Annual Town Meeting Notes

1. Intro – The Chair welcomed everyone to the Town Meeting on behalf of Baildon Town Council and explained the agenda.
2. Looking back at 2021/2022:
* The Chair:
1. Baildon Reservoir – Bradford Council were successful in their legal action for control of the reservoir and will consult with Baildon as to the future of the land.
2. Baildon Library – Plans were put into place to move the Library to Baildon Club, with the latter to be refurbished in the process.
3. Neighbourhood Development Plan – Began working on the NDP consultation with hopes of progressing the same in the coming year.
* Environment Committee Chair:
1. The Chair thanked volunteers for all their efforts across Baildon for various organisations.
2. Bracken Hall Countryside Centre – The Chair referred to the significant refurbishment of the centre and thanked the volunteers and staff.
3. Sandal’s Cycle Track – The Chair referred to their continued support of the development of the cycle track.
4. Jenny Lane Playground – The Chair confirmed that agreement was reached with Bradford Council to refurbishment and develop the playground in the coming year.
* Economy Committee Chair:
1. Public Toilets – The Chair thanked the Love our Loos team and everyone who has had a hand in the upkeep of the public toilets. The same are now award winning.
2. Baildon Ignition Group – The Chair advised on the successful re-launch of BIG and confirmed that meetings are taking place regularly.
3. Visit Baildon Website – The Chair confirmed that development of the Visit Baildon website is under way which will provide details and listings of places to eat, stay, visit and more in Baildon.
* Planning Committee Chair:
1. Baildon Mill Development – The Chair confirmed that they had met with the site manager who had advised that work was still ongoing and currently taking place inside the mill.
2. Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Chair confirmed that they were heavily involved in the NDP and thanked staff for their assistance in the matter. The Chair also confirmed they have been working with consultants to progress the matter.
3. Library Building – The Chair confirmed that the Committee remains closely involved with the move of Baildon Library from Ian Clough Hall to Baildon Club (and Martins in-between).
4. Highways – The Chair confirmed the Tong Park footpath has now been refurbished and will be maintained going forward.
* Community Committee Chair:
1. Community Funding – The Chair confirmed that grants have been awarded to Wesley’s Community Hub, St Hughes Centre, St James Church and Baildon Community Link.
2. Youth Work – The Chair confirmed that further funding has been provided to youth organisations such as the Baildon Community Link Youth Group. The Chair also confirmed the committee will continue to work with groups such as HALE, who continue to extend their services.
3. Neighbourhood Watch – The Chair referred to the great success of the Neighbourhood watch initiative and its efforts. The Chair commented on the positive results of the same and advised that the committee will continue to support this initiative.

The Chair thanked the Committee Chairs for their updates.

4) Open Forum:

* Discussed concerns regarding post office closure and possible alternatives. The possibility of implementing simple post options into the library was discussed.
* Developments in Ferniehurst Dell were discussed. Baildon Green has taken the orchard under its wing and they continue to pursue grants for an information board. The sculptures which have rotten and fallen away will be left to decompose naturally and new sculptures are being sought from the same artist.
* The serious need for volunteers for Bracken Hall Countryside Centre as well as other organisations was discussed. It was questioned whether there are any initiatives in place to draw volunteers. The need to engage and talk with volunteers was discussed as well as the apparent need for younger volunteers. Considerations to be given to initiatives to recruit volunteers.
* Discussed the need to reduce Co2 emissions and what BTC is doing to combat the same. BTC advised that while they could well improve on this, and do try to influence Bradford Council, their scope to reduce this is limited. BTC will be looking for the highest eco-builds in upcoming developments. There are also discussions and efforts to try improve the regularity and quality of bus and train services in the area, as well as tree planting initiatives.
* Discussed the future of Ian Clough Hall and what is to follow. Likely retirement housing given the suitable location (next to the village centre) but nothing confirmed yet. Developments likely to take place next calendar year. Considerations will be required as to parking spaces as the development may take up the top car park. Consideration was also given to the Farmers Market which may need to be moved from the lower car park, and a road closed to allow for it.
* Wildlife was discussed including the need for dogs and walkers to be careful when walking given Curlew season as well as other wildlife.

5) Baildon Round-Up:

* St-Hughes Centre – Thanked BTC for their grant and confirmed that this allowed them to continue their work throughout Covid. Advised that their food bank was a great success and thanked Bradford Council for their assistance with the same.
* Wesleys Community Hub – Thanked BTC for their grant which helped them through Covid and confirmed that many of their visitors have now returned for social activities.
* Baildon Carnival – Thanked BTC for grant which will help with road closures, training and allow the event to be free entry.
* Baildon Imagination Library – Thanked BTC for grant which will allow for children to receive books free of charge up to the age of 5 years old.
* Baildon in Blood – Thanked BTC for their support and grant and implored volunteers to come forward to assist.
* Tramway – Explained that they struggled through Covid and had to cut back on plans and opening times. However, they are now seeing an increase in interest and may even be able to open to the public more, which is their aim from June onwards. It was explained that they are lacking volunteers and sought assistance in that regard.
* Dementia Friendly Baildon – Applauded the Tramway for their part in providing activities for the group. They also asked for volunteers to come forward to assist.
* Friends of Baildon Station – Implored volunteers to come forward to assist. Advised that they are continuing to fight for more regular and better-quality public transport at the station.
* Walkers are Welcome – Advised that they are constantly working to raise the profile of Baildon and provide benefit to its economy through visitors. Advised that they continue to contribute towards other groups and work in conjunction with groups around Baildon. Advised that they have booklets and guides on walks for sale.
* Baildon Men’s Forum – Recommenced their meetings and invite anyone to come to get involved for a chat and support.
* HALE – Thanked BTC for funding and will be working to open up community gardens in the coming year.
* Baildon Flower Club – Thanked BTC for a grant which allowed a workshop to take place providing a social and beneficial activity for all those who attended.
* Litter Pick – Implored people to act against litter and assist wherever they can.
* Friends of the Air – Suggested that in a bid to combat Co2 emissions and greenhouse gasses that people take up cycling and walking. Thanked BTC for a grant in September which went towards a march.

6) Closing Remarks:

* The Chair thanked everyone in attendance for coming and commented on the success of the evening. The Chair advised that as a small Council BTC tries to help Baildon in every way they can with their limited budget and will continue to do so.