



**Hingham Town Council
Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17**

Once again the Council has had a busy year trying to make sure that things run smoothly and keep the town looking at its best.

During the year the Events Committee ably led by Councillor Maltby have run several well attended markets with the only let down being the weather. These events have raised a considerable amount of money which means that we have been able to purchase several items of equipment that will help support future events.

The huge amount of work undertaken by the Highways Working Party in 2015 finally started to come to fruition with the installation by Norfolk County Council of white road edging lines through the Market Place, introduced as a speed reduction measure. The results of a speed survey undertaken by Norfolk Constabulary show no reduction in traffic speed, but re aligning the road edge has made more room for manoeuvre within the parking areas.

We do have a challenge in enforcing the 20 mph speed limit in the Market Place as Norfolk Police do not enforce that speed limit and we are trying to get them to change their policy. We have taken our case to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

As you will have seen the two large oak trees on the Fairland have been taken down. The Council only did this as we had advice from experts that these trees were dangerous and as we saw with storm Doris where many trees came down across the County, they could have come down on the road. Replacement trees will be planted. In addition to this we have had reports done on all the trees we have responsibility for across the town and will be acting on the consultants recommendations. Before the tree surgeons can do any work on the trees in the Church yard we need to get permission from both South Norfolk Council and the Diocese. However, as the bird nesting season is here we will probably have to wait until next autumn.

The cemetery and Churchyard working parties have been combined and they continue to do excellent work. You may well have noticed the new signage at the cemetery which is part of their improvement programme.

The Community Car scheme continues working taking people to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and other places. Nancy and Dennis Playford who have been running the scheme for many years have retired and I would like to thank them for their hard work.

There are numerous organisations around Town that support the many interests that we have and I'd like to thank all those people who work behind the scenes to make Hingham the wonderful place it is.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our District and County Councillors and our Town Clerk for the great support they have offered me in my role as Chair of the Council. My thanks also goes to Mr Ramm for his hard work about the town, and for the many volunteers who have helped with the Town Council's working parties and with other projects and organisations within Hingham.

Pete Eldridge – Chairman, Hingham Town Council.

Hingham Town Council Accounts Year End 31 March 2017 (DRAFT)			
RECEIPTS			
2015/16		2016/17	
£ 46,483.00	PRECEPT	£ 49,000.00	
£ 4,675.00	GOVERNMENT GRANT	£ 3,242.00	
£ 47.32	BANK INTEREST	£ 36.08	
£ 5,060.00	CEMETERY FEES	£ 3,780.00	
£ -	RECREATION GROUND LETTINGS	£ 100.00	
£ 54.00	CIL	£ 16,175.46	
£ 4,430.45	EVENTS	£ 1,894.55	
£ 1,940.57	NCC PARISH PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS	£ 11,354.97	Bus shelter and SAM2 sign
£ 3,482.30	NCC GRASS CUTTING PAYMENT	£ 3,527.56	
£ 2,570.22	SNC TOILET CLEANING PAYMENT	£ 5,140.44	all 2016/17 + 2quarters for 2015/16
£ 9,386.44	MISCELLANEOUS	£ 4,375.61	
£ 78,129.30	TOTAL	£ 98,626.67	
£ -	RECLAIMED VAT	£ 4,230.13	for 2015/16
£ 78,129.30	GRAND TOTAL	£ 102,856.80	
PAYMENTS (N.B. NET FIGURE SHOWN FOR GOODS AND SERVICES)			
2015/16		2016/17	
£ 16,602.21	STAFF COSTS	£ 18,858.12	
£ 5,540.64	GENERAL ADMIN (EXCLUDING STAFF)	£ 6,566.96	
£ 40.00	S137	£ 93.00	
£ 10,740.33	STREET LIGHTING	£ 9,740.82	
£ 10,000.00	GRASS CUTTING	£ 9,495.38	
£ 2,765.00	TREES	£ 5,990.00	
£ 1,757.97	CEMETERY	£ 1,140.00	
£ 2,401.55	EVENTS	£ 1,708.00	
£ 12,478.60	NCC PARISH PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS	£ 4,616.87	
£ 13,867.21	MISCELLANEOUS	£ 5,199.89	
£ 76,193.51	TOTAL	£ 63,409.04	
£ 4,230.13	VAT	£ 5,885.80	
£ 80,423.64	TOTAL INC. VAT	£ 69,294.84	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book for the year 01 April 2016-31 MARCH 2017			
CASH BOOK			
Opening Balance (as per bank reconciliation 31 March 2016)	£	84,110.82	
Add Receipts 01 April 16 -31 MARCH 2017	£	102,856.80	
Less: Payments 01 April 16 -31 MARCH 2017	£	69,294.84	
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 January 2017	£	117,672.78	
EARMARKED FUNDS/RESTRICTED MONEY INCLUDED IN TOTAL BALANCE			
Capital Fund	£	12,150.17	balance JAN 31 2017
CIL	£	16,229.46	Up to Oct 16
Funds held for HPFA from S106	£	2,222.62	
Events fund	£	2,202.31	up to 31 March 2017
Donation from Connect for bus shelter	£	300.00	COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
TOTAL	£	33,104.56	

reconciliation 01.04.16-31.01.17

DRAFT

Bank Reconciliation

HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Prepared by Alison Doe Clerk/RFO

Date 13.04.17

Approved by

Date

Balance per bank statements AVAILABLE as at 13.04.17		Bank Statement Issue Date
Current account	£28,158.54	06.04.17
Tracker account	£77,252.27	06.04.17
High interest account	£12,150.17	31.01.2017
Business reserve account (last statement available 28/03/12 called CAPITAL	£186.80	28.03.2012
TOTAL	£117,747.78	



Add: any unbanked cash as at 31 MARCH 2017
 NONE £0.00

Net bank balances as at 31 MARCH 2017 £117,672.78

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book for the year 01 April 2016-31 MARCH 2017

CASH BOOK

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Hingham Town Council

Highways and Community Speed Watch

After the initial Community Speed Watch meeting in June 2016 there are now 10 volunteers signed up to the project including Barry Glynn the volunteer Speed Watch Co-ordinator. The Police volunteer checks are now complete and it is hoped that the training can take place in May.

Disappointingly, we were advised by the Police safety Camera Partnership Board that undertaking a Speed Watch within a 20mph speed limit was contrary to their policy, as the speed limit was allowed because it should be self-enforcing due to the road layout (the Market Place being between 2 chicanes). Recent speed surveys within the Market Place however, provided proof that adherence to the speed limit is poor, therefore every effort will be made to challenge the police policy.

Data obtained from the flashing SAM2 speed sign, when it was deployed on Watton Road and Norwich Road, both within a 30mph speed limit, showed that there is an issue with speeding on the approach to the Market Place, (from both ends). The highest speed was recorded on Watton Road, being 85 mph. Although the locations in which the Community Speed Watch are yet to be agreed with the police (a meeting with the Police Co-ordinator is planned for April 27th), the approach to the Market Place (both Watton Road and Norwich Road) would seem to be 2 obvious choices.

