



# **Broseley Town Council**

# **Annual Report 2015/2016**

## **Introduction**

### **by Councillor Simon Harris, Mayor of Broseley 2015/2016**

It's been a fabulous year for both me and my consort Tracy Lloyd. We have visited Ellesmere, Wem, Wellington, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock, making new friends, meeting old ones and helping to keep the voice of the towns together as a force in the county.

We have now, after much negotiation, moved into our new offices in the library building. I personally am very proud of this, having lived in the town all my life. I cannot praise the efforts of the Councillors that make up the asset transfer team enough; it has been a learning curve for all involved, and we have come through this with so much more knowledge that will stand us in good stead for the future. Guest Road open space and Maypole Green are also transferring to the Town Council and we will continue to maintain them for the town's benefit.

During the last month we have had a change of members on the asset transfer team and we are now starting negotiations on the Birchmeadow Park. The park this year has received new equipment in the form of exercise machines and also a long awaited BMX track. The equipment has been very well received, not just by the local people but also by visitors to the town. This is raising the town's profile which will help in future projects.

We have been gifted with sculptures and artefacts from Ironbridge Power Station, which was quite a coup for the town. I wish to say a great big thank you to the team of volunteers that took part in the walk around the town and sold the idea to the Station's representatives. Over the coming months you will see these sculptures being positioned in their new resting places for all to enjoy. The sculptures will form the basis of a new town trail that will, in turn, bring more tourism to the town which will benefit businesses in the high street including the public houses, cafés and restaurants. The sculptures and artefacts also gave a further impetus to developing the church heritage centre - let us hope that this moves forward over the next year.

We held a Mayor's concert in All Saints Church this year which was so successful that I am sure we will be repeating the event. My thanks go to the Shropshire Music Trust and to all the church members who helped with the organisation. The event brought together pupils from the three local primary schools, who performed folk songs from around the world with the band, Project Jam Sandwich. The event raised £656 which was divided between the church and the Trust.

The Mayor's Ball was enjoyed by guests from around the town as well as the dignitaries from Bridgnorth, Wellington and Telford. Mike and Sarah's Catering supplied us with a four course dinner and Much Wenlock Water was the sponsor for the event. We danced the night away with Natalie Lewis and her soul band Groove City. The total sum raised for the youth of Broseley was over £1,000.

As you may be aware, the Youth Club suffered in Shropshire Council's budget cuts and closed down for a short time. I have a personal affinity with the club as my mum, Thelma Harris and Heather Butler started the Tuesday night 11 plus club back in the 1980s. I am pleased that the hard work by Mike Ridley and his team of volunteers has paid off and the Youth Club is up and running again.

My personal campaign to get the town's drains working properly has led to meetings with officers from Severn Trent Water and Shropshire Council. Drains in some areas have been cleaned and repaired and consultations with contractors over problem areas are underway. On the Birchmeadow Park, for instance, work will soon be carried out to deal with the surface water.

The dog poo campaign in the spring got off to a flying start and has since got its own facebook site. Areas that were badly affected, such as outside the schools, seem to be far better. This campaign was prompted by a small team of dog owners who refused to be blamed for the irresponsible behaviour of others.

Broseley has benefited hugely this year from its army of volunteers and their hard work and commitment to the causes and events in the town. I would like to thank all members of the Town Council for their hard work and commitment during this period of change as well as employees, including our new library staff.

Let us all look forward to another exciting year.

