



Easingwold Town Council

2025 - 2026



Annual Newsletter

A Message from Council Chairman Peter Nottage

Welcome to the 2026 edition of our Annual Newsletter; it has been a long, wet and rather grey winter, so the blooming of our spring flowers and blossom and the sight of the sun is a real relief. Speaking of flowers and how wonderful our town looked in the summer of 2025, the judges of 'Yorkshire-in-Bloom' agreed, and our town won the regional first prize for North Yorkshire.

During the year Councillor Iain Buckle unfortunately had to resign due to changes in his personal circumstances. This left two vacancies into which the Council co-opted David Bream and Kay Colwell. Sadly, Kay's personal circumstances also changed, and she too had to resign. We thank them both for their contribution to the Council and town. Especially, Kay led an initiative we are still working on to see how we can improve the visual appeal and convenience of Long Street.

Last year we established a small project team, led by local residents Andrew and Andrea Hayes, to apply to the North Yorkshire Mayor's Vibrant and Sustainable High Streets Investment Fund for a grant on behalf of Easingwold. We're delighted to say that we've received the significant sum of £85,500 to help enhance the vibrancy of the town centre. Currently the team are working hard to deliver great benefits from these funds. This will include: establishing a community hub in a town centre property; investment in professional marketing and branding for the town; funding for additional town centre public events; and shading parasols for the Summer of Music and other events. Plus encouraging more visitors to the Market Place from those traveling along Long Street via additional signage, and by adding welcoming festoons and lighting along the length of Chapel Street.

We have worked hard on our open spaces over the year. In Millfields Park a relief drain has been installed across Millfield Lane that seems to have kept flooding in the wetlands controlled in a wet winter. We have added lights for winter evening use to the recreation area walking/jogging path and to the Skatepark, these have proved popular. However, they have turned out to give stronger illumination than anticipated, causing some concerns; so, we are working with experts to ameliorate their light levels whilst retaining their benefits to park users.

Once again, we should like to thank our Clerks, Jane Bentley and Jean Fairbrother, for their continued excellent service to the town. We should also like to thank all our tradesmen and contractors who have completed their tasks so well and helped keep the town in good order and well presented for our visitors and residents alike. It is clearly a winning combination!

Despite hoping for better, 2025 and early 2026 have delivered further natural disasters, economic headwinds, and conflicts round the world. We are working on enhancing the town's resilience and capacity to support our citizens and visitors. EDDCA's meals-on-wheels service is now supported by the kitchen at Springhill Court. Their Foodbank offers help to those in need. Many voluntary organisations help across our community, and we thank them all. Equally we still suffer some vandalism at times and, if you encounter any, please report incidents to the police.



Our local Foodbank is a part of EDCCA.

We know that times maybe difficult for some amongst us; and, if you need their help, please do call them on 01347 822875 and we know that they will provide you with discrete support.

Please do contact EDCCA if you wish to volunteer to help local people; or, if you are having problems that may be helped by their support. If you are looking for local resources, please go to their website or call them.

EDCCA, Police House, Church Hill, Easingwold YO61 3JX Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm Tel: 01347822875 / Email: info@edcca.org.uk

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EASINGWOLD TOWN COUNCIL
Contact: The Town Clerk
Easingwold Library, Market Place
Easingwold YO61 3AN Tel: 01347 822422

Millfields Park



The Town Council continues to invest in the park's maintenance & improvement.

The new culvert under Millfield Lane seems to have controlled the highest level of flooding in the wetlands during the height of winter.

The new winter lights have been illuminated during the darker months in the early mornings and until 9pm at night. This has enabled the many users of the jogging/walking path and the skatepark to exercise safely before and after work or school.

Unfortunately, the lights, as installed, were brighter than specified and expected. The Council has already significantly and safely reduced their brightness and spread. They are working to improve their impact further.



50 Years of Town Markets

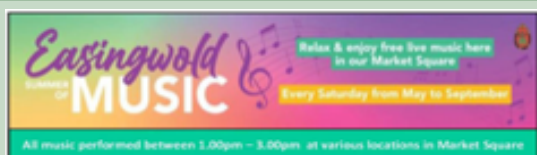


On the 6th June 2025 we were delighted to be able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the revival of the town's Friday Markets.