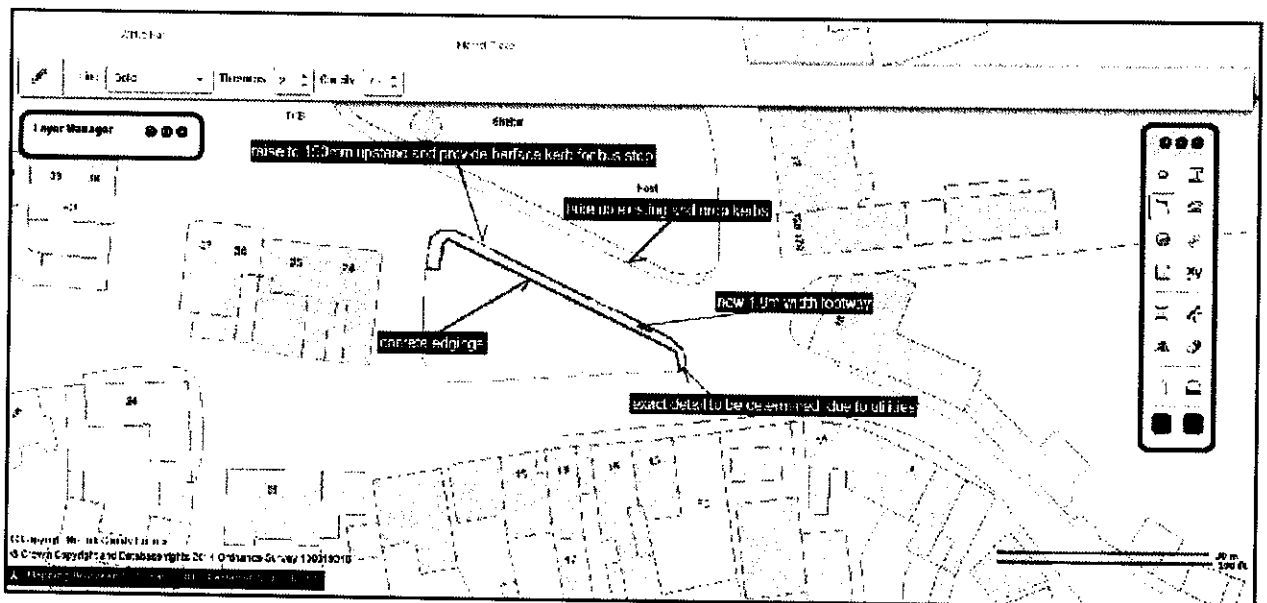
It has been some time now since the Highways Working Party first spoke with Norfolk County Council highways regarding speed reduction measures. The white line road edging through the Market Place has now been completed, although it seems to have had little effect on the speed of traffic, it has made it easier for pedestrians to cross the road by having the road edges defined and there is more room for vehicles to exit the parking spaces. The extension to the 20mph speed limit through the Fairland is still awaited, (and is currently going through legal process).

The Highways Working Party has now been dissolved in favour of a more wide reaching "Projects" Working Party to convene as and when required. Undertaking and implementing measures to improve road safety and reduce speeding is however an on-going project. The SAM2 sign will be deployed in the agreed (with NCC Highways) locations within the town. It is hoped that the training of the Speed Watch volunteers will take place in May, (anyone wishing to volunteer for the Community Speed Watch can contact the clerk for further information).

Many thanks to all of the volunteers that have come forward so far, and those who took part in the Highways Working Party – you have all played an important part in helping to improve road safety in Hingham.

Hingham Town Council were successful in their bid for Parish Partnership funding from Norfolk County Council (awarded on a 50/50 basis), for the proposed footway to be installed on the edge of the south green on the Market Place. There is still some way before the project will get the final go ahead, and part of this process is consulting with Hingham residents. Anyone wishing to comment on this proposal can contact the Clerk.

PLAN FOR PROPOSED MARKET PLACE FOOTWAY PROJECT





Hingham Town Council Events Working Party

It has been quite a busy year for the Events Working Party.

The weekend of 11th / 12th June 2016 we celebrated the 90th Birthday

Of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with an Afternoon Tea Party on the Fairland, Lincoln Hall and the Bowls Club and Sunday started off with breakfast on the Fairland followed by a special service in St Andrews Church and then lots of flying Queens descending from the Church tower.

In July we had the 'Market in the Market Place', which was very well attended and everybody had a great time.

Then in December we held the 'Fayre on the Fairland'! This Christmas market was held on the Fairland and in the Lincoln Hall in the afternoon and evening. There were 31 stalls altogether, selling crafts, gifts, and refreshments. The bit of rain did not deter the community and stallholders from making it a great success.

This year we are starting off with the Easter Market held on April 8th 2017 and we have already bookings for the June and Christmas markets.

Monies raised from the EWP stalls will go towards future events for the community of Hingham.

We thank everybody, the businesses, South Norfolk Council, Cllr Yvonne Bendle and all the individuals and volunteers who have so generously donated and given their time to make all this possible.

And last but not least we would like to thank the children from Hingham Primary School and Hingham Playgroup who have so wonderfully participated.

Hingham Town Council
presents



A
FUN
FAMILY
EVENT



Market in the Market Place

Saturday 10th June 2017

9am – 12 noon (ish)

- ◆ **Charity and Organisation Stalls**
- ◆ **Local Businesses selling their produce**
- ◆ **Cards and Crafts**
- ◆ **Lotions and Potions**
- ◆ **Cakes and refreshments**

This is an opportunity for organisations and charities in the town to publicise themselves and raise funds, stalls for these organisations will be free of charge, for others there will be a charge of £10.

Booking forms can be collected from the Bond Street Green Grocers, or from Gaby Maltby Tel: 01953 853061

Email: gabymaltby@gmx.com

(please return the booking forms to Gaby).



Hingham Town Council

Cemetery and Churchyard Working Party

The Cemetery and Churchyard are now monitored by one working party that look to make suggestions on how to improve both of these areas of the town.

Between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, there has been 7 interments and 3 interment of ashes within the cemetery. The southern entrance to the cemetery is now more defined with a new sign, and plants have been introduced to the bank. Ongoing maintenance will soon see several leaning memorial stones straightened and 2 stone crosses reset.

The grass cutting contractor (since April 2016) has introduced a new cutting regime with more frequent cuts to the older part of the cemetery which has improved both appearance and access.

The churchyard is subject to a schedule of ongoing maintenance, progress on the list of items requiring attention is slowed by the requirement to gain relevant permissions from South Norfolk Council and/or the Archdeacon.

Efforts are being made to improve the appearance of the overgrown areas of the churchyard. It is planned that the yew trees along the driveway will be reduced in height and many of the churchyard trees will have some lower branches removed.

