Evesham Town Council

Annual Report
2012/2013

Annual Town Meeting
6.30pm Monday 8th April 2013
Evesham Town Hall
Introduction to the Town Council

Evesham Town Council is at the first tier of local government providing services for the people of Evesham with an operating budget of approximately £475,000. The Council is made up of 24 elected councillors representing five wards, and a small team of officers led by the Town Clerk.

The Town Council is responsible for three allotment sites, three cemeteries, two closed church yards, Christmas lights, the Charter Market, Evesham Town Hall (first floor), Bonfire/Firework event, floral Evesham and the Almonry Museum and Tourist Information Centre. The Town Council is also a statutory consultee on many issues including planning and acts as a trustee to the Samuel Wallace Smedley Trust.

The Council also provide financial support for various festivals in Evesham as well as other projects such as the Town Plan. The Town Council distributes grants to various local organisations; application forms are available on request.

The Town Mayor, a position that has existed in the town since it was awarded its Charter in 1604, chairs council meetings. All Council and committee meetings are held at the Town Hall and are open to the public to attend. Agendas and Minutes can be requested by contacting the office on 01386 47070.

townclerk@eveshamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Evesham Town Council
Abbey Road
Evesham
Worcs
WR10 4RW

http://evesham.uk.com
Twitter: @EveshamTC
www.mayorofevesham.co.uk
http://www.almonryevesham.org/
Avon Ward

Abbey Lane (Abbey Lane Court, Abbot Walters Court)
Abbey Road
Abbey Cliftons Place
Albert Road
Avon Street (Brick Kiln Place, Magpie Court)
Bewdley Lane
Bewdley Street (Bewdley Court, Brewery Court, Courtlands, Holmes Place, Rowlands Court, Sinclair Court)
Boat Lane
Briar Close (Burghley Court, Tertiill Court)
Brick Kiln Street (Hopkin Gardens)
Coxlea Close
Edward Street
Ferry View
George Street
Henry Fowler Close, Henry Street, High Street (Yates Court)
Huxleys Way
Litttleworth Street (Tiedwells Court), Littleworth Walk
Merslow Green (The Old School House)
Merslow Place (Meade Court)
Queens Road, Rudge Road, Shepherds Pool
St Lawrence Road, Temple Mews, Vine Street (Vine News)
West Street, William Crescent

Bengeworth Ward

Abbey Gardens, Abbey Gate, Abbey Mews
Abbey Road
Allardens
Badsey Lane
Badsey Road
Bridge Street (Monks Walk)
Broadway Road (Hill Crest, Longdon Hill)
Burford Gardens, Burford Road
Burlingham Avenue
Castle Street (Banner Court, Nallars Row)
Cedarwood Gardens, Cestrum Crescent, Cestrum Walk, Church Street (Gardners Square, Cravens Court), Clyde Avenue, Common Road, Conwy Drive
Conduit Hill (Pinder Heights), Confirm Drive
Coronation Street, Cow Hill Street
Deacle Place
Drakes Lea
Emm Road, Elmside
Fresia Close
Glencoe Road
Harvey Road, Hyacinth Close
Kings Road (Philipscole, The Old School)
Knoyle Hill
Leys Walk, Uichtfield Avenue, Lily Walk
Lime Street (Masons Court)
Leys Walk
Lock View
Lower Leys (Goodwin Gardens)
Market Place, Marigold Close
Medway Road
Mill Bank (The Old Mill), Mill Street Monks Walk
Montfort Street, Mortimers Quay, Mount Road
New Street
North Road
Northwick Road
Oak Street
Offenham Road
Port Street Robins Meadow, Robins Corner, Robins Meadow Robins Walk, Rosebank
Shannon Way, Shor Street, Solent Place, Swan Lane, Tammar Place, The Leys, Tyne Drive
Vine Street, Viburnum Walk, Violet Walk
Wards Close
Waterside
Wesley Cottages, Wisteria Drive

Your Councillors

(all Councillors are Members of the Planning & General Purposes Committee)

