

Bury St Edmunds Town Council Annual Report 2012/13



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Chairman's introduction

This last Council year (May 2012 – April 2013) was dominated by the national celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games.



Bury St Edmunds Town Council helped its residents celebrate both locally by jointly funding celebratory events with St Edmundsbury Borough Council - the Jubilee Family Fete which was held in the Abbey Gardens and the Olympic Torch Celebration on Angel Hill.



Council's St Edmund's Day Awards were held again in 2012; the awards for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year being an important way for the Town to acknowledge those who do so much for our community and deserve civic recognition, the resulting publicity for which helps to encourage others to do likewise. The Awards evening was very well supported and was again successfully combined with the various best plot Allotment Awards.



The Council again gave significant financial support to Bury in Bloom for floral displays in parts of the Town and additional money towards the refurbishment of the King's Road roundabout and the new sculpture entitled "With the Grain". The sculpture reflects the Town's agricultural and brewing connections and fits in with the St Edmund statue to complete the Arc to Abbey theme.

Councillor Bob Cockle
Chairman 2012/13



The Armorial Bearings of
Bury St Edmunds Town Council
First grant in 1600 by King James I and
then confirmed in 22nd by Royal license by
Queen Elizabeth II

Last year, month by month

May

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council Cllr Bob Cockle was elected Chairman for a second year. Councillors were also appointed as representatives to outside bodies such as Bury in Bloom, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Guildhall Feoffment Trust, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, and the Christmas Fayre Working group.

June

A Jubilee Fete was held in the Abbey Gardens.

The Town Council signed up to the new Suffolk Code of Conduct which was based around the Nolan Principles to regulate the conduct of those acting in public life.

July

Judging of the Council's Allotments Competition took place.

September

Council responded to a Government consultation concerning "Localising Support for Council Tax" and to St Edmundsbury Borough Council's consultation "Changes to Council Tax Discounts and Benefits".

Pete Thompson was elected as the member for Eastgate ward following the resignation of David Nettleton.

October

Richard O'Driscoll was co-opted as a member for Risbygate ward.

November

The Council Chairman and other Councillors represented the Council at the wreath-laying Armistice Day service. The veterans and helpers were afterwards invited into the Council's offices for tea and biscuits.

Council received a presentation from members of Bury Skatepark Experience and decided to award an exceptional grant of £20,000 towards the £300,000 cost of the replacement facility which would be maintenance free and last for 30 years.

The St Edmund's Day Awards evening was held - giving recognition to those who have made an outstanding contribution within the community. Presentations were made to joint Citizens of the Year winners Richard Mortlock and Valerie Legg and to the

joint Young Citizens of the Year winners Jess Kemp and Jonathan Sharp.



December

Council saw the results of its donation of £5,000 towards the lighting of the new Cathedral tower with the 'Big Switch On' after the Advent Carol Service.

Council responded to the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Stakeholder consultation expressing the Council's commitment to there being no reduction to the level of operational fire services in the Town.

January

Council contributed £3,000 to Bury In Bloom for the Kings Road roundabout refurbishment including the "Going with the Grain" sculpture

Robert Everitt was elected as member for the Abbeygate ward following the resignation of Ross Taylor.

February

Council once again decided to freeze its share of the Council tax bill.

March

Additional funding was granted to Bury In Bloom for summer and winter hanging baskets in Abbeygate Street and a grant of £880 was made to Bury St Edmunds Christian Resource Centre for a children's' youth camp to take place in the summer holidays.

Frank Warby was elected as a member for the Risbygate ward following the resignation of Neil Moffat.

April

A contribution of £2,000 was made towards the building of a new sports pavilion at the Victory Ground.

Council also contributed £2,000 along with other partners in the Town to allow replacement of the "Welcome to Bury St Edmunds" signage which was in a poor state.

Council and Committee Meetings

The Town Council has three committees, two of which make recommendations to the full Council. These are Finance, Policy and Resources which meets monthly, Staffing and Employment which meets every three months. The Planning and Licensing committee which meets twice a month has authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council.

Planning and Licensing is a very busy committee, with on average 20 planning applications to look at each meeting, plus licensing and other issues such as proposed street closures, vending permits and tree preservation orders. Members of the public are always welcomed to meetings so that the council can reflect the views of those people most affected by planning decisions.