Repairs to the churchyard wall (following the collision) will be undertaken, again when the relevant permissions are in place. There is an ongoing problem with the clock which means it keeps stopping, it is hoped that it can be brought back to its full working order.

We hope that residents and visitors to the town find out churchyard and cemetery peaceful pleasant places to be.

Thanks goes to the volunteers on the working party, and for the work Mr Ramm has undertaken to keep the churchyard and cemetery maintained, clean and tidy.

HINGHAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Serving the communities of Hingham, Deopham and Hackford

ANNUAL REPORT to the Hingham Town Council for 2016/2017

Introduction:

The Hingham & District Community Car Scheme supports people in our communities with essential medical journeys which cannot reasonably be made by public transport or where a person would have difficulty in using public transport. The Scheme is a member of Norfolk County Council's Norfolk Community Transport Association (NCTA) and is managed and delivered entirely by volunteers. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and are paid a standard rate for their mileage. They offer their time free.

The Scheme charges the passenger 50% of the mileage cost; the remainder is subsidised by SNDC (20%) and Hingham Town Council / Deopham & Hackford Parish Council (30%). [Norfolk County Council contribute £120 per year via Hingham Town Council]. Administration costs such as phone call charges and booking diaries are also reimbursed (50/50 SNDC and HTC).

SNDC make their contribution annually via a Funding Agreement. For 2015/16 this was £2,189, based upon previous year's grant. Hingham Town Council (and Deopham & Hackford Parish Council) pay quarterly in arrears in response to submission of a claim.

Review of the year:

The Scheme undertook **623** return journeys during the year. This is a decrease of 65 on last year, and includes only 2 from Deopham/Hackford. The majority of the journeys are to one of the three main hospitals (N&N; West Norwich and Spire) the next greatest number is to the Hingham Surgery. There are also regular visits to Physiotherapy, Chiropody, and Dental practitioners in nearby towns. With the changing methods employed by the Hospitals to deal with waiting lists, we now occasionally get requests to take people to hospitals further afield, such as Bury St Edmunds or King's Lynn. We try to establish a reasonable rate for these, but in some cases it has proved too expensive for the patient so we have referred them to the Hospital Car Service.

Our type of clients range from the long term ill, residents in the care home and the two assisted living premises in the town, the housebound at home, or those who are independent but temporarily unable to travel alone. A lot of clients recover, a number sadly die.

The scheme has been excellently administered by Mrs Nancy Playford for twelve years. Without her dedication the scheme would not have survived. I thank her for her steadfast commitment to the scheme over such a long time. However, she and Dennis retired from the scheme at the end of December and we have not been able to find a replacement Administrator so far. As an interim measure I am acting as Administrator, but this is not possible long term as for transparency/audit purposes I need to be able to check the paperwork and authorise payments to drivers independently, as Co-ordinator.

New Drivers:

I would like to thank our regular drivers **Trevor Nudds, Peter Hall, Alan Juby and Anthea Iveson** for their unfailing support and generosity in continuing to give their time to this vital service. I would also like to thank **Tony Fennell** who joined the Scheme in December, bringing our number of volunteer drivers to five. This helps ensure that we are able to respond to most requests. However, it would be good to have more drivers on our books, even if they are only able to offer a small amount of time, or only wish to undertake journeys around the local area.

As volunteers no driver is ever pressured to take on any job.

If anyone is interested in contributing some time to the scheme, please get in touch with me.

Plans for 2017/18:

From April 2017 Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk District/Breckland Council have amalgamated their funding and outsourced the management and monthly returns to the NCF (Norfolk Community Foundation). As our annual funding agreement with SNDC remains the same (at £2,189) this means that HTC have lost the NCC contribution to SNDC. Despite this, HTC have kindly budgeted for continued support of the scheme in the coming year.

I have become a Trustee of the Norfolk Community Transport Association (NCTA) during the year, representing small voluntary schemes across the county. NCTA also support us by providing opportunities to meet other schemes to share experiences and seek common solutions to problems. Increasing the number of volunteers is a general problem, as is parking at the two main hospitals in the county.

Despite many day to day issues, I firmly believe that this is a vital service to the people of Hingham & District, especially in helping those who can continue to live independently in our community with a little support. I know that the Neighbourhood Scheme, the Lunch Club, the Churches and the Surgery are all fully aware of the services we offer and I thank them for their support. I also believe that our joint efforts will continue to keep Hingham a particularly friendly and supportive town to live in.

Anyone wishing to book a Community Car journey should contact:

Alison Lys on 01953 850 864

May I remind people to give as much notice as possible when booking the service.

It is very difficult to organise a trip for someone in less than 48 hours.

Alison Lys

Scheme Co-ordinator

- *and temporary Administrator*



Lincoln Social Centre

Report for Annual Town Meeting.

Although Lincoln Social Centre continues to thrive due to the hard work of the Management Committee, the team grows ever older and it would be encouraging to find some younger members with fresh ideas for using and promoting the hall.

The previous year needed a lot of expensive external maintenance, so this year has not been quite so hectic. However, new external solar lighting has been fitted to illuminate the car park at night. Inside, David has painted the foyer and lower part of the walls in the hall as an attempt to reduce dirty marks. It is looking very smart.

Bookings are steady, but there are still vacant slots especially at weekends and we cannot be complacent, as the balance could easily be upset if revenue is lost. Finally, we would like to thank all groups and individuals for supporting the Hall through out 2016.

Hingham Good Neighbours Scheme

We are now half way through our fourth year, and continue to have a very small number of calls to our landline number. In 2016 we have been able to advertise our services in July at the Market in Market Place, a successful fundraising event and a further informal publicity opportunity, funded by SNDC and kindly hosted by Lincoln's, for Silver Sunday in October. We have also secured funding from Wymondham Waitress green Token Scheme which enables us to cover our annual insurance.

Hingham Luncheon Club

This long-established club provides a two course hot meal to about thirty older Hingham residents twice a month in the Lincoln Hall. We also hold a Christmas dinner and a 'Summer Treat'. All the cooks and helpers are volunteers and we are always grateful to hear from anyone who can spare some time once a month to help with the lunches, or as a driver. Costs are kept low also thanks to a generous benefactor who pays the Hall rental.

The club is run by an organising committee which ensures that we are compliant with all legal requirements. Accounts are presented at the AGM in the autumn and are open to inspection. Owing to the popularity of the club, we maintain a waiting list. For further information, contact Clare Lee. 01953 798607

Hingham Bereavement Support Group

Chair: Rev Colin Read

Treasurer: Mrs Pam Cooper Secretary: Mrs Heather Juby

Admin: 11 Springfield Way

Hingham Norfolk

NR9 4PR

Tel: 01953 850228

Email: alanjuby@hallmoorfarm.freeserve.co.uk

Re: Annual Town Meeting

Hingham Bereavement Support Group continues to be well attended at its meetings on the second Saturday of each month by kind invitation of Hingham Sports and Social Club on Watton Road Playing Field at 10.30 am

We are a very friendly and informal Group who aim to help people on their personal pathway of grief, at their own pace and in their own way. We aim to help whenever they may struggle emotionally or in any other way.