Cllr R S W Jones
11 Woodland Piece
Evesham
WR11 1BJ
e: cwevesham@cartridgeworld.co.uk
Member of Promotion Committee

Cllr Mrs Jean Taylor
58 West Street
Evesham
WR11 3DR

Cllr Martin Hammon
Number Ten
Albert Road
Evesham
WR11 4JX
e: tomsbarbers@aol.com
Member of Promotion Committee (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Alan Booth
Angel Vaults
11 Port Street
Evesham
WR11 3LA
e: alanbooth2003@yahoo.co.uk
Member of Personnel Committee and Grants Committee

Cllr Michael Elliman
4 Brick Kiln Street
Evesham
WR11 2AA
e: namille1945@yahoo.co.uk
Member of Property Committee

Cllr Mark Goodge (Deputy Mayor)
8 Elm Road
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 3DL
e: councillor@markgoodge.com
Member of all Committees

Cllr Norbert Tucker
63 Elm Road
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 3DR
e: julietucker10@btinternet.com

Cllr Mrs Rebecca Whiting
4 Masters Close
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 1EL
e: rebeccawhiting68@live.co.uk
Member of Promotion Committee
Great Hampton Ward

Alexandra Road
Basson Court, Berryfield Road, Blossomfield Close
Breden Crescent, Brookside
Charlton Close, Chestnut Close, Church Road
Clarks Hill Rise (Hampton House)
Everndene Road
John Martin Square
Highfield Road, Hillside Close, Hylton Road
John Martins Square, Kent Close
Lilac Close, Lums Gardens
Malinhill Road, Martin Avenue, Marymans Road
Maycroft, Meadows End, Merrybrook
Merrybrook Heights
Mill Road
New Road
Parklands, Peewill Road
Pershore Road (Churchill Court)
Red Lane, Rosemary Close, Ryden Lane
School Road (Lynwood Close, Old School Court)
St Andrew Road
Summerfield Gardens
The Pool, Workman Road

Little Hampton Ward

Andrews Drive
Battleton Road
Blackberry Way
Bluebell Way
Celandine Way
Cheltenham Road (Orchard Walk)
Coldicott Gardens
Columbine Grove
Cromwell Road
Fairfield Place
Fairfield Road (1-84)
Goodwood Close
Hamilton Road
Hemmingway
Honeysuckle Close
Isbourne Crescent
Jasmine Walk
Kempton Close
Larkspur Drive
Lavender Walk
Linfield Road
Pershore Road
Robina Close
St Catherine’s Road
St Davids Drive
St Georges Close
St James Drive
St Margaret’s Road
St Patricks Close
St Philips Drive
St Wulstans Close
St Johns Close
St Lukes Close
St Marks Close
St Matthews Close
St Michaels Close
St Pauls Close
Salisbury Drive
Sandown Road
The Heathers
The Link
Thistledown
Waterside (Fountain Court, Fountain Gardens)

Your Councillors

Cllr Mrs Diana Raphael
19 Boat Lane
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 4BP
e: diana@raphael.wyenet.co.uk

Member of Property Committee (Chair) & Promotion

Cllr Mrs Frances Smith
The Orchard
Malinhill Road
Evesham
WR11 2QG
e: jhsmith@jhsmith.plus.com

Member of Personnel Committee (Chair)

Cllr John Smith OBE
The Orchard
Malinhill Road
Evesham
WR11 2QG
e: jhsmith@jhsmith.plus.com

Member of Property Committee

Cllr Andrew Dyke
6 Blackberry Way
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 2AH
e: Andrew@andrewdyke.co.uk

Member of Property Committee, Promotion Committee and Personnel Committee

Cllr Robert Raphael—Mayor
Hampton Ferry House
Hampton
Evesham
WR11 2PR
e: raphaels@hamptonferry.co.uk

Member of all Committees

Cllr Andrew Dyke
6 Blackberry Way
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 2AH
e: wendydyke@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Gerry O’Donnell
4 St Paul’s Close
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 4TA
E: gerry.donnell@sky.com

