

ATTLEBOROUGH MATTERS

Issue 5



*Wishing all of our
readers a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year*

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Welcome to the Christmas edition of Attleborough Matters.

I was delighted and honoured to be elected Mayor for the rest of the current term by my fellow councillors and following the resignation of Cllr John Taylor. There is much to do in the town and there is much I would like to accomplish during my term in the position. We have a very busy time in front of us and I'm looking forward to the challenge.



In November the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan team held a pre-consultation weekend in the town hall. This was well attended by residents and there were some concerns as well as many positives, all of which have been taken on board and will be analysed and if possible put into the plan itself. As well as the plan continuing apace there is a vibrant town centre with expectations of a busy time leading up to Christmas.

Since the summer there has been a real buzz round the town following on from a really successful "Bike Fest" and the "Tour of Britain" celebrations. Lots of projects have stemmed from this and more planned for the future too. The "Town Team" put on some ghost walks at Halloween which was really well supported, we had great fun scaring the kids (and adults).

As Attleborough Matters goes to press the Christmas lights switch on will have taken place and I am confident this will be as well attended as in previous years. It really does bring the local community together at a special time of year. Nearer to Christmas the town team are holding a Christmas carol singalong with a live band on **Sunday 20th December in the Town Hall 4 - 6 pm**. Open to anyone with a good voice and children are most welcome. It is also a busy time for St Mary's church and we should not forget the real meaning of Christmas. Full details of the church plans can be found inside this magazine.

Here's looking to a fabulous Christmas for all.

Tony Perkins



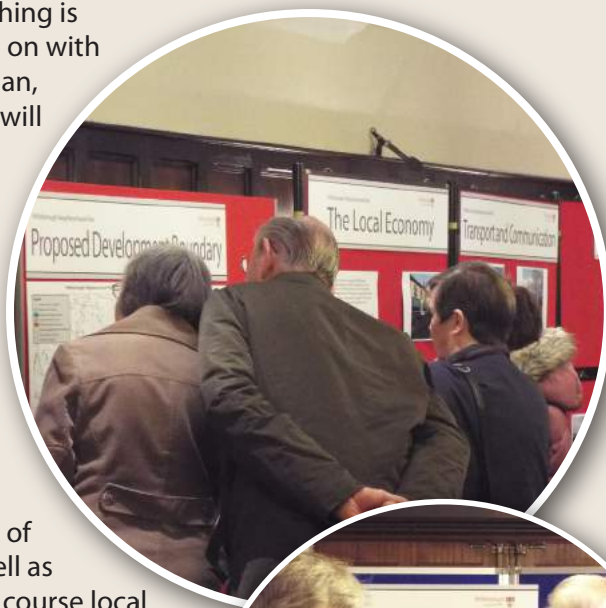
Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan – pre-consultation weekend.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to take part in the informal consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan that was held last month. It was good to see the town hall so full at all the sessions and to get so many thoughtful inputs. The feedback was largely positive and in general endorsed the path the Neighbourhood Plan is taking. There were some concerns, particularly around traffic in the town centre and these will have to be addressed. It was a shame that not as many young people came along as we would have liked but we have rectified that by going to the Academy and speaking at school assemblies during the first week of December.



I had hoped to be setting the scene for the formal consultation on the Plan in this Christmas issue of Attleborough Matters but unfortunately, factors have conspired together to make it impossible to meet the ambitious timetable we set ourselves. A number of formal technical procedures have to be completed before we can submit the Plan for consultation and for inspection and these are taking longer than we expected. The Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan is breaking new ground in the scope and scale of issues being included within it and it is important that we get the technicalities right. I realize that this is disappointing and frustrating (it is for me) but there would be no point trying to press ahead with a flawed process.

All this does not mean that nothing is happening. As well as pressing on with the process of producing the Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan team will be present at the Christmas Carnival and you can continue to give your comments via the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Town Council website www.attleboroughtc.org.uk. In addition, we have been making progress on the means that we will use to deliver the various infrastructure projects coming from the Plan. This will require us to work with a range of national and local bodies, as well as landowners, developers and of course local people. More details of the way we hope that can be done will be available in the New Year.



