



2024/25

Selby Town Council Annual Report



Gill Bell
Town Clerk
2024/25

Introduction

This Report describes the main achievements of Selby Town Council during 2024/25. 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)

S Shaw-Wright (Lab)

G Lockley (Lab)

R Harrison (Lab)

K Franks (Lab)

Selby South

Mrs W Nichols (Lab)

M Davis (Lab)

S Andrew (Lab)

H Davis (Lab)

T Beharrell (Green)

J Proud (Lab)

Selby West

Mr M Dyson (Cons)
C Laskey (Lab)
K Arthur (Con)
C Middlebrook (Con)
M Lawton (Con)
I Lawton (Con)

St James Ward

R Pope (Lab)

Offices

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of the Town Council Committees are elected annually in May. During 2024/25 the following Councillors held office:

Town Mayor

Cllr. F Matthews

Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr. J Proud

Chair Finance and Staffing Committee

Cllr. F Matthews

Chair Environment Committee

Cllr. M Davis

Chair Land and Property Committee

Cllr M Davis

Chair Town Hall Management Committee

Cllr. F Matthews

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. We continue to split the larger plots, when they become available, and re-let as smaller more manageable plots to encourage more residents to gain the benefits of “growing their own”.

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.

The Bonfire/Fireworks Event is a free event to 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 children's favourite TV characters, 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 Twilight Markets and the very popular Oktoberfest.

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 beautiful place for walks, picnics and enjoying nature. There are many sculptures to view and a bug hotel to explore. You will also find the Mining Memorial Wheel located in the woodland along with the recently added Memorial Wall where relatives can remember their loved ones.

Environment

In May 2024 we launched our Nature Recovery Action Plan. This has been drawn up in order for us to take the necessary steps to stop the decline of biodiversity and to assist the council in achieving their aim of reaching Net Zero by 2030.

This year we have concentrated on communicating the councils intentions to the community and identifying projects.

We have already:

- Set up a Nature Recovery page on our website Selby Town Council – Your Community
- We are installing a Wild Pod in the cemetery and planting with wildflowers and native plants. The Wild Pod provides a home for lots of different species – hedgehogs, insects – supporting nature and increasing biodiversity. We will monitor how well the Wild Pod meets our aims before considering installing more.
- We are continuing to plant wildflower bulbs throughout the cemetery, and sowing wildflower seeds in some of the older sections of the cemetery.
- We are continuing with “No Mow May” – leaving areas in the old sections uncut, along with boundaries around the bottom fields at the cemetery and Scott Road Community Centre.
- We are leaving log piles on and around various sites we own or manage.
- We are continuing to plant trees and hedges, and maintain and manage all our trees to keep them healthy.

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 take them into account when making planning decisions. A total of sixty-two 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. A Christmas Window competition for the Town's businesses, was held and the winners were announced at the Christmas Market/Lights Switch-On event.

Grants to Voluntary Groups

The Council gives financial support to a number of local clubs and organisations. In May 2025, the Town Council awarded grants totalling more than £35,000.

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.

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Selby Town Council: Mayor's Annual Report 2024 / 2025

During the course of the 2024 / 2025 year, my **Mayoral Duties** mean that I've been invited to attend, officiate, do readings and do judging at many varied events in and around Selby.

All these events have been incredibly interesting and thought provoking; and I'd like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have invited the Mayor of Selby to participate. It is heartening to know that there are so many people and organisations who have a strong sense of community and public service.

I'd especially like to thank the Town Council Staff who have helped keep the arrangements on track and thanks also to the Deputy Mayor, Jack Proud, for stepping in when I couldn't make it.

But rather than list each event I'd like to share with you my thoughts on some of **Selby Town Council's Achievements** over the last year (in no particular order):

Budgeting, Policy Review & Risk Management may not be the most exciting of activities, but they lay the foundations for what we achieve. We've continued to manage our budget, policies and risks to keep Selby Town Council viable – both for the present and for the future.

