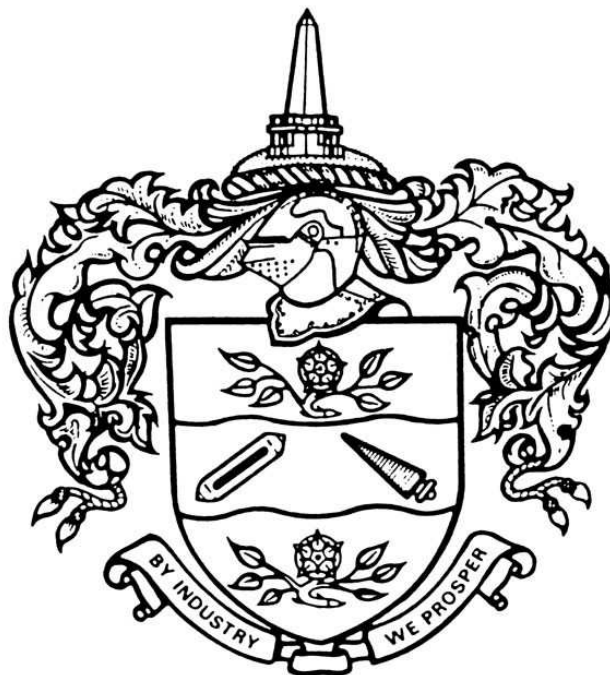


TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2011



The Annual Town Meeting is held in April each year. This is the occasion when Committee Chairs report on the activities of their Committee in the past year and give their proposals for the following year. It is also the opportunity for registered voters to raise matters of importance in the town.

This Annual Report is based on the reports given to the Annual Town Meeting in April 2011.

TOWN COUNCILLORS

ABID HUSSAIN

(Liberal Democrat)
133 Halifax Road
Todmorden
OL14 5BE
Tel: 817544

CENTRAL WARD

JOHN A LOCKHART

(Labour)
11 Rock Terrace
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OL14 6PU
Tel: 07974 428205

DIANA TREMAYNE

(Labour)
Rosebank House
Rosebank Road
Todmorden OL14 7AL
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MO BROWN

(Labour)
1 Springwood Terrace
Cornholme
Todmorden OL14 8NJ
Tel: 07882 188032

CORNHOLME WARD

ANNE JAMES

(Liberal Democrat)
Springwood House
Pudsey Rd. Cornholme
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PENNY LANGHAM

(Labour)
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JAYNE BOOTH

(Labour)
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Cornholme
Todmorden OL14 7DX
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STANSFIELD WARD

DEBORAH EATON

(Liberal Democrat)
12 Scaitcliffe View
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OL14 8EL
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MICHAEL A GILL

(Liberal Democrat)
Marazion
Stansfield Hall Road
Todmorden OL14 5LR
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LANGFIELD WARD

MARK A CATERALL

(Labour)
61 Longfield Grove
Todmorden
OL14 6NP
Tel: 07860 771401

DAVID O'NEILL

(Independent Councillor)
1 Stones Road
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OL14 7JP
Tel: 812555

STOODLEY WARD

IAN COOPER

(Conservative)
Old Hall Barn
Higher Eastwood
Todmorden OL14 8RU
Tel: 812740

BRIAN HEWSON

(Liberal Democrat)
6 Sanworth Street
Todmorden
OL14 5BU
Tel: 819200

STOODLEY WARD (CONTINUED)

MARGARETA HOLMSTEDT

(Liberal Democrat)
Upper Lockside
Haugh Road
Todmorden OL14 6BT
Tel: 812510

FRANK R McMANUS

(Labour)
97 Longfield Road
Todmorden
OL14 6ND
Tel: 816652

ANDREW J HARTLEY

(Conservative)
Pot Ovens East
Foul Clough Road, Walsden
Todmorden OL14 7RH
Tel: 07927 951656

WALSDEN WARD

ROSEMARY NEAT

(Labour)
129 Hollins Road
Todmorden
OL14 6QF
Tel: 815980

RICHARD WHITE

(Liberal Democrat)
774 Rochdale Road
Walsden
OL14 7UA
Tel: 812007

Town Council Officers

The Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer is Mrs Catherine Emberson who has overall responsibility for implementing all Town Council decisions.