The Full Council meets monthly, except for August. All meetings are held on Wednesday nights, and are

open to the public. At each meeting there is an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

Meeting agendas are displayed on the Council notice board in the Cornhill, in the Town Council offices and the Library as well as on the website at www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk.

The website provides much more information on current matters which the Town Council is to consider or has considered, for e.g. objections that its Planning & Licensing Committee has made, presentations to be made to that Committee by developers prior to their submission of master plans to St Edmundsbury Borough Council, the planning authority, prior to submission of a planning application; current consultations received by the Town Council for consideration and response; information on the Council's allotments for those residents wanting to go on the waiting list, information for existing allotment holders and the downloadable Official Guide to Bury St Edmunds.

How to contact us

All Town Councillors can be contacted via the telephone numbers shown below their photograph (see page 5). Remember to dial 01284 before the number shown if you are calling from outside this dialling code area or from a mobile. They can also be reached by email and some have additional mobile or business telephone numbers as shown on the website which is at: www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk.

Staff members are:

Town Clerk: Julia Dyball - Tel: 01284 757139 - Email: julia.dyball@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer: Sue Hindry - Tel: 01284 757157 - Email: susan.hindry@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Allotment officer/Admin Assistant: Gill Cook - Tel: 01284 757158 - Email: gill.cook@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Explaining the financial position

The chart illustrates key areas of Council's income and expenditure, indicating the position at 31 March for the years 2012 and 2013:

	Year ended 31 March	
	2012	2013
	£	£
Annual Precept	188,585	189,500
Total other receipts (INCOME)	11,993	14,255
Staff costs	67,354	76,503
Loan interest/Capital repayments	0	0
Total other payments	94,196	128,940
Balances carried forward	149,282	147,594
Total Cash & Investments	148,597	145,968
Total Fixed Assets	66,112	66,851
Total Borrowings	0	0

Where does the money come from?

Council Tax

The Council's primary source of income comes from the payment of council tax by people who are resident in the parish of Bury St Edmunds (known as its precept). This money is collected on the Town Council's behalf by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. For the financial year which ran from 01 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 the amount of Council tax paid to Bury St Edmunds Town Council by the occupier of a property which falls in the 'D' band was just £13.50 (the same amount as for the previous two years).

Allotment Rents

A total of £13,709 was collected from allotment tenants as the annual rent for their plot(s).

Balance Carried Forward

The balance held at the end of the financial year of £147,594 (known as general reserves) although significantly higher than budgeted is still within the parameters laid down in the relevant guidance. It is essential that an amount of money is available to cover any unexpected expenditure and Council has decided that it will keep £60,000 as its minimum reserve. The remaining reserves are available to spend the next year.

Assets

Council's fixed assets are recorded in a register. The value at the end of the financial year has increased slightly to £66,851. Examples of these assets include street furniture such as litter/grit/dog bins and office equipment, furniture etc.

How has the money been spent?

Staffing

The Council's staffing bill overall is higher this year because the Council was fully staffed. The staff costs include £742 on training and £332 on travel.

Office Premises

The costs of the office premises included £30,314 rent and service charge, £7,593 business rates, £4,356 insurance, £596 cleaning, £4,271 computer maintenance and phone services.

Elections

Two elections were held for new Councillors – the first was in Abbeygate Ward in January and the other in Risbygate Ward in March. The total cost of these elections amounted to £4,681.

War Memorials

Every year before the Armistice Day and Remembrance Day services the Council ensures that both the memorial on Angel Hill and the Boer War memorial in Cornhill are cleaned. This is done by a specialist contractor so that damage is not caused by the cleaning materials or process and cost £1,000.

Bury in Bloom

A donation of £3,900 was given to 'Bury in Bloom' in respect of floral displays in Abbeygate Street (including erection, watering throughout the season and removal).



A further £3,000 was given to the 'With the Grain' project for the re-development of the Kings Road roundabout.