A great deal of time and effort has gone into producing the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan and the end is in sight. However, in many ways the Plan will only be the beginning. What is most important is to make sure that the Plan is implemented so that Attleborough gets the new employment, roads, health and social care, sports and leisure, open space and other infrastructure facilities and services it needs and will be entitled to, if it is to be a thriving town in the future. People will have differing ideas about how this will be achieved and these ideas will need to be considered and respected but compromise will be necessary because splits are a sure route to indecision, delay and failure. Therefore everyone from District and Town Councillors, community groups and individuals will need to work together if we are to deliver the various projects the Plan identifies. This will be the challenge for 2016 and beyond.

I wish you and your families a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Richard Middleton, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.



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Attleborough Health and Social Care – is this the future?

The provision of health and social care facilities is one of the key core areas of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan (ANP). Objectives set are really a list of aims to deliver over a period of time. Paramount to all of this is the need to increase GP support, and in the short term, as we already have over 200 new patients needing to register for health services and just from the existing new houses in town.

Based on a report commissioned by the ANP steering group and the town council clear objectives and priorities have been identified. These have been put in a strategic order with some having a very high priority, whilst others are more longer term as something desirable for a cohesive and cared for Attleborough society.

What has emerged is that the growth in population which is anticipated alongside the increasing numbers already being manifest, are putting an unsustainable pressure on the existing doctor's surgery facilities. Therefore the first priority is to increase and extend the primary care facilities and as a matter of urgency.

Objective 1 – high priority

To provide a doctor's surgery, rebuilt and extended to allow an increased number of consulting rooms, clinical rooms and primary care facilities for a current well established practice. To provide within this, facilities for community care office accommodation. An existing site could accommodate this further development.

Objective 2 - high priority

To build a dual registered high dependency unit. The unit would need to have in order of 165 beds to accommodate early release from hospital, admission avoidance, step up step down beds, dementia care and end of life care.



Further objectives going forward,

1. *Working with the voluntary sector to develop community resources centred around housing with care facility. Organisations we wish to work with include, AGE UK - BIG C - HEADWAY - NORFOLK & SUFFOLK DEMENTIA ALLIANCE - MIND*
2. *To enhance existing provisions for midwives, health visitor and childhood needs*
3. *To work with the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Care trust to extend existing work and provide counselling facilities for younger people and acute facilities in South Norfolk.*
4. *To develop home based services and support.*
5. *To build housing with care facilities for the elderly disabled and vulnerable.*
6. *To build a facility for Dementia care for high dependency sufferers.*

The overall health and social care vision for the town is to form a new entity that would focus on the overall ambition of making Attleborough a healthy town. Bringing together people through health and wellbeing, sport and mental health working in close conjunction with commissioners, other agencies and organisations in the town.

Attleborough currently has a good, high performing general practice working under huge pressure, unlike some other Norfolk towns where there is a difficulty in recruiting Doctors. If we wish to maintain this, greater provision for accommodation will need to be made and soon.

Local residents are welcome to comment on this area of the plan. Visit **www.attleboroughtc.org.uk** and go to the Neighbourhood Plan area on the site or drop your comments into the town hall for the attention of the Town Clerk.

Elizabeth Burrows, Chair ANP Health and Social Care Sector group.

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Don't give to landfill this Christmas!

When you look at the facts about how much we will waste this Christmas it is quite alarming. It is estimated that over Christmas as much as **83 sq km of wrapping paper** will end up in UK rubbish bins, enough to cover Guernsey or to cover Hyde Park 33 times! Clearly with the UK producing enough waste over Christmas to stretch from London to New York City we need to recycle and reduce this wastage.