## People, Facts and Figures

### Your Broseley Councillors for 2015-2016 were:

Name	Address	Telephone no.
Mr Michael Burton (Broseley East)	1 Wilkinson Avenue, Broseley TF12 5DX	07980 419032
Mr Roy Childs (Broseley West)	20 Sherlock Hoy Close, Broseley TF12 5JB	01952 883510
Mr Andrew Cooke (Broseley Wood)	22 Simpsons Lane, Broseley TF12 5RF	01952 884083
Mrs Lynda Garbett (Broseley East)	Tynning Cottage, Chapel Lane, Broseley TF12 5JD	01952 883412
Mr Michael Garbett (Broseley East)	Tynning Cottage, Chapel Lane, Broseley TF12 5JD	01952 883412
Mr Simon Harris, Mayor (Broseley East)	53 Wilkinson Avenue, Broseley TF12 5DZ	01952 882003
Ms Jean Jones, Deputy Mayor (Broseley West)	The Laurels, 39 King Street, Broseley TF12 5NA	01952 882650
Mr Ian Pickles (Broseley West)	2 Queen Street, Broseley TF12 5NB	01952 882505
Mr Dilwyn Scott (Broseley West)	"Solstice", 58 Church Street, Broseley TF12 5BX	01952 884673
Mr Peter Smith (Broseley East)	17 Barber Street, Broseley TF12 5NR	01952 884769
Mr Alan Taylor (Broseley East)	7 Hockley Road, Broseley TF12 5HS	07889 939398

#### Town Clerk

Mrs Trudi Barrett

E-mail: broseleytc.clerk@btinternet.com

#### Responsible Finance Officer

Mrs Denise Webb

E-mail: broseleytc.rfo@btinternet.com

#### Administrative Assistant

Mrs Esther Cartwright

E-mail: broseleytc\_info1@btinternet.com

#### Shropshire Councillors

Ms Jean Jones

Mr David Turner (Broseley Wood)

## **Membership of Committees 2015/16**

### **Planning Committee**

Councillors M Burton, R Childs, A Cooke, I Pickles  
Chair: Councillor Peter Smith

### **Estate Committee**

Councillors R Childs, L Garbett, P Smith, A Taylor  
Chair: Councillor Michael Garbett

The Mayor, Councillor Simon Harris, and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jean Jones, were ex officio members of both committees.

### **Personnel Group**

Councillors Burton, Cooke, Jones (D Scott substitute)

## **Appointments to Outside Bodies 2015/2016**

Appointments were made to the following outside bodies:

### **Birchmeadow Centre Management Committee**

Councillors L Garbett and J Jones

### **Birchmeadow Park Management Committee**

Councillors R Childs, M Garbett and I Pickles

### **Victoria Hall Management Committee**

Councillors M Burton and D Scott

### **Local Joint Committee**

Councillors I Pickles and A Cooke  
Deputies: Councillor P Smith and A Taylor

### **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Group**

Councillors R Childs, J Jones and I Pickles

### **Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee of Shropshire Association of Local Councils**

Councillors L Garbett and M Garbett  
Deputy: R Childs

### **Severn Gorge Countryside Trust**

Councillor A Cooke

### **Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group**

Councillor I Pickles

### **JL Edwards Memorial Trust**

Councillor I Pickles

# Financial Report

## Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

### Income

	£
Precept	180,859.00
Cemetery	23,510.00
Grants	700.00
Bank interest	1,405.31
Miscellaneous	2,582.00
Multi-use Games Area	5,331.56
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	214,387.87
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### Expenditure

Administration	15,385.18
General	3,883.03
Christmas Lights	7,124.53
Burial Ground	7,983.40
Birchmeadow Centre	16,061.03
Birchmeadow Centre Cafe Project	443.23
Grants & Subscriptions	22,193.30
Salaries & Wages	85,155.42
Street Lighting	15,151.64
Public Toilets	7,214.04
Multi-use Games Area	2,031.20
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	182,626.00
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Surplus for Year 31,761.87

Balances Brought Forward 193,889.04

Balances Carried Forward 

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225,650.91

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The accounts and Annual Return for 2015/2016 are made available for public inspection for a period following approval and audit. Members of the public who wish to see the accounts should contact the Finance Officer for details.

None of your local Councillors receive any payment for the voluntary duties they undertake. The Mayor receives an allowance to offset some of the costs associated with acting as Mayor of Broseley and representing the town at many functions during the year.

