

Mayors Diary - Boroughbridge - February 20th 2017

A week of tidying up, repairs, and decorating. We have been putting the Community Payback Team to good use over the past few weeks following their excellent work in Boroughbridge Cemetery. John Goss and the Brighter Boroughbridge team put them to work clearing some of the overgrown footpath areas along Wetherby Road. They have also been hard at work decorating the Tourist Information Centre, although with one or two minor hiccups. The next big job on the horizon is Aldborough Cemetery. Some trees and bushes need cutting back and a good tidy up.

Repairs are required to the council office bay window and the flat above, along with some repair work to the metal guttering. On a more practical note I took my pruners to cut off unsightly epicormic from the bottom of one of the trees in the car park. Saved the Council some money! We shall soon have a team of experts in both cemeteries to check that all the headstones are safe and not likely to topple over. Following a recent thorough survey, we shall also have to carry out some work on one of the conifer trees in Boroughbridge Cemetery as it is showing signs of decay. Another tree needs further tests to ensure it is safe.

One of the big challenges and tough decisions facing our Council is the continuation of our CCTV camera system in the town. The camera system was originally set up and paid for by the Council, some community funding, and kind donations of work related assistance many years ago. Since then Harrogate Borough Council have, run, monitored and maintained it at their cost. Due to recent changes in Government guidelines and funding cut backs HBC are no longer able to fund the system. Following some lengthy discussions, we have secured the camera system for another year by paying the BT fibre optic connection at a cost of just under £4,000. Had we not done this the cameras would have been switched off this April. The Town Council are now committed to investigating alternative systems that can be run independently from HBC. Or do we need such a system at all? Considering the burden it would have on our rate payers. So we have just over 12 months to canvass opinion, seek out any alternative systems, as well as any possible funding streams.

Further development is now pending on the John Boddy site on Valuation lane. I am reliably informed the site is due to be cleared within months, before new plans are submitted. At least once the site is cleared it will stop young people using it as a very dangerous playground. Another site to keep a close eye on. With regards to the Aldborough Gate site their consultation period will have ended, so I hope that those wishing to express their views have done so. If I have more news on these sites I will keep you informed.



Pauline and I finished a busy week by joining other civic leaders from across the area by attending a civic service at The Holy Trinity Church in Ripon. An uplifting service in a beautiful church. The reflection of the stained glass window on the balcony of the mezzanine was amazing.