Don't be a festive spoiler, please do the right thing and recycle correctly. We would love your loose and clean recycling, including:

- * Wrapping paper (minus sticky tape)
- * Greetings cards
- * Clean glass bottles and jars
- * Clean aluminium foil wrap and cartons
- * Advent calendars (without plastic inserts)
- * Clean food tins and drink cans
- * Clean takeaway cartons

There are fun ways to recycle this Christmas too. Try making Christmas bunting out of used wrapping paper or prepare for next year and cut up the front of Christmas cards to make pretty tags for presents.

Although many people in Breckland are excellent at recycling, some still put food waste, nappies and DIY rubbish into their black bin; food waste and nappies should go in your green bin and DIY rubbish taken to a recycling centre. Items for recycling should always go into your black bin loose, and not into plastic carrier bags or bin bags. Sorting staff at the recycling facility do not know what is in the bags and it is too dangerous for staff to start ripping them open; therefore the bags and their contents go to landfill.

For more information about what can and cannot be recycled, look on the Breckland Council website www.breckland.gov.uk/content/z-recycling

Lets enjoy the festive period and recycle responsibly.

Thank you, Breckland Environmental Services Team





ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

On 2 November 2015, Cllr Tony Perkins was elected as Town Mayor of Attleborough Town Council for the remainder of the municipal year.

This appointment followed the resignation of the previous Mayor, John Taylor, owing to work commitments. Cllr Perkins was previously serving as the Deputy Mayor and received unanimous support from his fellow members when the vote was taken at the meeting.



Three new members were also co-opted onto the Town Council at the same meeting to fill vacancies due to other resignations. Mr Colin Kilby, Mr Tim Cobb and Mrs Vera Dale were warmly welcomed to the Council by the newly elected Mayor and existing members.



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

For over a thousand years the residents of Attleborough have been celebrating the birth of Christ at St Mary's. The Christmas Story is one that is familiar to many of us. At its heart the message of Christmas has not changed at all over the millennia although some of our ways of celebrating may seem alien to those from a few hundred years ago.

The story is such a simple one celebrating the birth of a baby, however Christians believe this is no ordinary child. He is the one foretold by prophets; Mary's pregnancy was announced by an angel; He is laid in a manger as there is nowhere for her to give birth and He is visited by shepherds and mysterious exotic visitors. This baby is both God and human; God becoming one of us to learn what it is like to live a human life; a light shining in the darkness of our world; the hope of the nations.

If you would like to hear the Christmas Story there are several opportunities over the coming weeks. In the morning on Sunday 20th December our Sunday Club children will be performing their Nativity Play during the 10am service. In the evening on that day at 6.30pm the Traditional Carol Service uses Bible readings and music to tell again the story - the Carol Service is followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



On Christmas Eve the ever popular Crib Service places figures of the characters in the stable scene and we celebrate the arrival of the Light of the World with Christingle - the Crib Service begins at 4.30pm. We celebrate the arrival of Christmas Day in the time-honoured way with Midnight Mass beginning at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and there is a lovely, informal Communion Service at 10am on Christmas Day.

The door of St Mary's is open all day, every day as we welcome visitors from our community and beyond to explore the building, enjoy the quiet or say a prayer. You are always welcome. At Christmas time it is a particular delight to be able to see visitors at our services or accepting the invitation to pause briefly amid all the excitement of the season to reflect on the birth of Jesus and on the hope it brings our world even in dark times.

We would be very pleased to see you at our Christmas Carol Exhibition between 19th December and 4th January when you can learn more about much loved carols with an exhibition of art and craft work from local community groups and follow our Christmas Carol Trail.

All our regular work in the community continues including a lunch on Christmas Day for those who would otherwise be eating alone.

For more details about these events and Church Life get in touch or see our website www.attleboroughchurch.org.uk where you can sign up to follow us on Facebook or Twitter.



However you spend Christmas, everyone at St Mary's wishes you every blessing in the festive season.

ATTLEBOROUGH CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

The 2015 Attleborough Christmas Carnival saw hundreds of people turn out to enjoy a feast of festive entertainment. Santa arrived in style on his sleigh during the afternoon and in time to attend the official switching on of the lights performed by the Mayor, Tony Perkins.

