted superbly and provided me the chance to meet with many other Mayors and Mayoresses from across Yorkshire. This was followed by the opening of the '*Motorist*' restaurant and events venue at Sherburn in Elmet which really showcased an exciting visionary business which provides a brilliant meeting place for car enthusiasts.

I have been utterly impressed this year with charity work that is undertaken within our community, I have been fortunate enough to play a small part, the MP Keir Mather and I attended a '*Sing yourself happy*' concert at the Methodist Church to support the important charities Alzheimer UK and Parkinson's disease. Further to this I assisted Wakefield City Mayoress fundraising for the Mental Health charity *Andy's Man Club*.

It was great to judge on the King Coronation schools painting competition, the artwork was brilliant and very difficult to pick year group winners with such good young talent. As a keen gardener myself I really enjoyed judging the Selby in Bloom and allotments competition, there were some fantastic hidden gardens, and well organised and well-kept allotments.

It was exciting to understand the Methodist church's approach to greener energy with their new roof solar cell panels, this afforded me the opportunity to talk on the council's policy on the town approach to greener energy and our progress to the governments Net Zero 50 targets. This was followed by the local MP and I planting a tree in the Methodist church garden, part of the church's green initiative. A further planting of an Oak tree was also conducted at Selby Cemetery on behalf of Selby Soroptimist International.

Another good night was the Bonfire Celebration, a well-attended event, even though the weather was miserable. A big thank you to the team that make this event such a success.

The Sheffield Cathedral Miners Memorial service was another great event, very close to my heart and well supported. The Selby War Graves remembrance service was a very poignant service, supported brilliantly by six Selby schools

and local armed forces veterans. Having the service adjacent to the war graves provided a real sense of the sacrifice given by our local men and women.

I have enjoyed a busy period supporting Selby Abbey this year, Remembrance Sunday was extremely memorable with a great service fully supported by the community, which saw the Abbey full. The hymns were beautifully sung by the Abbey choir, I also enjoyed hearing my Granddaughter Charlotte do a reading alongside my son Capt Paul Franks, MP Keir Mather and Cllr Ian Lawton who all supported the service. Activity at the Abbey remained busy throughout December with the carol service, followed by a further service of 9-Lessons by candlelight. This was followed by Christmas fun activity with me assuming the cameo role of Selby Town Mayor in the Panto '*Dick Whittington*' which took place at the Methodist church Christmas dinner event in support again of the Alzheimer and Parkinson disease charities.

The town Christmas lights was another nice event, well supported by the community with many local vendors providing great Christmas market stalls and entertainment. The town looked fantastic with all the Christmas lights, and shop windows looking festive. MP Keir Mather and I judged and announced the winners of the best festive window display. The final lights to be turned on was the town Hall '*Tree of Light*' in support of Yorkshire cancer research.

The Holocaust memorial service held at Selby Abbey in the new year was another poignant event, though very sad, it was nice to see schools involved and participating remembering the tragic history, but equally showing their thoughts and respect. I was invited to the Maundy service and was asked to deputise as Selby Abbey *Pittancer* which involved me inspecting the Abbey Drains, supplying Canon John Weetman with eggs and cheese for the Benedictine monks and a pound contribution towards annual postage. "*He did say that this should have gone up with inflation after 950 years*".

On a personal note, I would like to thank Cannon John Weetman and Bishop (Dr) John Thompson for the excellent work and contribution to the Abbey and our community. I wish Bishop John a healthy and happy retirement.

For St Georges Day I attended a lovely church service. All the different ages scouts, brownie's, rainbows, beavers and guides had a great time singing, playing games and saying their promise oath followed by the parade through town with a Pipe band, it was really enjoyable.

I would also like to express my thanks to Selby Carentan twinning for the invitations to two of their events, a fund-raising event and the gala dinner

meeting the deputy mayor and president of the Carentan committee and visitors.

To all North Yorkshire Mayors and Mayoresses of whom invited me to their respective events and civic services I would like to extend my thanks for your kindness and hospitality.

A final thanks to Gill, Carolyn, Stacey, Julie, Chris, Emma and Tony & Team for the support and guidance throughout my time as Town Mayor, I do not underestimate the efforts you make in the background to ensure all events run smoothly, and for this I am very grateful.

Kindest Regards

Keith