

# **WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019 - 2020**

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**Chairman's Review Sue Shelbourn-Barrow**

In 2019, the election in May, reported fifteen Town Councillors elected and a new Chairman and Deputy Chairman on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The year has seen resignation of a Councillor and Deputy Chairman and the co-option of a new Councillor and Deputy Chairman in January 2020. One vacancy remains in early Q4 however it is expected this in vacancy will be considered for appointment in March 2020.

This annual report has captured a beginning of an exciting journey as Wincanton Town Council leading on Wincanton for the Future in early summer 2019 and culminated in agreement of a Town Initiative fund in the 2020/21 precept and the infrastructure to develop a capacity to take forward phase 1 and years 2 and 3 Wincanton for the Future Plan and additional capacity to drive forward the actions held in the Town Plan.

In 2019 South Somerset District Council working in partnership with Wincanton Town Council commence a 3 – 5yr plan to regenerate the town for our residents and businesses. The plan and how as a resident your voice can be heard will be published over the coming months. The town council is a key stakeholder and voting member of the Regeneration Board and in agreement with the district council the Chairman of the Town Council chairs the joint Stakeholder Group. The group is central to engagement of priority stakeholders, our residents of all ages, and to date we have held two stakeholder engagement events in July 2019 and January 2020. These were supported by Town Council members, District and County Councillors, the Balsam Centre, Wincanton Race Course, Lynne Franks `the hub`, Wincanton Chamber of Commerce, library service, interested parties and Spark enabling the beginning of the model for volunteering and social action. These were a great success and fed our 2020 Wincanton for the Future Plan. However, this is the beginning of an exciting 3years, where working with our residents, businesses and local government we will embark on enabling our Town to be sustainable, have a

strong sense of community and celebrate our history and the people who will make this happen.

One of our greatest opportunities commenced in late summer 2019, when each residency in the town received a survey. In October 2019, the Town Council received 730 of response of which 542 reported the 3 carparks (Memorial Hall, Carrington Way and Churchfield) to continue within the compensation scheme funded through the precept. This message to continue the scheme was advocated by our businesses whose concern that the impact of not doing so would impact on the viability of these businesses. The Town Council, confirmed the continuation of the compensation scheme for the 3 carparks in October 2019.

In December 2019, a further challenge to the compensation scheme arose however in February 2020 the decision to include the Churchfield carpark in the sale of Churchfield property was removed. The voice of the residents, businesses and local services was articulated clearly at the Area East Meeting and demonstrated how integral the carparking is for our residents, businesses and services.

Wincanton is committed in developing and taking forward a sustainable town ethos encompasses with the Wincanton Environmental and Ecological Charter and Plan. In addition, as part of Open Spaces work stream the Town Council commenced the replacement of the skateboard park in February 2019 supported by grant funding which reduce the loan. WEEP continues to explore opportunities for rewilding, planting of trees, protecting our wildlife and habitat and green spaces for our residents and visitors. We held our first Climate Change Workshop and invited local parish's and interested parties to be part of the evening. This will continue to gain momentum over 2020/21 as we consider opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint and recycling, reducing food waste and exploring ways as part of the Good Stuff Fund support great ideas for people, wildlife and our natural environment.

In 2019, the Town Council continued to explore funding opportunities to restore the Town Hall as a listed building due to under estimate in recent years and its future within the Town Regeneration. The Town Hall is owned by a Trust of which the Town Council is the sole Trustee. The Town Hall and the clock tower are important for our town and as the plans are developed, we will share these with our residents to

ensure what we do is right for the town, the building its history and the people we represent.

The Town Council has seen the preparation for transfer of assets within Cale Park Cafe, the change in the tenants of the David Sharp Centre and its continuation of a soft play area and public café. This building is owned by the Town Council and offers opportunities in the future to think differently to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance the offer in one of our public areas. One area of concern is dog management in the park and within the town. This remains are concern that as a council we will take advice to resolve working with dog owners and people who use our open spaces.

During the late Summer a public cinema style screening of a film was held funded by revenue and a donation from the local film group that disbanded. The film and children activities in the summer has proved popular. It is envisaged that an itinerary of activities will be developed further in 2020/21 to include enhancing the Christmas and winter spectacle to encourage visitor`s to the town and for its residents and businesses working with Wincanton Chamber of Commerce. I have been privileged to attend, open and be part of many activities this year which is noted in the table embed into this report. I look forward to the continuation of the opportunity to celebrate our history, people and high street over the coming year. I would at this time wish to Welcome Alison Way our new rector, I was proud to present a map of the town on behalf of the Town Council in February 2020 and look forward to working with all our faith groups and churches over this coming year.