## Grant Funding

During the Financial Year 2015/16 the Council was able to support several local organisations and events through both its Project and Service Support Grant Funding schemes. Grant funding provided throughout the year was as follows:

### Project Grants

		£
Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Crucial Crew	To support the attendance of year 6 pupils from the two Broseley primary schools at an annual safety event.	392.00
Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival	To support the provision of a programme of guided walks in and around the Ironbridge Gorge, including Broseley.	100.00
Willey Wanderers Cricket Club	For the purchase of equipment.	200.00
Puddleducks Pre-School	For the improvement of a gazebo.	110.00
Broseley Heritage Centre Project Group	Towards the creation of a town heritage centre in All Saints Church.	1,000.00
Victoria Hall Management Committee	For repair of the hall floor.	4,800.00

### Service Support Grants

		£
Broseley in Bloom	To support floral displays around the town.	3,000.00
Birchmeadow Park Management Committee	To support the facilities on the Birchmeadow Park.	2,000.00
Birchmeadow Centre Management Committee	Towards the management and upkeep of the building.	4,500.00
Citizens Advice Shropshire	Towards the provision of a citizens advice service in Broseley.	2,500.00

The Council continues to consider the provision of financial support to local groups. Application forms and further details can be found on the Council's website or obtained from the office.

## **Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee meets every month. It responds on the Council's behalf to consultations on local planning applications. It also works to take forward the Council's agreed policies on highways, footpaths and support for the local visitor economy and guides the Council on local planning policy and on the use of funds contributed by developers for local infrastructure investment.

Although the number of planning applications considered has fallen slightly compared with 2014/15, work associated with planning appeals has grown. Frequent central government changes to planning and infrastructure investment rules and uncertainty about possible future changes has made the work difficult for us as well as for our Planning Authority, Shropshire Council. Fewer specialist staff with local knowledge at Shropshire Council has also, in our view, made both Councils less effective than they should have been on planning and highways matters.

## **Estate Committee**

The Estate Committee oversees the management of Council owned property in the town including the Cemetery, the Birchmeadow Centre and the Memorial Garden. The Estate Committee will also become responsible for the Library, car park and additional open spaces during 2016, which will generate considerable extra work for the Committee and staff in the coming months and years.

### **Birchmeadow Centre**

The Estate Committee works closely with the Birchmeadow Centre Management Committee to help ensure the efficient running of the Centre. There is an ongoing programme of repair and maintenance for the building.

Following the completion of the Pritchard Room last year, acoustic panels were installed to reduce the echo in the room and this is now a well used space. This year the damp proofing on the building was completed and new external fire doors were fitted to the changing room extension. The old concrete fence between the car park and adjoining property was replaced with a six foot wooden fence and a wooden safety barrier for protection. A Health and Safety review was carried out and issues raised have been addressed by the Council and Management Committee. The condition of the upstairs toilets remains a concern and it is hoped to address this in the coming year.

At the start of the year a priority list was agreed with most importance being put on three projects that would be combined together: repairs to the gable end wall, a new steel beam over the stage and a new roof over the back of the stage which had suffered storm damage. A CDM Co-ordinator has been appointed to oversee the project and it is expected that the work will be carried out in the autumn of 2016.

### **Cemetery**

The Cemetery continues to be maintained to a high standard by our groundsmen, who are also responsible for managing interments. To help with this process new grave shuttering has been purchased and it has been agreed to hire a mini-digger when required. From April 2015 – March 2016 there were 42 interments in the Cemetery. Fees were increased slightly to keep in line with other cemeteries in the area.

### **Park View Play Area**

As a result of concerns about the secluded location of Park View Play Area, the Council decided to close the play area and arrange for the removal of the play equipment. The land is owned by Shropshire Council who will be responsible for the future management of this area.

### **Street Lighting**

The Council is committed to the conversion of its street lamps to more energy efficient, lower cost lighting and has already converted a small number of lights. It is planned to trial LED lighting in further areas in the coming year.

### **Christmas Lights**

The Christmas Lights switch-on event was again a great success. The Council is committed to supporting this event.

## **Reports from Outside Bodies**

### **Broseley and Barrow Local Joint Committee (LJC)**

The Broseley and Barrow Local Joint Committee meets bi-annually and offers the public an opportunity to raise issues with representatives from local Parish, Town and Shropshire councils. A representative of the local policing team also attends and presents a report.