The Salvation Army band entertained the crowds with traditional Christmas tunes and the band was joined by Attleborough Infant School.

Tony Perkins said "this is one of the biggest events of the year for the town and it is great to see so many people out enjoying the day. It is very much family orientated and to see so much happening in the centre of town, it really gets people into the Christmas spirit".



Craft stalls, a fun fair, music, refreshments and much more was laid on to entertain those visiting the town in what was a truly fantastic end to a busy year for the town.



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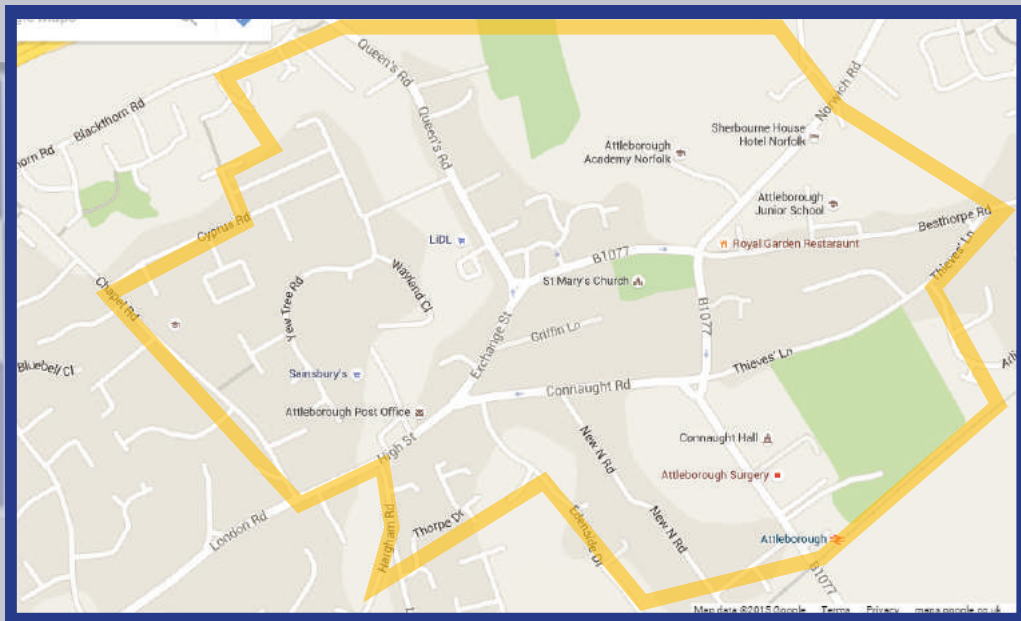
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The designated area is all public open space within that part of Attleborough bounded by a line following the A11 bypass in the north, extending southwards across Norwich Road and Besthorpe Road to Arlington Gardens, following the railway line in a south westerly direction to include the Railway Station, and then south along Station Road, westwards along Maurice Gaymer Road, north along Leys Lane, Hargham Road and Chapel Road, then east along Cyprus Road to Alexander Road and Blackthorn Road to rejoin the A11.



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MEET SOME OF ATTLEBOROUGH'S UNSUNG HEROES

Volunteer Coach of the Year

On Wednesday 11th November, the Active Norfolk's 9th annual Norfolk Sports Awards took place where the cream of sporting achievement and service in 2015 were honoured at The Forum in Norwich. Jon Dennis, head coach at the Attleborough Boxing Club was a worthy winner of **Volunteer Coach of the Year**.

Head Coach and the driving force behind Attleborough Boxing Club, Jon is an inspiration to many. He gives well over 40 voluntary hours per week, 52 weeks of the year, dedicating his life to achieve greatness for local people through his love of the sport.



Picture courtesy
of Archant

His encouragement and genuine care for others have meant that he has created a successful and dedicated team of volunteers to work alongside him. He has taken the fledgling club to a centre of excellence and is a force to be reckoned with within the world of boxing.