We do have fun! Outings are organised at Christmas and in the Summer. Last December we had a magical evening celebrating Christmas at Holkham Hall, followed by a delicious meal. We are organising a tour of Norwich Cathedral followed by Vintage Afternoon Tea in the Summer.

We have been fortunate in receiving grants in previous years to help with outings. Hingham Methodist Church kindly donated funds from their raffle in February and we will continue to fundraise in the future.

Please contact Heather Juby on 01953 850228 for any information on our Group.

Thank you.

Report of Hingham Education Trust

The Hingham Education Trust was set up many years ago, when the Hingham Grammar School was closed. It was then decided that the money invested from the sale of the Grammar School endowments should be allocated in grants to those in further education in order to further their careers. The area of benefit is the same as the catchment area of the old Grammar School. The Board of Trustees includes representatives from the Town. District, County Councils and co-opted members chosen for their knowledge of the Education system. Its income comes from the rent of 24 acres of land on the east side of Dereham Road (previously Grammar School land) and from investments, mainly in the Charities' Official Investment Fund.

Last year eight grants were made to university students with four of them attending local colleges and two attending UEA.

The Trustees have been very pleased to receive letters of thanks from recipients telling them about their studies and welcome this feedback

Application forms are normally available from early August and must be returned by 16th September.

Hingham Charity Report to Town Council. 2017

The Charity owns and is responsible for maintaining the Turf Meadows which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The meadows, which are used for grazing, are inspected annually by the Trustees and representatives from Natural England and the Agricultural Environment Scheme and any necessary work to maintain them is carried out. A specialised cutting machine was brought up from Devon to Norfolk to carry out a series of cuts in the region, including the Turf Meadows. This was an expensive business costing the Charity £3,000. However, the weather in November was exceptionally wet and on the day allocated it was impossible to use the machinery on the wet ground. The work will need to be carried out this coming year depending on Government funding.

Tenants on the allotments have raised several working parties to clear the rubbish from the plots. They raised £160.00 from scrapping the metal collected, which had accumulated over a number of years. They have also tackled several vacant plots, preparing them for future tenants. The site is looking much better thanks to their endeavours.

There are empty plots, and whilst some interest has been shown from residents at the new development, plots are being advertised locally in the hope of renting the remaining sites.

The Accounts for October 2015/16 show that the Charity receipts amounted to £5,895 was received, while payments amounted to £3,974. Leaving a surplus of £1921. However, there is an outstanding bill of £900 to pay to South Norfolk Council for Pest Control which arrived too late to be included in the annual financial statement.

Ruth Bateman (Clerk)

Hingham History Centre

The Hingham History Centre has now been in existence for 6 years and continues to hold monthly meetings ... which we refer to as Mardles (Norfolk word!) on the last Wednesday of every month.

These are well attended with about 40 to 50 folks who come regularly.

These Mardles provide a regular venue for friends with Hingham connections to meet - as well as having speakers on all manner of subjects - mostly to do with Hingham, - invaluable information about businesses & people of Hingham in the past is obtained from the many attenders who have a vast amount of knowledge/history appertaining to Hingham .

This material is very useful for people like Dr Stickland who is, at present, collating a book on the many different shops of the past, relating to Hingham; also for Carol Harris who is collecting any information relating to the town.

One of the aims of the History Centre is to gradually raise the necessary funds to provide a suitable building to contain the many archives relating to Hingham in a safe environment. Hopefully this would have enough space to allow Hingham's frequent visitors to view documents that maybe of interest to them?

There are many irreplaceable documents relating to Hingham that are at present being held in individual homes - so it would be of immense value to have a dedicated building for the storage of all this material.

Hingham Town Council has already agreed to support the History Centre and it is very much hoped that in the event of the present History Centre having to fold that all relevant documents relating to Hingham would be held securely by them until such time as another group became interested.

The Hingham Society

Report for Parish Meeting, April 2017

The Hingham Society was formed in 1972 and its objective is to “improve, protect and preserve the parish of Hingham”. It is managed by an elected committee and is affiliated to the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). We monitor and comment on any planning applications which affect the town’s appearance. We try to ensure that new developments are in keeping with the surrounding buildings. Our programme of evening meetings and outings provide opportunities to discuss topics of local interest and to increase everyone’s knowledge of issues that concern them and the town.

This year our monthly programme began with a talk by Carol Harris on her visit to Hingham Massachusetts, our sister town in the USA. We organised the regular town litter pick in April, and have continued to plant native daffodils on the Fairlands.

The AGM took place in April, and the existing committee was re-elected. Graham Shingfield gave us a talk to follow up last year, this time on wider issues on modern farming issues. We were fortunate to be able to visit Seamere again, thanks to the kind offices of Michael and Judy Watson and as an intriguing follow up, we had a guided tour, facilitated by the trustees, of the common lands of Turf Meadow, adjacent to Seamere. Matt Williams returned to Hingham to give a talk on subterranean Norwich and highland Hingham, and taught us a lot we didn’t know about underground Norfolk. In July Stephen Pope spoke to us about the origins and history of aviation in Norfolk.

After a midsummer break Tom Cowin led the annual footpath walk in September. Our fifth quiz took place in October and was a great success. We shall repeat this year. In November John Scales gave an illustrated talk on the first hundred years of the National Trust and we organised carols again in the Market Place with St Andrews Church in December, raising £139.14 for the East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices. We also raised £300.08 for the Marie Curie daffodil charity in March.

We have continued to monitor planning applications and have written on several occasions to SNDC and other bodies seeking clarification or making amendments or objections, particularly over the building of the new houses on the Norwich Road.

We are thinking of organising a Nature Conservation Group. Would anyone interested please contact Jane Mackie on 01953 850462.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us over the past year, and look forward to their continued support in the coming year. Please remember to renew your annual subscription – still only £1 plus any donations you care to make.

We are always looking for people to join our committee. Would anyone interested please get in touch with any member of the committee, or Tom Cowin, on 01953 852549.

Tom Cowin



HINGHAM GARDENING CLUB

Hingham Gardening Club has had yet another successful year with a very successful show in September, and a plant stall in May, which will be repeated this year. The club took the decision early again this year to cancel the Spring Show as many daffodils had already bloomed and died again – the main exhibits at the spring show are of course spring flowers.

One evening visit was organised last year to Hoecroft Nursery, Wood Norton. This was enjoyed by all who attended and is well worth a visit if you get the chance. Other speakers have included Jane Lister of Hoecroft, Lucinda of Woottens plants, Howard Norton talking about Delphiniums, Sam Steggles of Fielding Cottage telling us all about the products he produces from his goats, Simon White of Peter Beales roses showed us what plants you could grow in a garden the size of a pocket handkerchief and Dr Ian Bedford of the John Innes Centred talked about butterflies. The Christmas party with a visit from Santa was repeated.

