

The Mayor of Wilton, Cllr Peter Edge presented the Council's Report of the Year.

Summary

Over the last year we have undergone some dramatic changes and improvements at Wilton Town Council. In August our Clerk Catherine Purves who had given 15 years of service to the Town Council left to become Clerk to Idmiston Parish Council. The Town Council was very fortunate to be able to appoint our new Town Clerk, Steve Milton in October as the new Town Clerk. Steve brings a wealth of local government experience with him having worked at Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire Council for many years. During the transition I had to act as interim Clerk until Steve Milton was appointed.

We also saw the need to give the Clerk additional support in their role and so in July Mark Bastick started his employment as Assistant to the Clerk to deal with day to day administration and to be the Mayors secretary.

We moved our offices from upstairs to the rear of the ground floor of our building at Kingsbury Square at the end of June last year. This has been a huge help towards the administration and the running of the Town Council.

As from this month we are restructuring our committees, the F&GP and A&P committees will now be meeting every other month in a bid to save resources and avoiding any duplication.

1. Wilton Parkway

The Atkins feasibility report has been published although the Town Council has not been provided with a copy, apparently the signs are positive. The latest recommendation is that the station should serve both the Bristol and Exeter lines, but this is subject to securing the funding needed to proceed.

2. Wilton Hill

Wilton Hill housing by Redrow is almost complete with only 3 plots left to be sold. The Veterans Centre will be opening soon and the Town Council was delighted to be able to contribute towards the project by providing funds to fit out one of the apartments. We are also looking forward to seeing the Enterprise Hub to be completed in September and this will also house the newly formed Wilton Mens Shed – both of which I'm sure will be a fantastic asset to Wilton.

3. Minster Street

The new children's play equipment and tennis courts have been completed and have been used well over the summer. We are currently in the process of installing a ramp for disabled access to the tennis courts, as well as installing an electricity supply to enable users to book the courts online.

With the help of Richard Varney I have been able to refurbish the fountain, which has proved to be a popular attraction to young and old alike.

4. Castle Meadow

The new outdoor gym next to the pavilion has proved extremely popular and is being well used by all ages and abilities. We are looking to improve the lighting to enable the equipment to be used early evening during the winter period.

We are looking at providing additional storage space for our regular hirers. We have also installed a large screen multimedia TV for functions which the Town Council has on permanent loan from the Carnival committee.

We have also just completed the installation of 5Kw of solar panels to the pavilion to reduce our carbon footprint, and this has enabled us to be able to receive payments

under the Governments Feed-In Tariff scheme before the deadline of the end of March 2019.

5. Castle Meadow – Environment Agency Bund

Last year I reported that the EA would cover the cost of an earth bank, which your Town Council finds unacceptable as it will decimate the playing areas, rendering them almost unusable for football and cricket. We have given the EA alternative ideas and we are about to negotiate the options with them.

The Town Council are of the opinion that any such works should not affect sporting events. To date they have not responded.

6. Naish Felts

Outline Planning permission has been granted but to date no further information is available. It is known that they are looking to relocate in the area to retain their workforce and after that progress on the site will follow.

7. CCTV

The CCTV system is now complete and is proving a very useful tool, helping keep the Town safe, and evidence has been provided to the Police on a number of occasions.

8. Newsletter

The WTC quarterly Newsletter, edited and designed by Hugh Abel, has been very successful. It will continue to cover topics of local interest.

9. Web Site and Social Media

We now have a Wilton Town Council Facebook page which has been very successful, having lots of views and engagement over the last 6 months. Our page can be found by googling 'Wilton Town Council Facebook'. We have also re-designed and re-vamped the Town Council website to make it user-friendly. If you need to find anything out about Wilton Town Council then this is a fantastic resource. The role of Social Media and Town publicity is now undertaken by our Assistant Clerk Mark Bastick

10. Water Ditchampton and EA

WTC has been in regular contact with the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council, Wilton Estate and local residents to collate responsibilities and formulate appropriate plans of action to maintain ditches and address those areas from which silt flows.

Unfortunately no real progress to rectify this has been made to date

11. Town Trail

Mapping displays have been located in the Market Square, South Street Car Park, Shopping Village and on Wilton Hill. Town Trail Maps are available at each of these locations, and trail markers are soon to be installed.

12. Wilton Enhancements

The Town Council has now had all the Wilton welcome signs installed and are waiting for the WC Highways Dept to give the go ahead for the installation of the planters with the sponsors logo's on and the Town Trail Markers. This initiative has been facilitated with Wilton Chamber of Commerce and other partners in the Town.

The Town Council has also commissioned new Street name plates to be installed as Wiltshire Council, who are the responsible authority, will no longer replace them.

There is a great demand to resurrect the Town Team to enable a more cohesive partnership with other bodies in the community.

13. Youth Centre

The Youth Centre in The Hollows has been running with support from the Church Diocese.

Unfortunately, the trustees of The Focus School who now own the building have given the Council notice to vacate the premises by the end of April as they intend to sure the buildings/site for school purposes. We hope the Youth Centre will be able to secure a new base in or near to Wilton soon.

14. Roundabout

We have secured sponsorship from local builders Mouldings & Co to enhance the roundabout, in its current state it does not provide a warm or appealing welcome into Wilton. Unfortunately Highways England have consistently failed to respond to requests for action. Last year the roundabout was only cut once. Watch this space!

15. Defibrillators

We have been fortunate to provide the Town with an additional 2 defibrillators. One from Cllr Batchelder's Mayoral appeal was to install a second defibrillator at the Community Centre. The Town Council has been able to provide a third defibrillator at the Pavilion in Castle Meadow. The locations of these can be found online via the National Defibrillator Database website: <https://www.nddb.uk/> .

16. Mayoral Event

I have decided not to a Mayoral event this year but my Mayoral appeal for The Wilton Mens Shed and South Wilts MNDA is still open for donations.

17. Greener Wilton

Your Town Council are keen to make Wilton a desirable place to visit and we hope to become a plastic free and greener Town.

We have already added the Solar panels to the roof of the Pavilion at Castle Meadow. Last weekend saw the launch of the Wilton Wombles litter picking group led by Cllr Glyde which has generated a lot of interest.

Laura Twomey-Hunt is looking after the Book and recycling Bunker in Shaftesbury Road with support from Wilton CLT.

Other items WTC are looking at currently include a milk dispenser, community fridge and free water refills.

18. Staffing

We have set up a Staffing committee looking at the Wilton Town Council administration setup.

Public Toilets are going to have electronic timers fitted with a specialist cleaning company to maintain them. The savings will allow us to employ a handy person to carry out street cleaning and other minor maintenance duties around the town.

Work we are continuing on are;

- o Neighbourhood Plan
- o Asset transfers
- o Car parking issues
- o Local council award scheme
- o Dog Fouling

A great deal of what your council has been doing, is still work in progress.

Finally, I would like to thank;

Our clerk and assistant clerk Steve Milton and Mark Bastick for their on-going support

Hugh Abel the minute secretary

Our other staff, Mrs Maureen Hopkins and Tim Lashley.

I offer my sincere thanks to my Deputy Mayor Cllr Ivan Seviour, Town councillors and our unitary councillor Pauline Church for all the support and efforts provided over the year.

I am delighted that for 2019/2020 Cllr Ivan Seviour will succeed me as the new Mayor of Wilton Town Council and Cllr Andy Kinsey will be his deputy, I look forward to working with both and to seeing the Town Council continue to move forward under their stewardship.