



## Annual Town Meeting

### Annual Town Council Report for 01 June 2021

#### Summary for the civic year ending 25 May 2021

It is 2 years ago since the last Town meeting, in the intervening time the work of Council has continued with:

- 91 Council, Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Group meetings taking place
- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are members of every Committee and sub-committee with the exception of HR
- 140 planning applications were considered
- 7 community grant awards were made to local community groups
- 7 community groups received humanitarian grants, including Bingham Helping Hands
- Provided financial support to Bingham Community Events for August 2020 Events
- 18 Freedom of Information requests answered
- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee was dissolved and the work completed has been safely stored with the Town Council for future use

The past year has provided new challenges for the Council and residents of Bingham because of the pandemic. The Council has had to adapt to new ways of safely operating including virtual meetings becoming the new normal over the past year. This is only the third face to face meeting since March 2020 with the Council continuing to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances.

The Town Council responded early to the pandemic by creating the Resilience Sub-Committee with a Humanitarian Grant Aid budget to support the newly formed Bingham Helping Hands volunteers, as well as other community groups, that sprang into action to respond to the pandemic.

The Town Council also expanded its Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Groups to include a HR Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee recently took on the new title of the Policy, Resources and Major Projects Committee to reflect its ambitions for the town. The Emergency Plan Sub-Committee was set up as a task and finish enterprise to update its Emergency Plan for Nottinghamshire County Council. The Wynhill Re-Development Working Group and the Bingham Town Sports Club Working Group were set up to work with the town's two major sporting sites to enhance the facilities for the community.

In terms of projects delivered and progressed:

- The first priority of the Council was to improve its IT and offer access to virtual meetings. This has been an ongoing process and a move back to face-to-face meetings provides the next challenge
- The Council completed its second play area refurbishment, so Wychwood Road now has a new play area for the residents to enjoy. Grant awards from the FCC Communities Fund and the Notts

County Council Local Improvement Scheme Fund helped the Council to deliver this community facility.

- Work continued to establish plans for a long stay car parking provision at the former allotment site
- Plans for the re-development of the Wynhill site to provide enhanced community facilities have continued but have evolved due to the reduction of Grant Funding opportunities.
- Work has begun with Bingham Town Sports Clubs to assist them with their plans to provide additional sporting opportunities at Butt Field
- Joint working with the Bingham Community Events Group provided a number of town centre events during the summer of 2020.

The Council is supported by:

- 2 part-time administrative staff
- 1 part-time Deputy Clerk and 1 part-time Clerk
- 2 full time grounds men
- 1 part-time cleaner
- There is currently 1 part-time administrative staff vacancy

Officers continue to split their focus between internal facing commitments, whilst also delivering projects to enhance Bingham.

There are 14 Councillors, elected or co-opted, from May 2019.