A trip to Hyde Hall was arranged but had to be cancelled as too few people wanted to travel with us.

This year's speakers include Jim Paine (Oak trees), Simon White (Beautiful bulbs), David Boulton (Norfolk) and coming up Tina Chaimberlin (Norfolk Squit), an evening visit to Elmtree Brewery at Snetterton, an evening visit to Walnut Tree nursery, Dr Ian Bedford (slugs), Jim Bacon (weather), Irene Woods (Dahlias) and of course the Christmas party again.

Come and join us, we are quite friendly and we always have a cup of tea and a biscuit at meetings. Member numbers are quite low at present but we are still here – even though the rumour mill says we will soon be closing down. We need committee members and helpers so please do come and join us.

Carolyn



Secretary - 850213

Hingham and Hardingham Art Group: Report

The Hingham and Hardingham Art Group has some 24 members of mixed ability with a wide range of experience. We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon at Hardingham Village Hall. During these meetings, some members do figure drawing or work from a still life whilst others work on their own projects. Members use mediums of their own choice, perhaps pencil, charcoal, pastel, or collage, acrylic or oils. We are always pleased to welcome new members. (01362 850365)

We have 3 workshops a year, usually lead by a visiting practitioner. Last May the topic was "Still Life", lead by Liz Russell, then we had a "Mixed Media Session" lead by Deborah Hallam, both giving us lots of ideas and much enjoyed. We also learnt a lot from Chris Gamble who lead an inspiring "Figure Drawing" workshop in February.

In August, our sessions were both based outside: one day we did paintings and drawings around Hingham and for the second session we met at College Farm, Thompson, both beautiful places to be creative.

In March, we hold our AGM and then all gather, with partners, for our annual lunch.

This April we have organised a trip by bus to the Tate in London to see the Hockney Exhibition; this is mainly for members but any spare seats have been offered to others.

Each year we hold an Annual Exhibition in Hingham. Last year was very successful and we are grateful to be able to use the Lincoln Hall again; this year it will be from the 21st to the 22nd October, 2017, with the private view on Friday the 20th..

The programme for the Group in 2018 will follow a very similar pattern.

Hilary Hodges
Chairperson

HINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Bond Street, Hingham. NR9 4HA

REPORT FOR HINGHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 18th APRIL 2017

Hingham Methodist Church Activities and Fundraising

Events 2016-2017

Our regular Church Services and Activities continue as follows:-

***Sunday Morning Service at 10.30 am.** Give us a look ! We are a friendly bunch and would be so pleased to see you and welcome you to our Church.

*** Bible Discussion Group.** Second and fourth Monday in the month, 10.00 am.

Open to anyone who would like to join us in discussing the Bible. How does it relate to us here and now, in our everyday lives?

See Community Magazine for Monthly dates.

*** Mothering Sunday March 26th** With Guest Preacher

***Harvest Festival Service, Sunday October 1st** With Guest Preacher.

***Annual Christmas Carol Service.** Each year, just before Christmas, we have a Carol Service led by **Breckland Harmony Choir**. It's a carol Service with a difference ! Come along and sing Carols with us, get the real Christmas Spirit!

***Coffee Shop and Market. First Saturday of every month. 10am- 12noon**

Held at the Methodist Church Room in Bond Street. **Market stalls**, selling cakes, bric-a-brac, books, jigsaws, jewellery and fancy goods, household linens and rails of pre-loved clothes. **That's not all!** We have a café, serving coffees and teas and homemade cheese or fruit scones.

***Children's Crafty Corner.** Crafts for children while the 'grown ups' enjoy their coffee and scones!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

*May 2016 – Beetle Drive at the Bowls Club,

*June/December 2016—Town Market and Town Christmas Market.

Our Hoop-La stalls raised **£30.20** for 'Action for Children' Methodist Charity.

*July 2016 - Town Garage Sale raised **£424.00**. This has proved very popular.

Hundreds of people from all over Norfolk came to Hingham!

*October 2016 we put on an 'Olde Tyme Music Hall' in the Lincoln Hall.

This proved very popular and raised **£532.00** for Church Funds.

As you will appreciate, our Chapel building needs to be kept standing, and we also have to find almost **£10.000** per annum to help fund the four ordained Ministers in our Mid Norfolk Circuit.

Our Charity Raffles (6 held per year) at our Coffee shops.

Raised £344.00. This is supporting local charities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting our fundraising throughout the year. We really do appreciate it.

FORWARD DATES FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENTS. 2017

TOWN MARKET..... JUNE HOOP-LA AND PRIZES!!

'SUMMER SERENADE'Saturday 10th June 3 pm ...Music & Cream Teas.

TOWN GARAGE SALE Saturday 15th July 2 10am- 2pm

Another Sing-a- Long..... Saturday September 23rd Lincoln Hall 7pm.

St Andrew's Hingham Heritage Fund Report

We continue to raise money for repairs to the fabric of the church. **This year we will be holding our regular cake stalls on the green on the last Saturday of the month from April -September. There will be a concert in the Church on September 16th and on May 13th there will be a Curry Lunch in the Church. The Open Gardens event will take place on July 9th.** The old ringing chamber is in a bad state and work is in hand.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our events in the past and hope to see you all again this year.

New committee members are always welcome and we are looking for a new chairperson since Geoff Young retired from the post.

Sheila Day

St Andrew's Ringers ('STARS') Annual Report

The handbell group has continued to meet regularly and we have been delighted to welcome three new members this year. We continue to play at various local care/residential homes, particularly playing carols at Christmas and we also played carols at St Andrews. We have recently played at a care home in East Harling where one of the residents was really interested in the history of the bells and another resident said she had never heard handbells before and really enjoyed the performance.

The bells were 'serviced' this year and were found to be in very good condition and very little needed attention. We appreciate being able to store the bells and hold our practise sessions in St Andrews.

Hingham Rectory Bowls Club

Hingham Rectory Bowls Club is a thriving club with one of the best greens in the county.

We play in four leagues during the season; Federation, Ashill, County EBA and Age UK. We also have in-house competitions, friendlies and host touring teams.

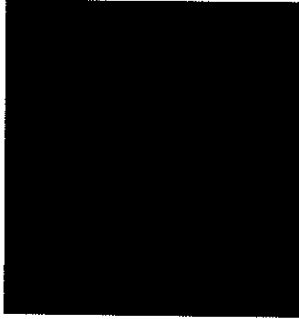
The club was formed in the 1890s at the Rectory under the auspices of Canon Upcher. Many improvements have been made to the green and also to the Social Club and now we are looking to install new heating, windows and insulation and to up-date the ladies' changing room. This will enable us to open for longer in the year and be of permanent benefit for the whole community.

The social club is available for hire and comes with a kitchen and licensed bar.