We were joined for the occasion by our MP Sir Alec Shelbrooke. Alec kindly presented well deserved bouquets to Jane Fish for her Bric-à-Brac stall, and Maureen Hebdon of Hebdon's for their vegetable and plants stall. Both have been trading on the Friday market since the very beginning. We're delighted they and all the other stallholders still trade and make the market so vibrant and welcoming.



Easingwold's Summer of Music



This year's Easingwold Summer of Music will begin on Saturday 23rd May with the welcome return of long-time favourites the Threetles. It will end on Sunday 6th September with the Town Band. Mid-season, don't ever forget 'Rockin'-all-over-the-Wold' on Saturday 11th July.



2025-26 Reflections



Chase Garth Park in the December Sunshine

In the year since May 2025 the town has continued to grow and thrive, and the Town Council has worked hard in fulfilling its part in this evolution. There have been trials and tribulations as we went along, but overall, we feel that steady progress is being made. We believe that Easingwold remains one of the best small towns in North Yorkshire to live in, work in, or visit.

We were delighted to win the North Yorkshire region of the 'Yorkshire in Bloom' competition. We make a significant investment in all our public flower displays. The plants are grown especially for us, and the displays are changed twice a year in Spring and Autumn. Last year's hot, dry summer meant our contractors had to work especially hard to keep them watered and in good order, so our thanks to them for their endeavours. Continuing with the theme of our parks and public open spaces a great deal of effort goes into their care and maintenance under the auspices of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee. We have an especially large programme of grass cutting and tree maintenance. For the trees, 1/3rd of our stock is surveyed annually and any problems resolved. This last year a particular effort has been made to clear and upgrade the daffodil bank just below the Police Station on Long Street. For 2026 we have entered the 'Yorkshire in Bloom Golden Rose' competition. Clearly, to win this competition all of Easingwold needs to be involved in the effort; so, we will be grateful to all our householders and businesses for making their gardens and premises look good and add to the overall positive, verdant impression of the town.

Millfields Park is mentioned elsewhere; and we have largely completed our programme of enhancement in the Memorial Park. So, we are now turning our attentions to the Chase Garth Park and a working group have made proposals to increase its contribution to our recreational spaces. These include addressing its accessibility and year-round usability, its maintenance, the conservation of the veteran oak and the provision of a basketball practice half-court (in response to popular requests).

We have continued with our extensive provision of and support for events within the town. Our 5th edition of the Summer of Music was even more successful than ever, and the 6th edition will begin on the 23rd May. Once again, the programme is being organised and driven by Councillor Frank Johnston-Banks, and we are grateful for all he does. Last year the availability of chairs and the really-super weather made a big difference to the weekly attendance. We are also grateful to the George Hotel and Councillor Shirley Shepherd for their operation of our monthly Friendship Teas, which are continuing for another year. The Scouts once again held a successful Firework Display in Millfields Park and we look forward to that again in 2026. This coming year we will have the return of the Easingwold Running Club sponsored Easingwold 10K; Rockin' All over the Wold for Yorkshire Air Ambulance; the charity Tractor & Veteran Car Runs etc. All this alongside our Christmas programme of Decorations, Light-up-a-life charity tree, Christmas & Artisan Markets etc. Our Friday Market continues to thrive, alongside the monthly Artisans Market and the Farmers Market. The Galtres Centre always adds a delightful and extensive range of events throughout the year. Please keep giving all our local events your full support.

On the social side, the Galtres Centre and Town Library continue to be the epicentre for much of the communal activity, and we thank their trustees, employees and volunteers for all they do to support the town. We continue with our programme of small grants to support local clubs and organisations to help them thrive; so that they too add to the social ambience, and support making the town so good to live in.

We continue to concentrate a great deal of effort via our Operations Committee and Clerks to ensuring that our Council organisation and operations are efficient and effective. Always trying to improve our service to the town and achieve great value for the money we receive for the precept, grants and CIL payments we receive. This has enabled us to restrict the increase in our precept for 2026-7 to a minimum.