Member of Promotion Committee (Chair)

Cllr John Payne—Retired February 2012

Current Vacancy
South Ward

Cllr Jim Bulman
12 Broadway Road
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 1BH
E: jamesbulman2@btinternet.com
Member of Property Committee & Promotion Committee

Cllr Mrs Lynne Jakeman
Plum Cottage
Red barn Lane
Bengeworth
Worcs
WR11 7RN
E: reg.jakeman@tiscali.co.uk
Member of Personnel Committee

Cllr Reg Jakeman
Plum Cottage
Red barn Lane
Bengeworth
Worcs
WR11 7RN
E: reg.jakeman@tiscali.co.uk

Cllr Patrick Boyd
Wren Cottage
8 Glebe Road
Aston Somerville
WR12 7JB
Member of Property Committee

Cllr Charlie Homer
8 River House
Common Road
Evesham
WR11 4QY
E: charliehomer@hotmail.com
Member of Promotion Committee

Cllr Mrs Beryl Gurden
11 Simon de Montfort Drive
Greenhill
Evesham
WR11 4NR
Member of Property Committee

Cllr Mrs Jo Sandalls
4 Homesmith House
St Mary’s Road
Evesham
WR11 4EH
E: Josephine.sandalls@wychavon.gov.uk
Member of Property Committee & Grants Committee

Cllr Ivor Stewart
7 St Andrew Road
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 4QD
Member of Property Committee

Twyford Ward

A46 Evesham Bypass, Abbotswood
Balmoral Close, Blayney Lane
Cambria Road, Collinsfield
Common Road – River House
Common Road – Vale House
Croft Road
De La Bere Close
Goodalls Grove
Greenhill, Greenhill Gardens
Greenhill Park Road, Greenhill Terrace
High Street
Lanesfield Park, Leicester Grove
Prince Edwards Close, Prince Henrys Close
Princess Road, Rightsons Court
Rynal Place (Conduit House)
Rynal Place (Willmott House)
Rynal Place (Tarry’s Row)
Rynal Street
Sandringham Close
Simon de Montfort Drive
St Mary’s Road (Homesmith House)
Swan Lane, Tarry’s Row
The Hodges, The Squires
Victoria Avenue,
Windsor Road
Worcester Road (Daniel House, William House)
During 2012, The Almonry was awarded it’s Visit Britain Quality Attraction once again in June: this recognises the efforts the staff make to ensure the visitor has an experience that’s both positive and memorable. Singled out for special mention in the report was the light-hearted ‘What has the Queen Seen’ children’s trail and exhibition, and that ‘all aspects of customer service were very good to excellent’.

Throughout the year, there were a total of 21 school visits from 9 different schools ranging from the very local to the out of county, as well as 21 additional independent and Vale Visit group visits.

In spring, the Almonry became part of the Worcestershire Cultural Olympiad: the 12 Steps event took place in the Worcester Hive and linked it with the Vale School creating a piece of visual art that was on display throughout March and April.

The Almonry joined the Hudson’s Heritage Card scheme. Like the National Trust, this allows people who join to enter historic properties for free after paying a membership fee. The Almonry receives the admission fee, less 10% for admin charges.

For the nationwide Festival of British Archaeology, the Almonry themed its events around the Stone Age and primitive technology. There was a flint knapping event for adults; a cave installation where visitors could try out their cave painting techniques; primitive painting skills workshops; and children’s archaeology and trail activities.

The children’s activities during the school holidays have increased in popularity and the Almonry continues to receive good feedback from visitors who appreciate the variety (from a simple flag spotter trail to a spider making craft activity) and value for money that a visit to the Almonry represents.

Approximately 200 people visited the Almonry during Heritage Open Day in September. The Nursing in the Vale exhibition, inspired by a local resident donating her post-war nursing cloak to the Almonry, opened that weekend and received excellent feedback from visitors.