Everyone is welcome to come have a taster session with no commitment.

Colin Harris
Treasurer

01953 850938



Hingham Bowmen Archery Club

Club Report 2017

We have enjoyed another great indoor season at the Sports Hall with large numbers of club members attending every Friday night.

Several of our members travel all over the country to competitions and have had lots of success.

We still have one competition left at the hall which we are looking forward to. These events we host are well attended by archers across the county, and further afield, because the club is fun and relaxed and our venue is great!!

Emma Gaskin

Club Secretary

HINGHAM CRICKET CLUB

Report for Town Council Meeting April 2017

The 2016 season was very successful for the club who won their league and have now been promoted to Division 3 Central of the Norfolk League.

The Club would like to thank all their sponsors and both the Hingham Playing Fields Association and the Sports and Social Club for their support, without this support we would find it hard to continue.

The new season starts in May and captain Steve Guy has already commenced indoor nets with outside nets starting the first Thursday after Easter, 6.30 at the Watton Road Playing Field. Anyone interested in nets or joining the club should contact Alan Juby on 01953 850228.

The first home match of the season is on 6th May and we would love to see you there, to support your home team, come and have a cup of tea and a chat with us and see an enjoyable match.

Hingham Short Mat Bowls Club

Thank you for giving us the opportunity of telling you about Hingham Short Mat Bowls Club, of which we are very proud.

On the 14th September 2015 we celebrated the occasion of the Silver Anniversary, 25 years, of our Club. We have been residents of Hingham Sports Hall all that time. Naturally we held a party in the Hall, and for this auspicious occasion inviting Members, Friends, Founder Members, and lots more people associated with our Club. The President of Norfolk Short Mat Bowls Association, Mr Brian Saunders attended, together with his wife Pat. We had a really splendid time and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Our Members had supplied all the food, of which there was plenty, and the Committee arranged many fun games.

From the time of our Club commencement we have steadily grown and are now the largest short mat bowls club in the Norfolk Short Mat Bowls Association, with approximately 60 members. We have roll-up nights Mondays and Thursdays and Wednesday afternoons.

We are a very friendly Club with a very hard working Committee. Arrangements for Friendly games are made for our Members and these are thoroughly enjoyed. We are in four leagues, Breckland League, South Norfolk League, Summer League and Afternoon League, and the results are quite good and very satisfactory.

We also arrange a splendid Christmas Dinner, and this year we had 42 members attend. At this year's Dinner we presented trophies to the Members who had won competitions during the year. We also had a Silent Santa which created a lot of fun.

We are at present having a web site being prepared so all relevant information regarding Hingham Short Mat Bowls Club is readily available for all to read. This web site will be so important for new people moving to Hingham and surrounding area, who are looking for our sport, or even a new sport to try. All information for how people can join our Club will be on the web site.

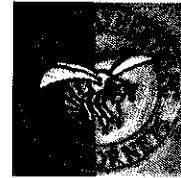
We have very recently obtained new shirts for league players (nearly all the Club). All our Club colours have been incorporated and the team look very smart indeed. To help our members, as shirts are so expensive, we charged our members just £10 each per shirt, and our Club paid the outstanding balance of just over £10 per member. This gesture was very much appreciated.

We try to look after our Members and they all show their appreciation by being so loyal.

Talking about being loyal, we have one Member, actually a Founder Member, who has been with Hingham Short Mat Bowls Club in its entirety, and he is still playing bowls and will be 90 years of age in September of this year. His name is Mr Bob Lister.

Jane Frary

Chair Lady



HINGHAM ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

Report to Hingham Annual Town Meeting April 2017

The 2016/17 season is proving to be very successful for the club. We have run two adult male teams; the first team playing in the Anglian Combination Division 4 and the reserves playing in the Central and South Norfolk League Division 3. With the season coming to a close, both teams are set to finish in the top few places of their respective leagues and could be promoted to higher divisions.

The club has a long tradition and its lasting success is down to the commitment of a number of residents of the area, many of whom have been involved for several years. Last summer, the club was strengthened by the addition of new players, qualified coaches and committee members.

We are keen to encourage more local people to get involved, either as players, committee members or helping out behind the scenes. Or why not join our regular band of supporters on match days, when the Social Club bar is also open? Most games take place on Saturday afternoons.

We would like to thank the many local businesses who sponsor the club, pay for pitch-side advertising or support us in other ways. We are always keen to hear from any local firms who would like to show their support.

We would also like to thank the trustees and staff of the HPFA and everyone involved in the Social Club for their support and help.

We offer a weekly (Tuesday) training session for over 16s throughout the year and would like to hear from any players who wishes to sign up.

We are looking to expand the club in the future and, if there is sufficient interest, we would like to develop a youth set up. We are keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in running or sponsoring youth teams.

For more information, please contact John Onslow on 01953 851395 or visit our club website www.pitchero.com/clubs/hinghamathletic

On behalf of the Committee

April 2017

Report for Hingham Annual Town Meeting

Well, what a year! At the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, there were no useable tennis courts or club in Hingham. Fast-forward to now and we're pleased to report Hingham has a thriving tennis club with over 200 members, plus two floodlit renovated courts and a fabulous Tennis Hut. We're also very proud to have just been awarded **Club of the Year** for Norfolk by the LTA !

The £91,000 we raised (over two and half years) enabled this transformation, and we are very grateful to Sport England's Inspired Facilities grant which supplied the bulk of the funding. A further £14,500 was raised from eight smaller funds, plus local residents and businesses were brilliant in giving us sponsorship and supporting an online Crowdfunding campaign. Our thanks go to them.

Our vision for Hingham Tennis is that tennis should be enjoyed by anyone, no matter their age or ability, and that we want a friendly, inclusive club. We had the luxury of designing it from scratch, and with no previous experience of how tennis clubs run between the 3 founders, we have constructed something quite different to the norm!

We offer affordable membership packages for all ages, which includes unlimited access to the courts and club nights, plus various tournaments and events. Membership also gives access to the Tennis Hut where there is equipment available for use, plus a place to sit and watch. We also offer a pay-and-play option for non-members. Membership and court bookings are taken online via our website.

We very lucky to have 3 coaches (most Norfolk clubs struggle to keep 1!), and a packed weekly timetable of adult and children's sessions. These are open to members and non members, and include group coaching, beginners and 'rusty rackets' lessons, cardio tennis plus Junior 'drop in' club. (See website for full details). Despite having 200+ members there is plenty of court availability remaining for free play.

Our Junior section has around 50 children attending weekly lessons and 3 have been invited to try out for the Norfolk County squad which is great

The local community and members have shown huge support to the club. The official launch event on 1st July 2016 saw over 150 people attending – fantastic to see so many local faces celebrating the facility. Since then we've had club BBQ's, tournaments, picnic & match against a fellow club and 2 Christmas parties.

We are keen to share the facility with the community so have hosted several 'Open Court' days, with free court access to community, plus we've delivered a coach led evening of activities free of charge to Hingham Youth Café.

