



GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004 **FOR THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING** **TUESDAY 6th APRIL 2004 @ 7:00PM**

Gainsborough Town Council Composition

The Council has a membership of 18 Councillors. 13 are elected with 5 co-opted members. 1 co-opted member resigned her appointment on the 2nd March 2004.

The Council is divided into 3 wards, South West Ward having 5 members, East Ward with 6 members and the North Ward with 7 members. 2 of the elected members and 1 co-opted member are also members of the West Lindsey District Council.

The Full Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month except August. There are 4 sub-committees, The Policy & Resources that meets bi-monthly, the Allotments, Appointments, and Strategic Planning, which meet, as necessary. In addition, there are 3 work-groups, Police Liaison, Citizen of the Year and Christmas Lights.

The administrative centre for the council is based at Gainsborough House with 2 part-time members of staff. There is 1 additional part-time employee in the capacity of Groundsman at the Hickman Bacon Memorial Park.

Councillor Members are not paid for their services. Recent legislation (Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003) now allow the payment of basic allowances to all members, however, at the February meeting members resolved not to claim the allowance.

Further information is available from the council website gainsboroughtowncouncil.co.uk

Council Functions

Responsibilities of the Council were increased with effect from the 1st April 2003, on the transfer of 8 play-areas from the West Lindsey District Council, making a total of 9 sites managed. During the year the council have joined with Groundwork Lincolnshire Ltd. with proposals after public consultation to increase the level of play equipment and refurbishment across the Hickman Bacon Memorial Park to offer something for all ages. The partnership has successfully obtained matched funding. During the year the Hickman Bacon Memorial Park (Levellings) has been used by 3 local football clubs.

The council manages 5 allotment sites; 1 rented from the County Council, 2 rented from Thonock & Somerby Estates and the Town Council owns the remaining site at North Warren Road. Plots are released to gardeners in two sizes at £8.50 and £17.00 per plot. At the Love Lane allotment site 29 plots are released on rental for garage facilities by local people at a cost of £25.00 per plot.

Other responsibilities carried out by the council include the maintenance of Town Council owned street furniture, public seats and passenger shelters, the Millennium clock and amenity grass cutting.

Maintenance works and playground inspections are contracted out to private enterprise.

Street Furniture

During the year a further passenger shelter has been provided directly by the council, together with another 4 by the County Council in consultation with the Town Council. An additional 6 public seats have been fixed across the parish.

In support of the Gainsborough Riverside development the Town Council provided 3 new signs by the Trent riverside giving information about the Aegir at Gainsborough for the benefit of parishioners and visitors.

Christmas 2003 saw the Town Council having sole responsibility for the provision and maintenance of the town centre Christmas Lights display.

In March 2004 the council released the third edition of the Gainsborough Official Guide booklet.

Grant Aid

Funding support has been provided to the Gainsborough Riverside fun day, Folk and Music Festivals, the Christmas Market and 9 other charitable organisations.

Planning

The Council has been consulted on 136 planning applications over the year additional to matters of transport and road safety, and environmental issues.

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