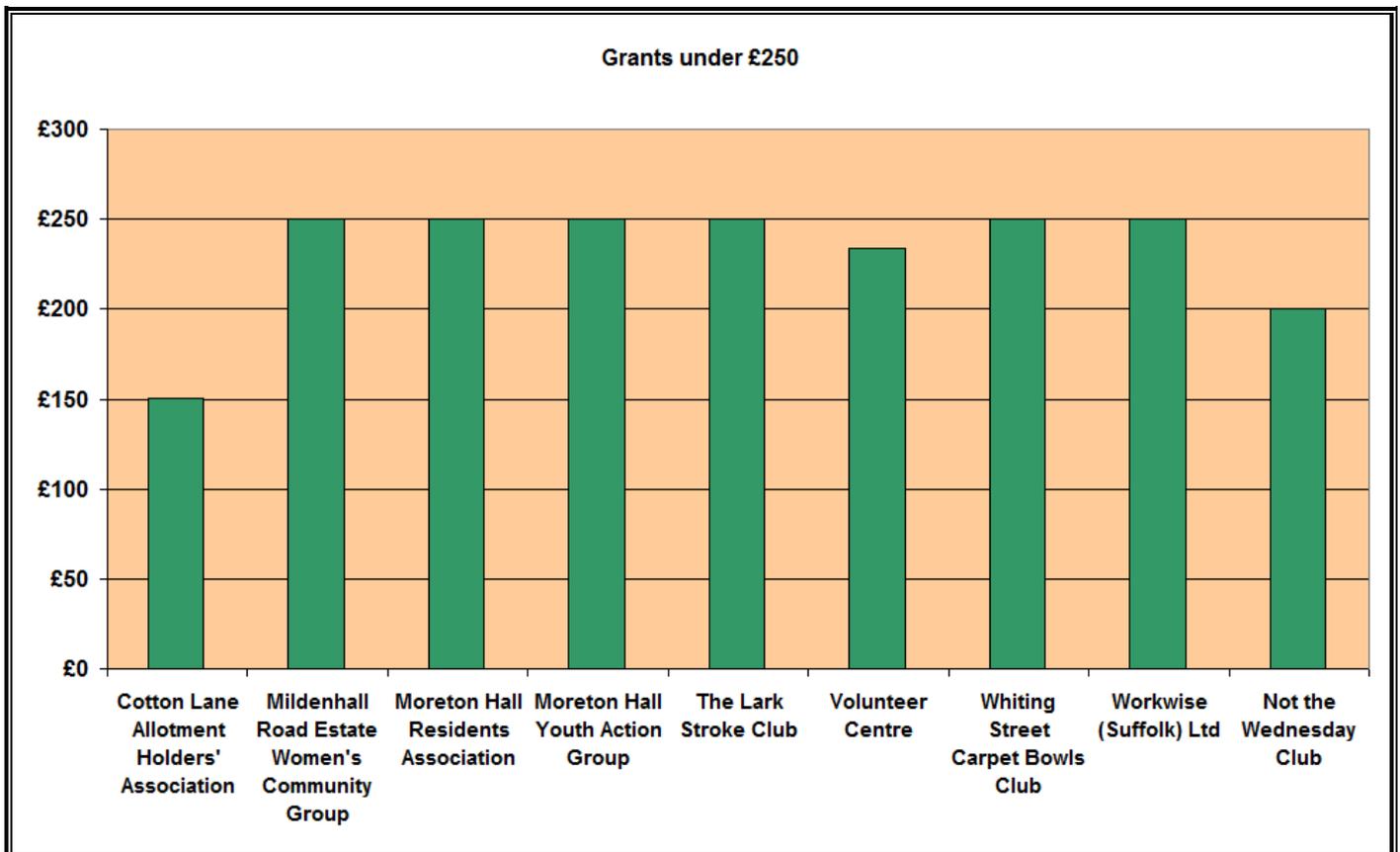
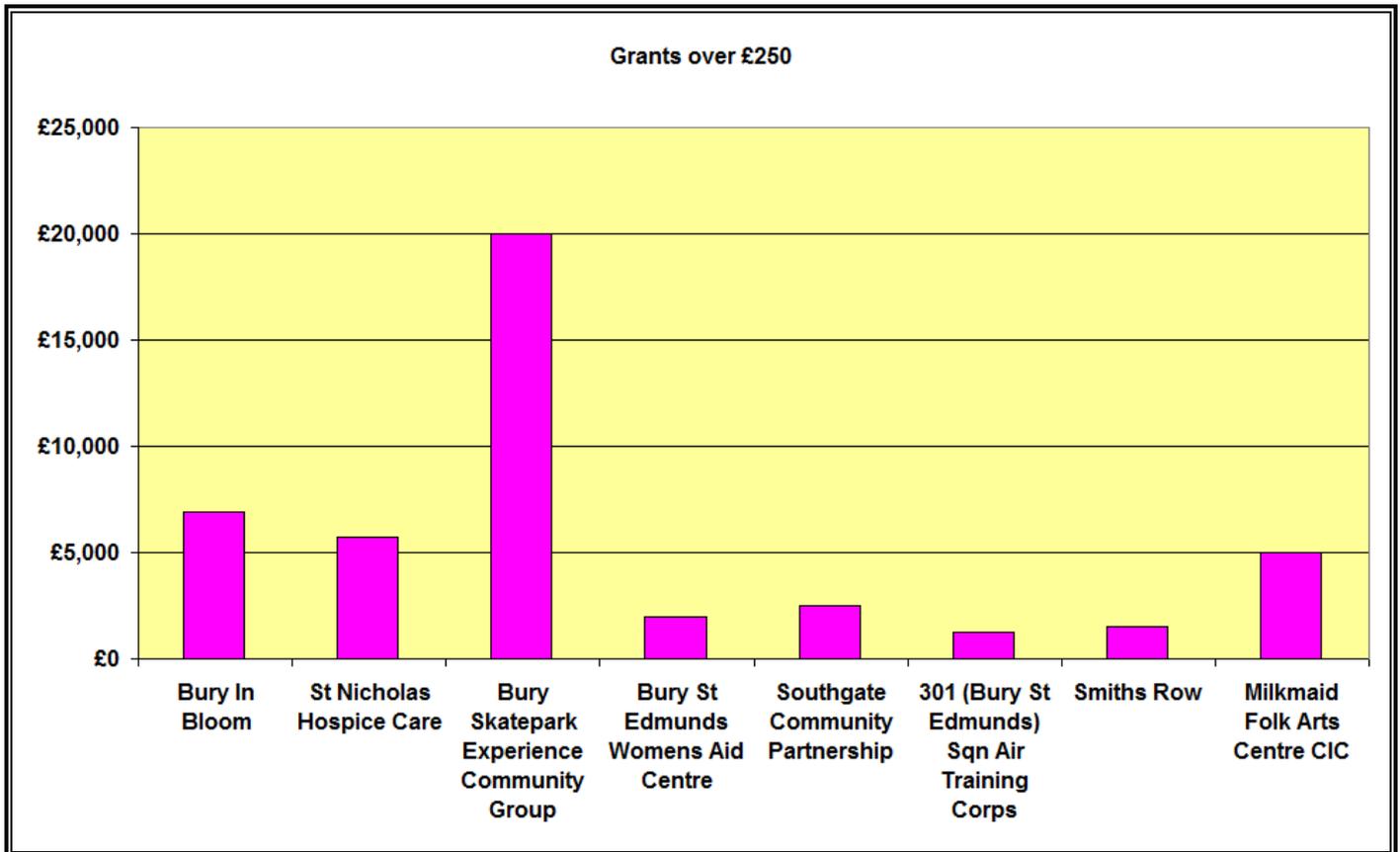
Allotments