We have a great club atmosphere, with members proactively establishing new playing sessions, and working parties to maintain the facilities. We communicate with members often, and take on board feedback, trying to deliver what members want. We hope this will help us maintain a healthy club and facility for Hingham.

We are planning a full calendar of LTA initiatives in 2017, including the Great British Tennis Weekend on **23rd April** (everyone welcome for BBQ and free tennis with our coach!), plus 'Tennis for Kids' later this summer – a free 6 week course for children funded by the LTA.

For a full listing of events and timetable please see our website.

To close our report, we just want to say a BIG thank you to the Hingham Playing Field's Association, and the Hingham Sports and Social Club – all the amazing volunteers and staff, who supported our vision and helped make this happen and keep buzzing.

Emily Cary, Lindsey Read and Simon Underhill

Founders of Hingham Tennis

An Inspired Facility



**REPORT to the HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL from
Hingham Playing Field Association (HPFA) for 2016/2017
Charity No: 286060**

Introduction

The HPFA manages the play and sports facilities on behalf of the town. The HPFA is a charity, run by 4 trustees, volunteers who might not be involved in any of the Clubs. The HPFA Committee is made up of these volunteers, a representative of each club, and representatives of other village interests, such as the Town Council, District Councillor, Team Rector, RBL, etc. The Committee meets monthly and club representatives attend when they can. We have one self-employed Bookings Manager/Caretaker (Mr Nigel Matthews) and a cleaner (shared with the Social Club), paid on an hourly basis.

The HPFA's job is to manage and maintain the fabric of the Sports Hall building; the two children's play areas and the playing fields as directed by the lease with the Hingham Town Council. HPFA pays £100 per year rent to the Council under the terms of the lease for the Sports Ground, last signed in September 1999 for a period of 50 years. The Play Area in Hardingham Street (The Welcomme Space) and the buildings and structures on the Playing Fields are owned by the HPFA.

HPFA income is received solely from fees charged to the Social and Sports Clubs and other users of the Sports Hall. All other income is either from funding applications that we make ourselves to the Council, South Norfolk District or other funding bodies. This accounting year we have again made a small operating loss. This reflects both the number and costs of urgent refurbishment and maintenance work we have had to do this year. Our reserves are around £20,000. For the first time in many years we are reluctantly increasing our hire charges this year by 10%. Hall heating will also be separately paid for via tokens.

The Sports Hall and Playing Fields are used by 14 clubs and other groups, accounting for around 1,600 visitors each month. The balcony has attracted new users and the meeting room is now used by clubs and other groups regularly.

Maintenance Activities

Security: Before committing to our plans last year for security lighting, and thanks to a suggestion from our PCSO we had a security inspection report prepared by the Police. This was extremely helpful and made suggestions that were pragmatic and cost-efficient. The concept of external cameras has therefore been scrapped in favour of internal cameras and increased low level lighting in the foyer and other access points. We will be pursuing the agreed actions in the coming year.

The Sports Hall Floor: The Sports Hall Floor cracking has been stabilised, and the surface is being maintained. We now understand that full repair would require a complete correction

of the foundations under the floor. As this is beyond our means, we continue to nurse the floor to ensure it remains safe and playable.

The Car Park: The resurfaced car park has now settled and improved the site. However, increased use of the facilities have recently caused severe parking overspill across Springfield Way and Watton Road, raising concerns from residents. The Committee have worked closely with the Police and are now actively looking at resurfacing the overgrown/grassed area between the car park and Springfield Way, so that it can be used year round. We estimate that this will provide space for around 30 + additional vehicles.

Grass Maintenance: Our clubs and parents continued to report difficulties with cutting of pitches to Anglian League standard and play areas during the year, largely because of grass mowings being left on the ground. We were again unsuccessful in bidding to deliver the grasscutting service for the town, but going forward we will continue to use our machine when necessary to supplement the work of the Town's contractor, whose contract has been renewed for this year.

Electricity / Photo-Voltaic Panels / Lighting: We have continued our programme to upgrade our lighting to LEDs, which though expensive initially, uses less electricity, provides better light and lasts longer than neon strips. So far we have done this in the main changing room which has dramatically improved the whole look and feel of the space, and across the ground floor as neon strips fail. The biggest job is the replacement of the 100+ large tubes in the Sports Hall itself, which require scaffolding/lifting gear to replace. We have recently had advice from NCC's Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) unit, who are producing a report for us, and who may be a source of support in achieving the hall lighting upgrade.

Oil / Hot Water Boilers / Hall Heater / Shower Upgrades: The use of oil continues to be a major drain on income. The boilers providing hot water and radiators and the Hall Heater are both powered by oil. The Boilers have been successfully refurbished and are now running better than ever. The Hall Heater uses around £6 per hour, and we shall be putting a token fed meter on it before the autumn, (like the Tennis and Football floodlights) so that clubs may purchase the heat they need as they use it.

Dog Walkers: There is an ongoing problem of aggressive dog walkers, and those who fail to pick up their dog's poo while using the Playing Fields and the Welcomme Space. We know this is an issue more widely across the town and we continue to work with the Town Council to find solutions.

Play Areas: We have some urgent work to undertake to repair and refresh the Watton Road play area. A successful bid to Tesco 'Bags of Help' means that we have been awarded £5,000 of the £8,000 cost of these works. The works will be done after the Easter holidays. The

Welcomme Space is being upgraded, with new litter bins, replacement tyres in the tyre walk, and repainting of the metal benches scheduled. Dogs off-lead and dog poo are a recurring problem at this space.

Club Updates

The Social Club: The club is doing well and offers a wide range of events every month, which are advertised in the Town Newsletter. The sports clubs are always welcome, as are any other visitors. The club is ready to welcome new members and anyone who would like to join (at a modest £10 per year) can take advantage of the discounted drinks prices! Anyone who would like to join should call into the club to find out more.

New Clubs: We have a newly established **Pilates Class** using the meeting room on the balcony (see advertisements in the Town Newsletter) and a new **Kettlebell Class** just starting up.

The Egg Hunt: This event tries to showcase the Welcomme Space play area and encourage families to use it regularly. It was a great success, with over 30 children participating and around 20 adults. It is a happy morning, which is now a regular annual event. Thanks to all who contributed cakes and provided the drinks.

Plans for 2016/17

The main driver for our activities continues to be upgrading our now elderly Sports Hall. We need to resolve the continuing problem with the Sports Hall Floor, update the hot water system and showers; complete the LED lighting through the building, and improve the security and fabric of external doors and windows. This is always a difficult area to fund through grants, and puts increased strain on our income. We are developing a prioritised workplan, and investigating new sources of funding which might help us. We continue to be grateful to the Town Council and South Norfolk Council for their help and support where they can and we are determined to continue to provide good facilities for the people of Hingham and the wider community going forward.

