

**TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2012/2013**

**I would like to thank the Council for their support during this year of office and present the Annual Report outlining the main activities for the year, including:-**

**1. Councillors**

Councillors Emma Hindmoor and Claire Umpelby were co-opted onto the Town Council. Councillors Grogan and Railton resigned from the Town Council.

**2. Councillor Portfolio**

Councillors hold the following Portfolios:-

Planning – Councillors Batson & Gale

Police – Councillors Green & Hayton

Young People – Councillors Rowland

Allotments – Councillor Blacker

Finance – Councillor Rowland

**3. Residents attending Town Council meetings**

Throughout the year 6 residents have attended Town Council meetings.

**4. Planning Matters**

Throughout the year the Town Council have responded to 23 Planning Applications.

**5. N-Power Community Fund**

The Town Council received £3177.12 for the financial year 2012/13.

Funds were allocated to the following organisations:-

1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Scouts – set up costs

Community Association – bus trip to Blackpool

Community Association – bus trip to Leeds

Community Association - Pantomime

Brad Hopps – Quad Bike equipment

Tow Law Parent/children group – transport to SAFC match

Michael Walker – art course

Christmas competition in Tow Law – prize money

**6. Activities 2013**

The Town Council arranged a number of coaches for residents to go to South Shields in July. Thanks to Christine Emmerson for organising this event.

**7. Christmas Trees**

Due to financial constraints the Town Council were unable to supply Christmas trees this year but are hoping to provide them for Christmas 2013.

### **8. Millennium Green**

The Town Council continue to manage the Millennium Green and act as Corporate Trustees. A volunteer group has been set up to look at funding, tidying up and litter picking the area.

### **9. Policies**

The following Policies have been agreed/reviewed by the Town Council:-

Freedom of Information – Publication Scheme

Anti-Fraud and Corruption

Risk Management Statement

Protocol for Members/Officers relations

Management of Records

Code of Conduct for Members

Standing Orders

Financial Regulations

Complaints Procedure

Copies can be viewed on the Council's web site or are obtainable from the Town Clerk.

### **10. Town Council Precept 2012/13**

The Precept for the year 2012/13 was £29606.00 plus £52.00 Double Taxation (for allotments)

### **11. CCTV in Tow Law**

The Town Council continues to look at enhancing/replacing the present 3 camera CCTV system which is operational and is regularly checked by Durham Police.

### **12. Area Action Partnership (Three Towns)**

The Town Council is represented on the Board of the AAP which meets bi-monthly.

The Town Council received a Participatory Budgeting allocation of £8,700 to support local groups in the area. The following were successful:-

Stanley Crook Primary School £1100

Peases West Primary School £1100

Durham Agency Against Crime £1000

Tow Law Millennium Primary School £1125

Mad Alice Theatre Company £995

Tow Law Community Partnership £1080

Tow Law Millennium Toddlers £1567.60

Balance £732.40

### **13. Council's Committee Structure (Membership)**

The Council have the following committees:-

Car Park committee (Councillors Gale, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Millennium Green committee (Councillors Brown, Rowland, Taylor, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Power of Well Being committee (Councillors Batson, Brown, Hayton, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

School Liaison committee (Councillors Gale, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Windfarm committee (Councillors Gale, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Finance & General Purposes committee (Councillors Blacker, Brown, Hird, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Allotments committee (Councillors Batson, Blacker, Rowland, Taylor, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Planning committee (Councillors Batson, Gale, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

### **14. Christmas House/Windows Competition**

This year the competition was judged by the Chairman of the Town Council and the winners were:-

1<sup>st</sup> prize (Mrs J Hope, 48 Alpine Way)

2<sup>nd</sup> prize (K. Duffy, 6 Hill Crest)

3<sup>rd</sup> prize (Mr & Mrs Robson, Meadows Edge)

4<sup>th</sup> prize (C. Hurton, 14 Deerness Estate)

Prize winner (M. Hobson, 69 High Street)

Prize winner (A. Rowland, 49 High Street)

Prize winner (A. Wilkinson, 73 High Street)

Prize winner (N. Heatley, 12 Pennine Way)

Prize winner (J. Birnie, 31a Wolsingham Road)

Prize winner (I Paterson, 17 Deerness Estate)

### **15. Footpaths**

The public notice board has been delivered and is awaiting to be put in place in High Street.

### **16. Trex Gym**

The Town Council still continues to discuss with Durham County Council on the possible management handover of the Gym and surrounding areas.

### **17. Allotments**

The Town Council's Allotment committee continue to carry out site inspections and the provision of a water meter to the site at Dan's Castle and repair/inspection of flooding problems affecting the site on Millennium Green are still outstanding.

### **18. Town Centre Plan**

Discussions are still ongoing regarding an off-street parking scheme close to the Doctors surgery(progress in very slow).

### **19. Neighbourhood Planning**

The Town Council have applied to Durham County Council for Tow Law to be designated a Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 and will be discussing the outcomes with residents in the near future.

### **20.Thanks**

My thanks to the Town Clerk (Geoff Smith) and Assistant Town Clerk (Lynne Rowland) for their help and guidance throughout the year.

**Jeff Gale**

**Chairman 2012/2013**

**Tow Law Town Council.**