The BBC Your Paintings project now features pictures on display in the Almonry.

Just before Christmas 2012, The Almonry was awarded a grant of £1000 from West Midlands Museum Development Officers Fund: this will go towards creating a digital archive of all our paper artefacts that family researchers will be able to search through without inflicting wear and tear on the originals.

Also in December, the Almonry received a grant from the Vale of Evesham Historical Society for the sum of £3800. This has provided an honorarium payment to a graduate volunteer we currently have working with us: she will be undertaking a full collection audit, cross-referencing it with the inventory and carrying out the Retrospective Documentation Plan that the Society have been unable to do themselves.

Report by Tonia Collett, Manager
As the name suggests, the Planning and General Purposes committee exists primarily to discuss local planning applications and secondly to act as the forum for miscellaneous topics which do not belong in a different committee’s remit and yet need to be addressed separately to the monthly full Council meeting.

The Town Council’s role in the planning process is to act as a “statutory consultee”, that is, one of the groups that the planning authority (Wychavon District Council) is legally obliged to consult prior to deciding on any applications. As such, we don’t have the final say in any application, but that also gives us more scope to speak our minds than Wychavon’s planning committee who are bound by more stringent rules. And planning applications come in all shapes and sizes: we’ve been asked to comment on everything from a tree house in someone’s back garden to major developments of several hundred new homes. Other noteworthy applications have included the new M&S store, a proposed sheltered housing scheme on Cheltenham Road and a request by Evesham United to be allowed to hold non-football events in their function room.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan has been a significant factor in planning discussions this year, and is likely to throw up some major challenges for the Town Council in the future. Some of the areas earmarked by the SWDP for new housing in Evesham are certainly controversial, and no doubt will result in strong feelings when the actual applications to build on them start to come in.

The “General” part of the committee’s name can cover pretty much anything, but, to give a few examples, in recent months we’ve looked at a selection of traffic orders, discussed the Britain in Bloom Awards and heard a report from the Evesham Street Pastors scheme. We also have a few other regular Council topics for which Planning and General Purposes is the usual forum. Probably the most important item on the agenda at most meetings of the Planning and General Purposes Committee, other than planning itself, is the Police Report. This gives the police the opportunity to keep councillors informed of any local issues or initiatives, and allows councillors to question the police representative about anything that’s on our minds. This can include concerns raised by members of the public via their councillor and provides an effective form of local feedback.

More recently, Planning and General Purposes has been used to discuss proposed street names for new developments.

Although Wychavon DC retains the ultimate power to decide names, unlike planning applications there is a principle that the Town Council’s recommendations will always be accepted unless there is a dispute. That means we could be responsible for the names of the streets that you end up living in. It also means that if you’ve got any ideas or suggestions for street names, particularly ones that are original and have strong local significance, then please pass them on to your Town councillor – we can’t promise to use them all, but the more we have the easier our job will be!

Report by Cllr Mark Goodge
Chairman
The Property Committee has the responsibility of looking after the Town Council’s large portfolio of buildings and outdoor spaces, from the Town Hall to the three cemeteries.

The Town Hall in the Market Square is the spiritual home of the Town Council and the venue for all its committee and council meetings. Grade II listed, the Town Hall provides a grand setting for all the groups and classes that meet there. Over the years, the Town Council has invested a lot of money in a new kitchen and bar, amongst other things. It has also been lavishly decorated to the highest standards. The Town Hall is a perfect venue for any occasion, from Christening, Weddings and Funerals. Going forward, the Town Council has formed a small working group to look into what else the Town Hall needs, and investigate how we can attract more users. The Town Council is unfortunately not responsible for the downstairs of the Town Hall.

The Almonry is perhaps the most loved building in Evesham and it is the Town Council who are responsible for maintaining and staffing it. The Almonry is not just a fantastic local museum that all Evesham residents should visit; it is also a vital tool for promoting the town and its businesses in its capacity as the Tourist Information Centre. The coming years are going to be challenging but exciting for the Almonry as it embarks on fundraising that if successful will lead to restoration of this historic building and enhance the way the collection is presented. This is Evesham’s only museum and I would really encourage you to get down there and have a look at its fantastic collection set in a beautiful medieval building.

