



Featherstone Town Council

Regenerating, Supporting & Caring for our Community

Featherstone Community Centre, Victoria Street, Featherstone, West Yorkshire, WF7 5BB
Tel: 01977 798608.

Email: towncouncil@featherstone-tc.gov.uk www.featherstone-tc.gov.uk

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK **MARCH 2022**

STAFFING

The Town Council are pleased to announce the appointment of new Town Council Administrator and Mayor's Secretary Miss Leanne Murphy. During the first 6 months of Leanne's appointment, she has already completed Level 3 in Emergency First Aid at Work and ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration). There have been 2 newsletters sent to all properties in Featherstone, Streethouse, Ackton and Old Snydale, which Leanne has created alongside the Town Councillors. We hope to issue the newsletters every 4 months, to keep residents updated on new projects and events in the Town.

MAYOR MAKING

The new Civic year started on the 19th May 2021 when Councillor Clive Tennant was elected to be Mayor 2021/22 of Featherstone Town Council and Councillor Jack Hutsby was elected as Deputy Mayor.

The new Civic year starts on 11th May 2022 when the current Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jack Hutsby, will be elected to be Mayor 2022/2023 of Featherstone Town Council.

GRANTS

Did you know that the Town Council offers grants up to £500 to community organisations in need of funding? There are further details on the Council's website which sets out the criteria for applications. In 2021/2022 grants have been awarded to Friends of Purston Park, Friends of Featherstone Library and Featherstone Academicals. If you require any further information on grants, please contact the Town Council office.

CITIZENS ADVICE

The Town Council have once again agreed to fund the Citizens Advice for the coming year. Face to face appointments are available on a Tuesday from 10.00 until 12.00. These sessions are held in Featherstone Community Centre. This is a free service to residents and no appointment is necessary.

Town Clerk Mrs Vicky Symons



MILL POND MEADOW – FIGHTING FROM HOME

Mill Pond Meadow Commemorative Wood grows from strength to strength. The Council are once again working with Beam the Arts People and the artist Luke Perry. We are arranging for the design, creation and installation of a new feature to compliment the magnificent War Horse. This will be another significant art project which will draw attention from the whole Yorkshire area.

Luke Perry will represent the impact on the Featherstone community during WWI. The concept has been developed through in-depth research & engagement thanks to a grant from the Arts Council. From this Luke was able to produce a new film entitled 'Fighting from Home'. This short documentary showed the research that Luke had carried out during the first lockdown in March 2020 and give the inspiration to design the six figures that will be sited at Mill Pond Meadow.

'Fighting From Home' is a project exploring the wider impacts of WWI on society and the town resulting in an exciting new series of sculptures that shine a light on the non-combat heroes of the war.

We were pleased to launch a new film providing an insight into Luke's research that shaped the development of his ideas for the artwork, which is accompanied by an exhibition at Featherstone Community Centre. In addition, Luke has also created a film for children alongside activity worksheets, which have been shared amongst our local schools.

Luke's research revealed that in 1914, Featherstone was like many new industrial towns, hardworking, socially driven and largely poor. Whilst there are many sculptures in the UK, France and Belgium dedicated to soldiers who went to War, Luke is interested in celebrating those who helped win the War from home. Luke's journey led him to understand exactly how brave, fresh thinking and similar the people of Featherstone's lives were over 100 years ago as they are today.

His research has shown a massive pulling together of people all fighting from their hometown to support those in need overseas whether they were soldiers, loved ones or strangers. These sculptures will each be dedicated to a group of amazing people, each of whom were a vital part of the war effort.

The artwork will include six figurative sculptures designed to be representative of: The Coal works/ workers; Local Issues; Munitions Girls; Loss; Women's Changing Roles; Children's Contributions and Suffering. The sculptures will be constructed in a similar form to War Horse to ensure they are complementary, placed in an arc around the corner of Mill Pond Meadows.

Featherstone Town Council were delighted to be able to share the video that artist Luke Perry produced for the schools to engage them in the new project at Mill Pond Meadow.

Luke made a child friendly film that is quite short about his process, how he makes artworks, the themes behind the artwork etc. He also created 3 worksheets for KS1 & KS2 that we circulated along with the film to raise awareness and encourage engagement with the project.



Below is the link to the video that Luke produced where you can see the work that goes on behind the scenes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=288hppWobdg>

PRECEPT DEMAND 2022/2023

Featherstone Town Council is pleased to confirm that the precept demand will for residents remain the same this year. The Precept will remain at £138,000. A copy of last years audited accounts is available for inspection here at the meeting.

FEATHERSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Town Council is delighted to announce that it is has taken over the running of the Community Centre on a 25 year lease from Wakefield Council. The Community Centre is run completely independent from the Library and access is directly from the carpark. The decision to save this important Community building from closure will enable more people to access the building.

If you would like more information on about how to book the hall for your community group or private hire please contact the Town Council Administrator at the office for further details.

Our [Facebook](#) account details many of the Council's activities so 'like' us to spread the word about our events and meetings. The website is being viewed regularly for all our information. However we can still be contacted via telephone and email as in the number below.

EVENTS 2021

Featherstone Town Council took the difficult decision to cancel the Gala in 2021. Instead the budget was used to fund numerous events and activities during the school holidays in August. These events included scarecrow festival, planetarium, cinema nights and the popular dino days.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2021

The Town Council were delighted to work alongside Wakefield Council and LITE to update the Christmas Lights in Featherstone for 2021. The lights were fantastic and Station Lane definitely looked brighter with the new lights.

Unfortunately the Solar Christmas Trees had to be reduced in 2021. This was due to a number of street lights failing a test to allow the Council to erect an attachment. Featherstone Town Council will be working with Wakefield Council to try and rectify this for 2022.

With restrictions easing across the country the Town Council were once again able to hold our regular Christmas Lights Switch On evening and Santa's Day. Both days saw many residents attend and Santa's Day saw over 250 children. The Town Council were delighted to hold a Relaxed Santa's Day which was Autism and Learning Disability Friendly. This was a huge success and we will continue to run this event separate to the usual Santa's day.



EVENTS 2022

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – This year we will see the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On Saturday 4th June the Town Council will holding "The Big Lunch". Residents of Featherstone are invited to nominate someone they believe has gone above and beyond in the Town for a special lunch.

If you would like to nominate someone please email the office at towncouncil@featherstone-tc.gov.uk

Featherstone Gala - Featherstone Town Council will once again be looking to hold the Annual Town Gala this year! This year will be bigger than ever and we will have many activities during the course of the event.

The event this year will take place on Saturday 2nd July at Purston Park.

If you would like to hold a stall at this year's Gala, or would like to take part in the parade, please get in touch with the office to request an application pack. Tables are free of charge to any charity or community groups.

Seaside in the Park – We are looking to hold the Seaside in the Park event once again this year. The date for this event will be Saturday 3rd September. Look out for further details in a future newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming you back at all these events.

The Mayor's chosen charity for this year is The Prince of Wales Hospice.

Finally if you would like to invite the Mayor to your charity event or opening of offices/shops in the Town please contact the Town Council by phone, letter or email. Alternatively download the Mayor's engagement form from the website address www.featherstone-tc.gov.uk or just give the office a call on 01977 798608.

If you have any queries please let us know.

Vicky Symons
Town Clerk