In total £15,538 was spent at the allotments:

Installation of dip tanks	£12,839
Skip hire	£833
Miscellaneous expenditure including repairs	£260
Water used	£1,006
Grass and hedge cutting	£600

Grant Funding

Grants awarded totalling in excess of £40,000 (shown below):



Your Councillors



**Cllr Patrick Chung
Southgate Ward
761120**



**Cllr Bob Cockle
St Olaves Ward
756249**



**Cllr Quentin Cornish
Minden Ward
750264**



**Cllr Paul Farmer
Abbeygate Ward
768777**



**Cllr Jonathan Hartley
Minden Ward
762467**



**Cllr Cliff Hind
Moreton Hall
706542**



**Cllr Kevin Hind
St Olaves
706542**



**Cllr O'Driscoll
Risbygate
706572**



**Cllr Pete Thompson
Eastgate Ward
07810 868986**



**Cllr Stefan Oliver
Westgate
706172**



**Cllr Nicola Ridgeway
Southgate Ward
767494**



**Cllr Robert Everitt
Abbeygate Ward
769000**



**Cllr Paul Simner
Risbygate Ward
768202**



**Cllr Clive Springett
Moreton Hall Ward
753120**



**Cllr Frank Warby
Risbygate
704138**



**Cllr Alan Turner
Northgate
489171**



**Cllr Mrs Pat Warby
Moreton Hall
704138**