"As chairman of Attleborough Boxing Club it is obvious to see how much work is done to keep the club going and growing by all the volunteers involved but one person within the club that stands out at the top is head coach Jon Dennis. His pure dedication along with the hours and hours of work that he puts into the club week in week out is incredible and this award is well deserved. I speak on behalf of all at the club when I say well done Jon and please keep up the hard work and thanks for your help in making us one of the best boxing clubs in the Eastern Counties."

Colin Kilby
ABC Chairman

MEET SOME OF ATTLEBOROUGH

Attleborough has a rich history, all of which is painstakingly recorded by volunteers so future generations has access to historic facts, information and a library of pictures. Information is researched and held at both the Town Hall and the Heritage Centre on Station Road.

ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN ARCHIVES - 15TH YEAR

As a "history magpie" Barbara Waters, Attleborough's official Archivist, was supported by the council in setting up the Archive in the Town Hall which was officially opened by the Mayor, Cllr Mike Harper in 2001. On behalf of the town's people she collects anything and everything dealing with Attleborough and the District in the way of records, documents, pictures, photographs, indentures, letters, receipts, books, pamphlets, funeral service sheets, maps, drawings, shopping lists and curiosities in print, from any period in the town's history – past or present. It holds details of the young men whose names are on the Attleborough and Besthorpe War Memorials for the 1914–1918 war. Family history, photographs, theatres of war and awards of these service men are held in the archives.

The archive contains a considerable amount of information which is indexed and documented for easy retrieval, it is open to the public on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month 9.30am–12.00 noon, when an enthusiastic group of amateur historians share their knowledge of Attleborough history and delve into the treasures of the archives.

As custodian of the town's records Mrs Waters also gives talks to interested groups, young or old from schools, clubs and residential homes and she is delighted at the amount of extra material this produces to be safely kept in the archive. The archive holds a great deal of information, so it could be the first port of call for anyone wishing to trace their family history, also with the burial records held in the council office.

The archive is expanding rapidly and is fast outgrowing the second floor room at the Town Hall, so the council are looking at the possibility of extending the archive into a purpose built office in Attleborough.

Attleborough Town Archives

Town Hall, Queens Square,
ATTLEBOROUGH, NR17 2DR

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www.attleboroughtc.org.uk

OUGH'S UNSUNG HEROES

ATTLEBOROUGH HERITAGE CENTRE

The successful and well supported Attleborough Heritage Group was established 9 years ago and has operated from the dedicated Heritage Centre in Soma House since 2009. With a membership somewhere in excess of 150, it has answered the need for the preservation and understanding of the heritage of the ancient town of Attleborough.

The comprehensive and accessible photographic and documentary archive maintained in the Centre has also provided valuable information to family history and academic researchers. Most recently this pool of information has contributed to the design and heritage elements of the Neighbourhood Plan and, in particular, to the Character Assessment of the Town. Following on from the well-received presentation on the history and development of the Town – Attleborough Past Present and Future – in the Spring of 2015, the summarised version of this illustrated talk has also helped to put the current development and expansion of the Town into an historical context.

Although the Heritage Group has no mandate, or indeed, desire to influence any particular outcome of any future development plans, the Group does sincerely believe that it can help in the preservation and conservation of the real character and built environment of the town and safeguard against the inadvertent loss of the essential essence of the community within the context of modern developments, including the many listed and historic buildings and sites spanning more than 1000 years.

The Heritage Centre on Station Road is open every Thursday from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

The dedication of Cliff and Jacqui Amos to the establishment of the Heritage Group has been outstanding. Not only have they given up part of their house as the Heritage Centre and acted as hosts to those visiting it but they have spent countless hours camped near the Norfolk Record Office in their caravan so they could get hold of copies of records pertinent to the town. They have also given many talks and tours to help local people and visitors get to know their Attleborough better. In all this they have been helped by a dedicated band of volunteers who together have made sure that the Attleborough Heritage Group provides a tangible link to the past and acts as a pointer to the future.

**Know of any Attleborough heroes we should feature in the next edition?
Call Faye on 01603 702374**

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