The Town Council is responsible for three Cemeteries (Waterside, Hampton, and Bengeworth) and three Allotment sites (Rynal Place, Common Road and Inches Lane). Like most local authorities, the Town Council has faced problems with capacity, burial space is running short and allotments are over subscribed. In our cemeteries, staff have carried out an audit that has identified a number of previously unpurchased plots that have been missed previously, which has increased capacity slightly. With allotments, staff have audited the waiting list to ensure all those on it still want to be on it, and staff have begun a programme of inspection with the aim of removing any plot holders who are not actively cultivating their plots. The Town Council also has plans in the pipeline for a new cemetery and a new allotment site.

The Town Council staff also maintain All Saints Churchyard, Hampton playing fields and the closed Churchyard at St Peters. During the summer months, the troughs along Abbey Road and the tubs and planters throughout the town are nurtured and watered as part of Evesham in Bloom.

The Town Council is also responsible for the War Memorial and is about to submit a planning application for disabled access to the Memorial.

Evesham is a fantastic place, and we hope that Town Council enhances it through its buildings and green spaces.

Report by Councillor Mrs Diana Raphael
Chairman
Wallace House Community Centre began in 1946 when Samuel Wallace Smedley set up a Trust Fund for the people of Evesham to be used for a facility for recreational, social, educational and sporting opportunities, with particular emphasis on young people. The present Community Centre was opened in 1969 by W.V Smedley, son of the original founder.

Wallace House offers a wide range of activities for people from 6 months to our senior Citizens Group.

Wallace House is an organisation which endeavours to address the needs of the community, wide-ranging in age, needs and abilities. Staff have willingness and ability to work with a friendly, helpful and flexible approach to dealing with members of the general public, particularly young people.

To an extent we are financially supported by the Trust, the Trustees being Evesham Town Council. However, funds raised by the activities payments, lettings and so forth are utilised for a day to day running of the Centre. Many of the Youth Projects are funded through grants.

Wallace House Community Centre has continued the positive work with young people and the community over this financial year. The work included working with local schools providing life skills course for vulnerable pupils. The Centre is Registered with the Open College Network which enables us to offer training with qualifications.

The main focus for the After School Club, Youth Clubs and Play schemes was healthy living and keeping fit. Within the programme, young people had the opportunity to be involved in various sports coached by qualified coaches.

Young people also took part in a range of outings including the National Space Centre. The After School Club continued their work from last year and developed their growing skills through improving the outside space to grow vegetables. The Centre also developed links with the local community which increased the number of clubs/groups and organisations using the centre facilities. This year was financially difficult but rewarding.

Wallace House has been successful in securing funding from the Worcestershire County Councils Positive Activities Budget. The funding is being used to work with young people not in education, employment or training (NEET’s). Young people have called the project YOU TURN. They are working from 42 High Street and have changed the space using large scale paintings and art.

Report by Mrs Frances Smith
Administrator
Introduction

The Promotion Committee’s remit is to consider the best ways and means by which to promote Evesham to the wider community. With tourism being a major element of the town’s economy, the committee look for projects that will stimulate growth in that area, and consequently boost the town’s trading and retail health.

2012/13

The need to support Evesham through the negative impact of the struggling wider economy has continued through 2012/13. The zero growth, together with the extremely poor summer, had a significant impact on our local economy, which relies heavily upon tourism and visitors. The increase in vacancy rates, especially within the Riverside Shopping Centre, is symptomatic of the contraction of national brands. However, there is positive news to be found within our independent sector. The continued success of the Charter Market, the development of the Farmers Market and the investment committed by 12 small businesses in Evesham that have benefited from business grants (partly funded by Evesham Town Council) are examples of optimism in an otherwise challenging economic environment.