In 2015/16, much of the focus has been on the Asset Transfer Programme, with progress updates on the transfer of the library service, library building, library car park and Guest Road and Maypole Green open spaces to Broseley Town Council.

At the July meeting, George Candler, Director of Commissioning for Shropshire Council, answered residents' questions regarding Shropshire Council's decision not to allocate any funding for youth activities in Broseley and announced a one-off payment of £1,500 in recognition of local concern. Mr Candler also attended the January meeting to explain the worsening financial situation faced by Shropshire Council as a result of Government cuts. The LJC Panel agreed to devolve responsibility to the Broseley Youth Partnership for co-ordinating youth activities in the town.

Police representatives covered the issues of illegal and inconsiderate parking and tackling anti-social behaviour.

### **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)**

The MUGA is well used by the school community and recognised as a valuable asset. Community use remains healthy and it is great that local youth and adult teams are able to train without going out of town. At school outdoor PE sessions can take place even when the grassed areas are wet and muddy. There was little loss of usage due to bad weather during the winter and the shelter is now in place to accommodate spectators. The floodlights mean training can go on in the evenings in winter.

The MUGA is available for community use during school holidays and it is hoped to develop summer tournaments and mini leagues – the MUGA Group is especially keen to encourage women's and girls' teams to book the facility. Promotion is being developed on social media and the website is being updated.

Broseley Town Council continues to provide legal and financial services and the Group is building a reserve to cover the cost of a replacement pitch when necessary.

Booking numbers: 07528 754801 or 07887 498417 Chair: Mike Kaiser 01952 882684.

## Birchmeadow Park Management Committee

The Birchmeadow Park provides a wonderful recreation area for the community of Broseley. During the past year AFC Broseley, Ironbridge Town and several teams from Broseley Youth Sports have played regularly on the football pitches. The children's play area is very well used and is inspected every day by either one of the Town Council's groundsmen or a Shropshire Council groundsman.

The Management Committee continues to work with Shropshire Council to seek ways of improving the Park and its facilities. During the course of the year exciting improvements were made to the Park: outdoor gym equipment was installed and a running track was marked out around the junior football pitch. The long awaited BMX track was also created and opened at the end of April 2016. This has already proved very popular with young people and is a valuable addition to the Park's facilities.

## Communications

During the year the Town Council published four issues of its newsletter, Town Talk, which was distributed door to door throughout the town. The Council regularly contributed to the Broseley Quarterly and What's What magazine, as well as issuing press releases to the local newspapers. Council notices, including the schedule of meetings and meeting agendas, were displayed on Council notice boards and on the Council's website ([www.2shrop.net/BroseleyTownCouncil](http://www.2shrop.net/BroseleyTownCouncil)) and were also available from the library and the Clerk.

The office was open to visits from the public Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. Following the move to the library, the office is open on Thursday mornings, 10am to 12 noon.

## Schedule of Council and Committee Meetings 2016/2017

Month	May 16	Jun 16	July 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17
<b>Full Council (Tues)</b>	10 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Planning Committee (Thurs)</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Estate Committee (Tues)</b>	17 <sup>th</sup>		19 <sup>th</sup>		20 <sup>th</sup>		15 <sup>th</sup>		17 <sup>th</sup>		21 <sup>st</sup>		16 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>												Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	

Members of the public are invited to attend and listen at any council meeting, and may speak in the Public Participation session of the Full Council meeting or Planning Committee meeting. 10 minutes are set aside for public participation at the beginning of the meeting when members of the public may raise issues of concern or pass on information. This session is not intended as a forum for debate and issues requiring a response may be answered in writing or referred to the next meeting of the Council.

Meetings are usually held at the Birchmeadow Centre at 7.00 pm. Copies of agendas are displayed on Council notice boards and the Council web site and are available from the Clerk or from the library.

Broseley Town Council  
The Library Building  
Bridgnorth Road  
Broseley  
Shropshire  
TF12 5EL

Tel: 01952 882172  
E-mail: [broseleytc.clerk@btinternet.com](mailto:broseleytc.clerk@btinternet.com)

Town Clerk: Mrs T M Barrett  
Responsible Finance Officer: Mrs D Webb