The Assistant Town Clerk is Mrs Helen Heyes who co-ordinates Mayoral and civic functions.

Todmorden Town Council
Todmorden Community College
Burnley Road
Todmorden OL14 7BX

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MAYOR'S REPORT 2010 - 2011

CLLR MARGARETA HOLMSTEDT

It has been a fantastic year. As Mayor you meet everyone and reach parts of Todmorden you can't reach in any other role. Two things have been particularly enjoyable and impressive: my visits to schools and all the music, theatre and art events that the Mayoress and I have been invited to.

I visited all Todmorden Primary Schools and the High School. In all schools I spoke at the assembly, in six of the schools I visited classes and in three schools I also had a meeting with the schools' council. I was so impressed by the children's behaviour. Wherever I went children were quietly working away, interested and keen. In assemblies, which in several schools were attended by over 100 children, children were quietly listening and then asking clever and funny questions. I used the school visits to ask the children what they would like the Town Council to provide for them. In the assemblies almost every child had a suggestion or comment – something which would not happen in an audience of 100 adults. The children's ideas were impressively realistic, thoughtful and interesting. The meetings with the schools' councils were particularly useful. I will write a report about the children's suggestions to the Town Council with the aim of drawing up a four year plan for the development of facilities for children and improving playgrounds.

Todmorden has a huge amount of talent. We have a fantastic orchestra and choral society, which have developed interesting classical repertoires and are achieving very high standards. Todmorden Amateur and Operatic Dramatic Society at the Hippodrome produces wonderful plays and shows with very professional acting and singing and fantastic stage sets. The Art Society Annual Exhibition is always an impressive show of local talent and so is the much less visited annual graduation show of the university arts class at Todmorden Community College. The brass band is brilliant and plays an important role in many town events. I marvel at the number of artistic events in Todmorden and at the huge amount of local talent. At the time of writing this I am looking forward to our last event: the Gang Show. And as Mayor you get invited to all this for free.

Finally a great thanks to everyone who has so generously contributed time, money and produce to all fundraising efforts for the Mayor's Charity, the Youth Caravan in Bramsche Square. The final result is nearly £6,000.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL 2010/2011

The Town Council operates three Standing Committees and the following is a resume of work undertaken during the past twelve months.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – Chair CLLR JOSEF REZ

This Committee deals with environmental improvements and general amenity issues in the town and surrounding area.

The Council owns and maintains Lobb Mill Picnic Site. This is a popular location for visitors to the town and walkers accessing the Rochdale Canal and hillside walks leading from the car park. A central Todmorden open space known as Patmos Gardens is also owned and maintained by the Town Council. Formerly the site of an old Chapel, the Gardens provide a peaceful sitting area for all members of the community, with benches, tree seats and a small play area.

The Town Council has worked in partnership with Calderdale Council and Todmorden Pride to undertake improvement works at Lever Street and Oxford Street, and in this respect has committed funding of £30,000. Both schemes aim to encourage greater use of the canal and to improve linkage with the town centre.

The *Town Plan for Todmorden*, is a major project being undertaken by the Town Council, via the Development Projects Steering Group. Over the next twelve months there will be a number of public consultations and exercises, leading to a published document reflecting the views of the community, identifying local problems and opportunities, and setting out development issues for the future.

Todmorden Town Council supports youth projects by providing grants to local organisations, and this year has assisted the 2447 Calder Valley Squadron Air Training Corps towards the purchase of a trailer for mountain bikes and adventure equipment. Roomfield Baptist Church's youth group has also been awarded funds to help with resources and project work.