The Promotions Committee works closely with the Market Town Partnership (MTP) on mutually beneficial projects.

The Town Council contributed £14,000 towards three MTP specific projects with a promotional element:

- Attracting Inward Investment (£3,000);
- Business Support Grants (£3,000); and
- Local Distinctiveness (£8,000).- i.e. Events (Asparagus Festival, Balloon Festival, Morris Festival, Vale First Food Festival, River Festival and Christmas activities)

Events undoubtedly attract visitors to Evesham and the Vale, based on anecdotal evidence from retailers, accommodation providers, and operators of attractions. This also translates into increased spending (although poor weather can undermine this). One measure that can be evidenced is the value of positive media coverage that is generated from our events. WDC’s tourism section commissions independent research to evaluate the financial value of media coverage generated by events activity in Evesham. In 2012 this was estimated at £1.5 million.

Evesham Town Council’s contribution of £3,000 to support small businesses investing within the Town Centre has levered in an additional £10,500. The businesses receiving support included Beauty Shadow, Bonk, Everything but the Groom, NMA Design, Café Rivers, Trumpet Inn, The Little Present Shop, Greydavies Healthcare ltd, Bodzio European Food, Green Jjam Nursaries, Areca Design and Birdseye Sports.

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The Promotions Committee also receives requests to support promotion initiatives from organisations. In 2012/13, the Committee awarded the following grants in direct support of:

- **River Festival [cancelled]**: £2100 (Touch radio) *
- **River Festival Fireworks [cancelled]**: £1600*
- **Evesham Town Guide**: £3000
- **Bands in Park**: £2000
- **Pie and Ale**: £1500
- **Festival of Brass**: £1000
- **Skating Rink**: £5100
- **Christmas Market Security**: £1072

Due to the inclement weather, the 2012 River Festival sadly had to be cancelled. The promotional funding to ‘Touch Radio’ and half of the firework costs were contractually unrecoverable. 2012 saw the Christmas Skating Rink event re-instated, after a disastrous 2011 experience. The Committee members voted to give this attraction one more chance, and trawled a wider range of suppliers. Whilst the event went head reasonably well, it did not attract the attendance hoped for, and so it was decided not to repeat this with Committee funds in the future. However the committee are content to have this event continue at the expense (and risk) of a sole commercial operator. The Town Council also budgeted £17000 for Christmas lights in the 12/13 Financial Year. The Council is in the process of reviewing this contract and hopes to have a new scheme for Christmas 2013.

A number of new events, seed funded by the Promotions Committee, are planned for 2013/14, and I look forward to their success. I want to thank the members of Evesham Promotions Committee for their support, and wish my successor every success. Economic conditions nationally are difficult and the coming year will bring additional challenges locally, but I believe that we have an exciting offer as well as evidence of success to communicate.

Report by Cllr Gerry O’Donnell
Chairman
Welcome to Evesham Town Council’s Annual Report for 2012/2013.

The past year has been an exciting time for Britain, with the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics, Evesham has certainly played a part in these nation wide celebrations.

Local people organised around a dozen street and garden parties throughout the town to celebrate the Jubilee and thousands of locals and visitors lined the streets to see the Olympic flame pass through. I recall an enormous sense pride in being British this past Summer, as the eyes of the world looked to Britain.

Pride in a nation turned to pride in a town as we watched Alex Gregory and Zac Purchase win Gold and Silver medals for rowing at the 2012 Games.

Of course these national events are only a distraction for a short while as the business of representing the town and the day to day business of Evesham Town Council continues.

This year we bid farewell to Arthur Fryer, who stood down as a Mace Bearer after twenty plus years in the role. Tony Whiting left The Almonry Heritage Centre and Frank Green retired as Town Clerk. This council would like to thank all three of them for their many years of service and wish them well in their retirement.

John Payne has been a member of this council for many years, he was Mayor in 1998/9 and Chairman of Wychavon District the year prior. John recently made the decision to stand down as Town Councillor due to ill health. We would like to take this opportunity thank him for his years of service to this town and wish him all the very best for the future.