Finally, thank you to all the Clubs who stay in touch with HPFA, to the trustees and committee volunteers who give their time to the administrative and maintenance tasks required to keep the facilities open, and special thanks to our Bookings Manager, Nigel Matthews, whose dedication to both the facilities and to the Clubs and other visitors has led to increased income from users.

Our AGM is at 8.00pm on Tuesday 9th May at the Sports Hall. We are seeking new volunteers to join our committee – why not attend to see whether you might join us!!

2017 Annual County Council Report

Council Tax

This year the Government has agreed that Councils can increase their tax by up to 3% to cover the increasing cost of Adult Social Care, so Norfolk County Council has agreed an overall increase of 4.8% to allow 1.8% to cover the increasing cost of the other services.. This is a rise of £57.15 per annum for a Band D property and will enable the County Council to invest an additional £25 million to support Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

All departments are looking for ways of delivering the same services more economically. There has been some internal restructuring to enable departments to operate more economically, eg. there are now three Highways areas instead of four.

Highways

We have just agreed 137 Parish Partnership Schemes which will enable villages to put in safety schemes such as flashing signs, footpaths, trods, wig-wags, bus shelters, etc. The scheme will be run again next year.

Work on the Northern Distributer Route from Postwick to the Fakenham Road is on schedule and should be completed by Christmas. A committee has been set up to find the best route to continue this road and join it to the A47.

Highways England has just announced four options for dualling the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton and improvements to the Thickthorn roundabout junction both of which should commence in 2020.

A by-pass for Long Stratton has also been agreed and should start around 2020.

Locally we have been looking at ways of slowing the traffic to make areas safer for pedestrians.

Education

Ofsted's Annual Report identified Norfolk as the fifth most improved county, nationally, for pupils achieving 'Good' or 'Outstanding' at secondary schools over the last four years.

GCSE results for 2016 showed Norfolk as 'above national average' for the first time in a decade.

Adult Education

Adult Education is now called Norfolk Community Learning Services and has been restructured to enable it to operate more economically.

Where it is apparent that students on qualification courses need support in basic English and Maths these are now delivered as part of their chosen course.

Adult Care

In the east we have been working with an NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to provide Healthy Homes Assistance – a project to help facilitate hospital discharge, reduce risks around the home and reduce re admissions to hospital.

Last year Norfolk County Council agreed to accept 50 vulnerable Syrian Refugees through the Governments Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The first five families arrived at the beginning of March and will probably settle in Norwich. Many local faith and voluntary groups have offered their support.

Broadband

The Better Broadband for Norfolk programme should have provided 95% of Norfolk homes and businesses with access to high speed broadband by 2020.

Libraries

The Library and Information Service won a national award called Libraries Change Lives for its pioneering work in partnership with Public Health.

Libraries have become Social Hubs providing theatrical and musical performances and activities such as board games and knit and natter groups, as well as story telling for adults and children, to encourage social interaction and help combat loneliness.

We are also continuing our annual Summer Reading Challenge for children and last year we also ran a well-supported writing competition.

Museums

The museum service has been bringing in many grants which have enabled them to put on successful displays at Gressenhall and Gt Yarmouth. They are currently raising £15 million to transform the Keep at the Castle Museum so that people can see how it looked in Norman times.

Parish Councils

I endeavour to attend all Parish Council meetings but occasionally I have to miss one due to another meeting elsewhere. Parish clerks know that they can contact me anytime if there is a problem in the area that I can help with.

Margaret Dewsbury

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

Its ten years since the Conservative Party assumed the responsibility for South Norfolk Council. In that time we have seen many challenges but we have grown the economy by attracting a quarter of a billion pounds of inward investment over the last year whilst continuing to look after those who need our help the most.

Our social agenda has delivered more than 400 affordable homes to rent and buy in the last year both in our market towns and our rural villages, more than 30% of the total built in the District. Our Housing register is continually less than 1000 families which ensures most that qualify to join are able to find a home to rent in less than a year. We continue to help even more families in need of Aids and Adaptations using extra funding available through the Disabled Facilities grant scheme. Our work in preventing homelessness has been recognised nationally by Teresa May following a trailblazer award of £96000. This year we have prevented more than 400 cases of homelessness, and the extra money will be used to develop and deliver more innovative approaches to preventing homelessness, with the aim of providing earlier targeted intervention by identifying at risk groups and working collaboratively.

The collaborative 'Early Help' hub at Long Stratton has received more than 4000 contacts this year and has supported 335 cases and currently has 109 family support plans in operation. This has helped to reduce the number of children in need, looked after children and truancy cases in our District. We have launched a new scheme called FIRST (Financial Independence, Resilience, Skills and training) offering tailored advice to those families finding it difficult to cope. Our Community Connectors have been so successful, that we will be recruiting additional Officers soon. Their brief will be expanded to launch a pilot 'Social Prescribing' scheme in April 2017 with Doctor Surgeries in Diss and Wymondham to try to help reduce the pressure on our GP's and the financial burden on the NHS. Other services such as the 'Forget me Not' grants are still available for people living with Dementia and our 'Handyperson Scheme' enables vulnerable residents to keep their independence and prevent or delay the need for admission into residential care.

The new Tuesday-Friday routes for our refuse collections have not only saved us money but ensured the service is as efficient as it can be. We are recycling more than ever and our award winning 'Give and Take' reuse events continue to grow and we are now taking bikes and paint to Wayland prison for community projects and skills training.

Our Leisure Services in both Diss and Wymondham have increased membership following the £4million investment last year. We have also collaborated with Sport England to install an all weather pitch at long Stratton. There are planned improvements to the rest of Long Stratton Leisure centre which is the next stage in the plan to build a service where residents can have access to the facilities to get fit and healthy at a price they can afford. The golden principle has been to retain critical capacity whilst running services in house for both ourselves and other Districts within and outside Norfolk to improve our resilience.

We continue to examine planned new developments on their merits and insist on infrastructure requirements to facilitate growth in a co-ordinated manner, and work has already begun on the next Joint Core Strategy with our partners in Norwich and Broadland, to ensure that growth is properly planned between now and 2036.

Locally here this year in Hingham and Deopham, I have helped Deopham Playing field fund-raising group and Hingham Town Council Events team with money from my ward grant scheme. This year has also seen the start of work on the 88 new houses in Norwich Road. South Norfolk policy is to ensure that 33% of larger developments are affordable homes to buy and to rent which benefit the local community through the local connection, and last autumn 18 properties for rent were taken on by Saffron Housing and 14 of these were let to local residents. Infrastructure projects associated with the development of traffic calming improvements and outdoor gym equipment at the HPFA will also be installed soon.

We look forward to continuing the work in 2017/18 and always aim to improve the quality of life for all our residents.

***Cllr Yvonne Bendle, Hingham and Deopham Ward
Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Early Intervention
Vice-Chairman Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board
Tel: 01953 850306***

E-Mail: Yvonne.raybendle@btinternet.com