We continue to manage **Allotments**. We have continued to split larger vacant plots into smaller "starter" plots – to encourage people who might be daunted by a large plot. We have embarked on a plan to clean up some of the plots that had been left untidy and introduced a new "app" to help with inspections.

As well as managing burials and general maintenance at **Selby Cemetery**, we have encouraged wild-flowers and wildlife by extending the "No-Mow-May" into the summer with some wonderful results. However, August 2024 brought Storm Lilian – resulting in several fallen trees. Whilst no-one was hurt and no gravestones were damaged, the apiary was destroyed, and Selby Beekeepers have now decided to locate their hives elsewhere.

On behalf of **Selby Community Trust**, we manage **Scott Road Community Centre** where many organisations and groups make use of the rooms. We have also experimented with a new method of managing

the reedmace in the **Scott Road Pond** and have started some heavy maintenance of the **Bondgate Community Woodland**.

There have been episodes of vandalism at some of our **Play Areas** which means we've sometimes had to close the play areas until repairs have been completed.

We have recently completed fire risk assessments on our **Public Buildings**, and we've completed the external repairs to the **1811 Building**.

The **Town Hall** (available for hire, including **weddings**) is also the venue for **live performances** of music, comedy and theatre, as well as screenings of National Theatre Live. Despite changes in post-pandemic ticket-buying patterns, we continue to provide the high-quality performances that attract audiences from Selby and the surrounding areas.

Most **Streetlights** are the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council, and we continue to highlight the unacceptably high number of street lighting faults and the fact that North Yorkshire Council don't inspect their lights for faults but rely on the public to report them. In terms of Selby Town Council's streetlights, we converted most of our lights to LED some years ago and are now looking at converting the remaining ones.

Whilst Selby Town Council doesn't make decisions on **Planning Applications**, we are consulted by North Yorkshire Council. We make sure our local knowledge is fed into North Yorkshire Council - often explaining our concerns about **Highways** issues and **Traffic** generation of new developments (especially the creeping incremental effects).

We recognise how local charities and community organisations make a vital contribution to the people of Selby and agreed to award over £35,000 in this year's round of **Community Grants**.

We have always tried to take our environmental responsibilities seriously (e.g. solar panels, tree planting, no-mow-May etc), and we have recently established a new **Environmental Committee** to take a more holistic view. As well as developing a nature recovery strategy, we are working with the University of York's Sustainability Clinics. We are adapting the focus of **Selby In Bloom** so that entrants will be judged on environmental and nature recovery criteria. We are also setting up community action days to encourage local residents to become involved.

Across the UK, **Markets** have struggled because people's shopping habits have changed. But despite this major challenge, we have continued to keep the weekly Monday market and Bank Holiday Markets going, and we continue to stimulate interest through farmer's markets and twilight markets etc.

We continue to run our traditional and regular events such as **Family Fun Day**, the **Beer Festival**, the **Food & Drink Festival**, the **Bonfire & Fireworks and Christmas Lights Switch On / Market**. We have recently introduced a "Community Engagement" stand at some of these events, to publicise what we do and to get feedback from people attending. We have also introduced new events such as Oktoberfest, the Bunny Hop and Picnic In The Park – with the hope that, one day, these will also be seen as "traditional and regular" events.

We are justifiably proud of the **Remembrance Services** that we run in conjunction with the Royal British Legion and Selby Abbey. A lot of hard work went in to securing a marching band for the 2024 Remembrance Parade, and the service was attended by a significant number of current and former service personnel. The service in Seby Cemetery, attended by many local school children, was an equally touching and emotional event.

I'd like to thank all the Councillors on Selby Town Council, who voluntarily give up their time, energy, enthusiasm and knowledge – which are all vital to making Selby Town Council such a success.

But, of course, none of this would be possible without our team of dedicated staff. So, I'd like to thank them all for what they have achieved throughout the year on our behalf.

Fred Matthews

Mayor of Selby (May 2024 to May 2025)