Departures also mean arrivals and we would like to welcome Peter Stewart who picks up the mace to become a new Macebearer, Philip Logan who joins the team at the Almonry and Stuart Carter who fills Frank’s shoes as Evesham’s new Town Clerk.

The vacancy for a Little Hampton ward councillor will be filled by co-option in due course.

Evesham Town Council is a consultee in most planning and highway matters within the town and in this role we have discussed dozens of planning applications and proposals, from domestic extensions to entire housing developments. From temporary classrooms at our schools to the South Worcestershire Development Plan, a document that will shape our part of the county for the next generation and beyond.

The Evesham Town Plan Steering Group is a newly formed partnership between Evesham Town Council and a number of other local groups who are keen to develop a blueprint for Evesham’s further development. Their mission is “to create a vision for the Evesham of the future, reflecting the needs and aspirations of residents and users of Evesham, and an action plan to get us there.” We wish them, and all who participate in this project all the very best in their endeavours and look forward to seeing their progress over the next year.

Work has already started on Evesham’s new bridge and we look forward to the completion of this ambitious project later this year. While there will be inevitable disruption caused by this major construction project, we must look ahead to its completion, we should be proud of this £13m investment in our town at a time when governments cuts are being made. Evesham’s traders, led by Shawn Riley, the Town Centre Manager are spear-heading a loyalty card scheme to encourage shoppers to stay in the town during this time. While this work is carried out in the heart of our town, it is essential to get the message out that Evesham is still “open for business”.

Town Mayor
Report
2012/2013
Evesham continues to be a desirable place to live and work and as a result continues to expand and grow. An increase in the number of occupied homes within the town attracts a New Homes Bonus, a grant paid by central government to local councils for increasing the number of occupied homes. Evesham Town Council has set up a working group to investigate how this money can best be delivered to local clubs, groups and charities or used for the benefit of the town.

To be mayor of this vibrant and exciting festival town is both an honour and a privilege. During the past year we have attended engagements throughout Worcestershire and into Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and The West Midlands, as well of course, as visiting schools, businesses and clubs throughout the town.

We were particularly pleased to attend the Heart of England in Bloom Awards in Birmingham this year, where Evesham was awarded a Silver-Gilt award for our efforts in this prestigious competition.

In September we were delighted to welcome a party from our twin town of Evesham New Jersey, it is always a pleasure to share our town with our twinning friends and I am pleased to see that our twinning exchanges and cultural links with all of our twin and friendship towns continue to grow.

The Mayors Charities this year have been Wallace House Community Centre and Evesham Volunteers, two hard working charities that I feel are often over-looked, probably due to the mis-conception that they are funded by the council. During the year we have held a number of fundraising events to support these charities, including an excellent show from the National Youth Folklore Troupe of England as part of the Morris Festival Weekend, A Monk’s Supper held in All Saints Church, The Mayors Ball, The Annual Fireworks and Bonfire Night, a Valentine Dinner, a quiz night and our most recent event, a snail race. Our final event of this municipal year will be our traditional St George’s Day Supper and Concert, which this year will be held at the newly refurbished Regal Cinema.

Through the pages of the Council’s Annual Report, which is presented here for you tonight, you will be able to read reports from Wallace House Community Centre and The Almonry Heritage Centre and you will be able to see a snap-shot of the work of this Council and its committees.

This council continues to be enormously hard-working, with the wishes of the residents always at the forefront of its discussions. While presenting this report to you this evening, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow councillors, particularly the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mark Goodge who has supported me and stepped in for me whenever required, and the chairmen of the Council’s Committees and Working Groups, Cllr. O’Donnell (Promotions), Cllr Mrs Smith (Personnel), Cllr Mrs Raphael (Property) and Cllr Hammon (New Homes Bonus).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and staff for all the work they do throughout the year.

Robert Raphael
Mayor of Evesham 2012/13