The continuation of the Tourist Information Centre has again been assured by grant funding of £19,900. Financial assistance has also been provided for the purpose of environmental improvements to the Todmorden in Bloom and Riverside Improvement Groups, with total 'Environment' spending this year being £15,841. Local societies and groups have benefited via grants in respect of 'Entertainment, the Arts and Recreation' in the sum of £13,614, together with other grants totalling £28,436. Twenty-two payments of Town Hall Hire Charge refunds of £6,683 have helped the town's societies and groups to help themselves by organising events in Todmorden Town Hall. This also makes good use of the building.

The Council continues to work in partnership with West Yorkshire Police Authority by part-funding two additional Police Community Support Officers to work in Todmorden.

The annual Mid-Pennine Arts Schools' Tour has again been arranged on the Council's behalf. This is always much appreciated and Mid-Pennine Arts continue to provide quality educational entertainment. A further five children's Christmas Light designs

were made up into working lights and installed in time for the Christmas 'switch-on' event in November 2010.

The Town Council has, however, recently reviewed Christmas decorations in Todmorden, and this year will see a change in emphasis by concentrating on achieving a stunning Town Christmas Tree display with the purchase of several sets of new twinkling multi-coloured lights and a large 3-D star. Future plans will involve moving out from the Peace Garden with different tree/light design displays leading to Bramsche Square.

Council representatives continue to assist with the Fairtrade Town Support Group. The Town Council supports Fairtrade and actively encourages the use of Fairtrade products at its own meetings and events where refreshments are provided.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Chair CLLR ANNE JAMES

A very large part of this Committee's work involves consultation and recommendation on Planning Applications and there are therefore two meetings per cycle. Local concerns are carefully considered by Members, especially when controversial Planning Applications are submitted, or in neighbouring authorities where there would be an impact on Todmorden and its environs.

Representatives from Calderdale Council and other visitors as considered appropriate are invited to address the Committee to speak on a variety of issues. This year a visit from the Environment Agency was organised to address both Members' and public concerns regarding phase three of the Todmorden flood defence scheme.

In line with the Council's Public Transport Policy, the Committee looks for opportunities to improve and enhance public transport, which it sees as essential to the economic and social well being of the town. The Council has been pleased to support the introduction of a rural bus service which now runs between Todmorden and Hebden Bridge railway stations.

The Council has also submitted comments to the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Partnership which sets out a strategy for improving the transport system. The consultation responses will address current transport concerns and development over the coming fifteen years.

Empty buildings, litter and parking issues are all concerns within the town and the Town Council continues to press for action in these matters.

Many other areas are dealt with by this Committee, such as footpaths and obstructions, together with redevelopment and regeneration matters. Much time has already been devoted to the current Town Centre Renaissance Board Project, and the Town Council has forwarded its views on this subject via a written document. It also has representation on the Board in order to ensure that its voice is heard on this important matter.

Overall the Committee tries to keep alert to the general concerns of the public in the areas covered by it.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – Chair CLLR ROB GOLDTHORPE

Council administration is dealt with by this Committee, in areas covering finance, staffing, standing orders, the mayoralty, electoral matters and town twinning. 'Communication' issues addressed via this Committee help to raise the profile of the Town Council through its Website, Annual Report booklet and quarterly Newsletters. The replacement noticeboard installed outside Todmorden Town Hall has become a useful tool in the provision of public information. This is much used by the community and also displays Town Council material, such as meeting agendas, audit notices and contact information.

'Citizenship Awards for Todmorden' introduced last year augment existing awards and continue to recognise the commitment shown by individuals and groups. The winners receive their certificates prior to the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May.

Annual meetings are held with representatives of the Emergency Services and prove to be a useful forum to discuss issues of importance to the electorate, such as police presence and adequate fire and ambulance services. The Committee keeps alert to general issues in Todmorden, such as postal service delays, and has also been consulted regarding cemetery provision.

The Council is represented on many bodies on which its input can be useful and takes Members into areas of concern for the town and its electorate. This is a valuable part of Town Councillors' work.

TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

31/03/2010	<u>YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2011</u>	31/03/2011
£	<u>INCOME</u>	£
175,864.00	* PRECEPT	182,626.00
14,234.00	BLOCK GRANT FROM CALDERDALE COUNCIL	14,633.00
0.00	* AGENCY SERVICES (not applicable)	0.00
0.00	* LOAN/CAPITAL RECEIPTS (not applicable)	0.00
0.00	* SALE OF ASSETS	0.00
0.00	PUBLICITY SALES	0.00
100.00	WALSDEN CC RENT	100.00
50.00	Y E WAYLEAVE	50.00
416.00	PAYMENT MADE BY CALDERDALE COUNCIL IN ERROR	0.00
541.34	* BANK INTEREST	471.53
2,270.50	STOPPED/RETURNED/NON-PRESENTED CHEQUES	4,397.04
<u>10.02</u>	OTHER PAYMENTS	<u>10.00</u>
<u>193,485.86</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>202,287.57</u>
81,222.98	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	58,024.59
0.00	* AGENCY SERVICES (not applicable)	0.00
0.00	* CAPITAL SCHEMES (not applicable)	0.00
	* <u>SECTION 137 PAYMENTS (See also Rolled over sum)</u>	
8,780.00	Grants & Donations	10,019.00
10,388.99	Refund of Town Hall Hire Charges	6,682.65
1,550.00	Education	3,250.00
1,335.28	SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,246.50
13,284.69	ENVIRONMENTAL & AMENITY	15,840.06
	ENTERTAINMENT, THE ARTS AND RECREATION	
	GRANTS	
9,296.15	PLUS PUBLICITY	16,272.60
5,880.30	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	6,646.41
13,800.00	TOURISM	19,909.00
17,294.40	TOWN CENTRE SECURITY	17,741.04
0.00	* PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS (not applicable)	0.00
0.00	* INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBTS (not applicable)	0.00
0.00	* ELECTION EXPENSES	0.00
0.00	PLAYGROUNDS & YOUTH FACILITIES	1,500.00
0.00	DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	26,670.00
416.00	RETURN OF PAYMENT MADE BY CALD IN ERROR	0.00
453.15	DEV OFFICER - FAIRTRADE AND COMMUNITY MINGLE	207.00
276.02	OTHER PAYMENTS	1,632.36
	<u>Rolled over monies spent:-</u>	
777.49	Dev Officer - Banners, board and telephone	0.00
1,543.65	Dev Officer - Noticeboard	0.00
878.92	Youth - Churches Together in Todmorden	0.00
3,303.00	Youth - Acorn Centre, Todmorden	0.00
0.00	Youth - Roomfield Baptist Church - Grant and Replace chq	8,000.00
0.00	Youth - Todmorden Youth Choir - Grant	1,200.00
0.00	Office of the Mayor - Transport/Security	820.90
<u>0.00</u>	Bus & Market Development - SECTION 137	<u>8,467.24</u>
<u>170,481.02</u>	Items shown * are for mandatory inclusion whether applicable or not	<u>204,129.35</u>
	CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE	
114,344.11	Balance forward	137,348.95
<u>193,485.86</u>	ADD Total Income	<u>202,287.57</u>
307,829.97		339,636.52
<u>170,481.02</u>	DEDUCT Total Expenditure	<u>204,129.35</u>
<u>137,348.95</u>	Balance carried forward	<u>135,507.17</u>



The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme was launched in June 2003, following the publication of the Government's 2000 Rural White Paper. The scheme was designed to provide benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils and enable them to better represent the communities they serve. The scheme also aims to promote enhanced relationships between local councils, principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organisations.

Achieving Quality status demonstrates that a council has met certain standards expected from an effective, representative and active parish or town council. In order to gain the award, parish and town councils must demonstrate that they have reached the standard required by passing several tests. The tests, which are summarised below, exceed the statutory duties of parish and town councils.

- Electoral Mandate
- Qualifications of the Clerk
- Council Meetings
- Communications
- Annual Report
- Accounts
- Promoting Local Democracy and Citizenship
- Training
- Code of Conduct

Todmorden Town Council first achieved Quality Council Status in April 2007
Reaccredited May 2011