The Town Council staff to include the ground staff continue to deliver the services within our constitution and work with local groups for the benefit of the Town and its residents. The Town Council continues report anti-social behaviour and vandalism of our public open spaces. It was with great sadness that trees planted by children in the Town were vandalised and the water fountain in the play park damaged, it is of concern that anti-social behaviour and theft continues to be reported monthly as part of the Police report, we as a town need to stand up and say we do not wish to see this behaviour in the town. We continue to work with the Police to combat the problem and would encourage residents to report any incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour immediately.

Our Town is steeped in history from our building and our strong links to the forces, this was demonstrated this year in the Poppy event, laying of wreaths, parade and supported by fly pass. This is an important part of our towns commitment to those who have served and serve to which we will see more in 2020.

I have been privileged to attend on behalf of Wincanton Town Council the following events,

<b>Chairman's Engagements 2019/20</b>	<b>Month</b>
Making of a Mayor Bridgewater	24 <sup>th</sup> May
Carrington House Tea Party	23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Lay the wreath	23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Think Tank	24 <sup>th</sup> June – 9 <sup>th</sup> July
Somerset Schools Folk Dance	15 June
Chairman and Deputy Walkabout	25 <sup>th</sup> June
Wincanton Community Hospital open the fayre	6 <sup>th</sup> July
Introduction to meet SSDC councillor	10 July
Community Partnership Balsam Centre	17 July
Wincanton For the Future – engagement event	16 July
Opening Lilly Rose Florist	10 <sup>th</sup> June
Opening Futuristic	8 <sup>th</sup> June
Opening VAMP shop	8 <sup>th</sup> June
Attended the Football Tournament	8 <sup>th</sup> June
Open the SEED Market	21 August
Wincanton Silver Band	22 August /1 December
Opening Cavanna Homes  Chairman  Opened by Deputy Chairman	      9 Feb 2020
Chard Civic Service Chairman of Somerset County Council	28 September

Wincanton Silver Band	22 September
Met Bruton Mayor	17 October
SEED Market	19 October
SALC AGM and meeting with Castle Carey and Bruton Mayors	26 October
Remembrance Sunday and parade	10 November
Read Easy Open evening	15 November
Wincanton Chamber of Commerce AGM	20 November
The Old Faithful Wreath laying at memorial hall	23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Uncle Toms calendar launch	22 November
Wincanton Town Council Awards	29 November
Wincanton Town Council and Wincanton Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree and specular event	30 November
Wincanton Choral Society	8 December
Over 70s Lunch KA	1 December
SEED Café community food evening	31 December
Wincanton St Peters and Pauls Church Carol Service	22 December
Wincanton Engagement Events	21 January 2020
Met Local Landowner	24 January
Gallery `opening`	1 February
Unveil the statue Nathaniel Ireson	16 December
Wincanton Chamber of Commerce Expo meeting	14 February / 23 <sup>rd</sup> April
Wincanton St Peters and Pauls Church `installation of the rector`	19 <sup>th</sup> February rehearsal for the installation on 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Railway/cycle pathways	2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Book Festival Opening	7 <sup>th</sup> March
Yeovil Charity Event	27th March
High Sheriff of Somerset legal	15th March

ceremony and procession.	
Wincanton Town Hall – two classes visit and engagement	26th March
Comms and Marketing meeting – Our USP	1 March
Balsam Centre meet the team	27th March

This Council continues to provide the best services however previous years of under investment now mean it is important to focus our activities on regeneration of our town for our residents and business.

The precept was £267,850 for 2019/2020. The accounts (subject to audit) for the year are shown below:

## Wincanton Town Council Accounts

### FY: 2019/2020

Salary Costs (inc NI & Pension)	£148,046.47
Wincanton Sports Ground	£15,000.00
Cemetery Costs	£1,662.85
Security Patrols	£0.00
Maintenance Overheads	£22,627.76
Town Hall and Community Office	£12,908.43
Administration	£7,011.21
Insurance	£3,658.68
Grants	£34,288.21
New Equipment	£921.34
Tourism	£1,499.30
Xmas Tree Lights & Decoration	£3,509.50
Town Hall Repairs	£0.00
Toilets	£821.07
David Sharp Centre	£782.76
Allotments	£83.64
Recreation Ground improvement	£5,000.00
Mayors Events/Expenses	£1,753.81
Tree Maintenance	£2,612.40
Free Car Parking Scheme	£0.00
Shelter re-build	£0.00
Mower Lease	£2,555.14
Skatepark	£103,366.67
Community Events	£0.00
Cemetery Path	£0.00
Transport Plan Improvements	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£368,109.24</b>

## Income

Precept	£267,850.00
Burial Fees	£9,446.85
SSDC	£0.00
Rents	£296.33
Allotments	£1,086.64
Interest	£211.34
Tourism Sales	£2,695.30
Public Works Loan	£79,972.00
Skate Park Funding	£11,250.00
David Sharp Centre	£8,352.00
VAT	£13,866.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>£395,026.69</b>