



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

2022 has been a difficult year for many, and Baidon Town Council is no exception. Despite facing many challenges, I am proud that we have, on the whole, managed to maintain activities and services for the people of Baidon. Thanks must go to all councillors (who give their time with no financial reward) and our small but resilient staff team, for working hard to keep things on track as much as we could.

Our challenges have included moving BTC offices into a much smaller location, together with Baidon Library. This was additionally difficult for our staff who were relatively new and were not yet fully familiar with BTC. We also had four new councillors during the year. We are delighted that in May 2023, we can welcome Helen Thornton as our new full time Town Clerk, allowing us for the first time ever to have a full time Clerk and Deputy.

2023 promises to be an exciting year, and I sincerely hope that by the time of the next Annual Report, we have a new Baidon library, Jenny Lane play area, and many other successful projects which will all contribute to making Baidon a great place to live and work. All this without raising the precept at all.

I hope that you enjoy reading our Annual Report and are satisfied that Baidon Town Council continues to serve our community well.

Very best wishes

Gill Dixon

Chair of Baidon Town Council

CONTACT BAILDON TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk: Helen Thornton
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Deputy Town Clerk: James Laycock
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In 2022/2023 Baildon Town Council has...

- ✓ Worked with Bradford Council on the future of the Baildon Reservoir site although this has been delayed by outstanding legal action.
- ✓ Moved Baildon Library (and Town Council offices) into bright new temporary premises on Northgate, and extended library opening hours. Many new initiatives to increase visitor numbers.
- ✓ Continued to work with Bradford Council on the detail of the new library facility including exploring use of derelict land behind.
- ✓ Successfully made detailed comments to Bradford on the development brief for sale and development of Ian Clough Hall site, and demolition plan for existing building.
- ✓ Facilitated successful music event and installed commemorative bench for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.
- ✓ Provided spectacular Christmas tree and festive lighting for the village centre and key locations.
- ✓ Delivered a complete upgrade to the disabled toilet using grant funding of nearly £10k.
- ✓ Provided much needed financial support for our heritage Shipley Glen Tramway to help accommodate inflation pressures, also Walkers are Welcome.
- ✓ Launched the Visit Baildon website - visitbaildon.co.uk - as stage 1 of the project.
- ✓ Worked in partnership with Bradford Council to consult with local parents and schools to refurbish and improve children's play facilities at Jenny Lane, Baildon.
- ✓ All grit bins full during the winter, and many footpaths cleared through Green and Clean, more trees planted.
- ✓ Baildon Benches – over 20 benches now fully restored and maintained with 6 new memorial dedications.
- ✓ Completed major refurbishment of Bracken Hall Countryside Centre - with 3,347 visits overall April 22 to March 23.
- ✓ Worked closely with community hubs, (including new services at St James') providing financial support to mitigate huge increase in energy and other costs.
- ✓ Delivered direct support to Baildon children and families in greatest need by delivering a new scheme allocating funds through the four Baildon primary schools.
- ✓ Reviewed and implemented new youth work project for older age range.
- ✓ Made further progress with the Baildon Neighbourhood Plan working towards the next phase of consultation.
- ✓ Considered every planning applications appertaining to Baildon and made comments to Bradford Council where necessary. Chased for progress updates on Baildon Mills. Achieved some Highway signage improvements.
- ✓ Produced 10 email newsletters per year and worked hard to increase subscriptions, as well as use of social media.

Some of our priorities for 2023/2024

- ✓ Arrange event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May 23, and Remembrance Sunday in November.
- ✓ Work with Bradford Council to complete the renovation of the new Baildon Library and BTC Offices, and consult on the best way to continue the legacy of Ian Clough in the new centre.
- ✓ Undertake the next formal consultation on Baildon Neighbourhood Plan.
- ✓ Trial a new approach to our role as consultee on Planning applications (which are decided by Bradford Council).
- ✓ If supported, establish a Baildon Civic Society and Historical Society.
- ✓ Continue to maintain Love our Loos to a high standard and implement further improvements to improve security.
- ✓ Work with the Harley Davidson Partnership to ensure a safe and successful event in 2023.
- ✓ Develop a Baildon contribution to Bradford Capital of Culture 2025.
- ✓ To improve the promotion and increase visitor numbers to Bracken Hall Countryside Centre.
- ✓ With Bradford Council, to complete the Jenny Lane playground improvements by the end of 2023.
- ✓ To support the successful implementation of the proposed cycle track at Sandal Primary School.
- ✓ Support Christmas events in Baildon, including large Christmas tree and fantastic festive light displays.
- ✓ Continue to support community hubs, youth work and those in greatest need.
- ✓ Support a proposed scheme to restore the War Memorial House and create new homes.



How your money was spent in 2022-2023

Allotments	£ 1,560
Baildon Benches/Jubilee bench	£ 3,124
Baildon in Bloom	£ 3,654
Baildon Library (including staff)	£ 19,666
Bracken Hall CC (including staff)	£ 17,583
Christmas lights & display	£ 7,053
Communication & website	£ 2,351
Community hubs: 4 grants x £10,000 (Link, St Hughs, Wesleys, St James)	£ 40,000
Community events: Baildon Green, Baildon Carnival, Jubilee, Remembrance Sunday	£ 4,916
Defibrillators	£ 1,227
Environment (including staff)	£ 17,928
Fees/training	£ 4,701
Shipleigh Glen Tramway	£ 1,000
Harley Event	£ 1,000
Imagination Library	£ 1,000
Insurance	£ 1,792
IT & software	£ 3,086
Neighbourhood Watch - Community Safety	£ 1,500
Northgate toilets	£ 11,885
Northgate toilets refurb (DBL grant)	£ 9,678
Planning - Neighbourhood Plan (grant funded)	£ 6,403
Supporting families (Baildon schools)	£ 10,000
Skylark grants	£ 2,068
Support & admin costs	£ 10,039
Staff costs	£ 88,381
Tree planting	£ 1,400
Visit Baildon	£ 2,900
Walkers are Welcome	£ 500
Youth groups	£ 20,000
Total Expenditure	£ 296,395

Skylark grant - Baildon Flower Club	£ 300
Skylark grant - Baildon Horticultural Society	£ 468
Skylark grant - St John's/Parish Nursing	£ 500
Skylark grant - Star H memorial	£ 300
Skylark grant - Wesleys Café	£ 500

Councillors

Cllr Gill Dixon (Chair 2022)
 Cllr Paul Sharkey (Vice-Chair 2022)
 Cllr Joe Ashton
 Cllr Ann Foster
 Cllr Gill Jennison
 Cllr Joe Kean
 Cllr Richard Knowles
 Cllr Dave Reed
 Cllr Maggie Town
 Cllr John Turner
 Cllr William Wyatt-Millington
 1 vacancy

Staff

Helen Thornton
 Town Clerk

 James Laycock
 Deputy Town Clerk

 Emma Heal
 Administrative Officer

 Rachel Gallagher
 Volunteer Co-ordinator

 Richard White
 Bracken Hall Manager

Dates of Full Council Meetings

22nd May 2023
 24th July 2023
 9th October 2023
 4th December 2023
 18th March 2024

With thanks to Ros Crosland for photography