Easingwold in Bloom – the best 'Blooming' Town in North Yorkshire



Town Council



We remain proud to fly the Ukrainian flag above our town square in support of Ukraine and its struggle against unwarranted aggression and war.



We have installed a seat and bollards in front of the toilets/bus stop in the town square



Thanks to the spring litter picking volunteers for helping to keep Easingwold looking good

- Our meetings are held in the Council Chamber of the Galtres Centre and are paperless,
- The agendas for all our meetings are published in advance on our website and local Facebook groups. You are welcome to attend if it interests you. If something you'd like to comment about is being discussed, then you can tell us about it during the 15 minutes of the public agenda section,
- Our policies, minutes, reports etc. are also stored on our website – so you can consult them to identify what actions we may have taken, what responsibilities we have, and what work we undertake,
- The Council has routine maintenance programmes in and around the town; please help our contractors by allowing them to complete their tasks without hindrance,
- The Town Clerks are the executive support for the Council. The Clerk also provides administrative and management support to the full council and its committees, and acts as its Responsible Financial Officer,
- Easingwold Town Council has limited responsibilities, so although it is always pleased to try and help, it is often better to contact the other authorities direct if they operate in the arena of your question. To help in deciding who to contact the ETC website has a guide and link to different local service providers.

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee

- This committee oversees a strong programme of maintenance and support for our wonderful open and recreational spaces and our children's play areas,
- In particular, the play areas have quarterly professional inspections to assure that all the equipment is in good order and safe to use. Please contact the Clerks if you identify issues that may need attention,
- We have renovated the Memorial Park, much of Millfields Park, and the Claypenny Children's Play Park. We trust that they will serve the town well for many years to come. We are looking at enhancing Chase Garth Park,
- As expressed elsewhere, our programme of work in Millfields Park has continued along the lines of our vision. The winter lights for the jogging path and skatepark have been installed and are being improved as expressed above,
- We have continued our programme of tree works in the areas we own throughout the year. We complete professional tree reports for different areas of the town according to a multi-year programme, and then resolve any issues identified to keep our trees in good condition,
- We have continued our programme of grass cutting and planting/tree management for the main town greens and parks,
- We provide Council Allotments in Dawnay, and should anyone wish to have an allotment, then they should contact the Town Clerks to join the waiting list.

Operations Committee

- Our offices are situated in the Town Library and open on each Tuesday from 2 – 5 pm and Friday from 9:30 - 11:30am. You are welcome to visit then. Otherwise, you can call the Clerks anytime on 01347 822422 and leave a message; or email them on clerk@easingwold.gov.uk,
- The Operations Committee oversees the management of our Council, its offices, services, equipment, finances, archives etc. Comments regarding the support we provide, or opportunities we have for improvement should be forwarded to the Town Clerks,
- The Council works hard to provide value for money to the local taxpayers. Our budget includes elements for all our operational activities, but also a provision for projects that will keep the town not only in good order, but that will also offer better facilities for generations to come,
- We are working with the NYC Community Partnership Forum, and the Wold-class Business Forum to keep Easingwold an exciting destination to visit and stay in,
- We do hope that you will all visit our town centre and its traders and businesses for all your day-to-day needs. It is the epicentre of Easingwold and its life.

Social & Events Committee

- The Council website, email, and IT systems are constantly updated and improved during the year. Please go on-line to www.easingwold.gov.uk and look for yourselves,
- Inclusion and accessibility are important aspects of the ETC programme. We support a broad range of local groups and organisations, as well as our Friendliness Initiative,
- Our programme of grants and donations is extensive; but is exclusively in support of local organisations. Should an organisation with which you are involved be looking for support; either financial or in any other way, please contact the Clerks for the necessary advice,
- We invest in Christmas Lights and twice-yearly planting to keep us looking great,
- We offer opportunities to sponsor benches, seats and trees, details can be obtained from the Clerks,
- Our Markets are thriving. We try to keep a high level of diversity in the traders present; and keep a list of potential new traders. We also have a series of part-time traders, who fill gaps for illness or holidays,
- We provide street trading licences on our land to cafés and hostellers to add to the town's vibrancy.