



2025/26

Selby Town Council Annual Report



Gill Bell
Town Clerk
2025/26

Introduction

This Report describes the main achievements of Selby Town Council during 2025/26. It also gives details about the services provided by the Council.

Selby Town Council

The Town Council Offices are at the Town Hall, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ.

Tel No. 01757 708449

Email address: admin@selbytowncouncil.co.uk

Website: www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk.

The Town Hall office is open 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. - Monday to Friday
(The office is closed to walk-ins on Friday).

Selby Town Council was established in 1974 when the Selby Urban District Council was abolished, and the Selby District Council and the Town Council were formed.

The Council and its Committees

The Council meets at the Town Hall at 7.00 p.m. on the last Monday of each month, except August and December. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting.

Four Committees cover the principal areas of the Council's work: "Finance and Staffing," "Land and Property," "Environment Committee" and "Town Hall Management Committee" with meetings held quarterly.

Selby Town Council holds working group meetings to organise Selby in Bloom, Annual Family Fun Day and the Bonfire and Fireworks events. There are also working groups for the website/IT, Health, Safety and Welfare and market provision.

Town Councillors

The next election is in May 2027. Current Council members are:

Selby North

F Matthews (Lab)

S Shaw-Wright (Lab)

A Stephenson (Lab)

R Harrison (Lab)

K Franks (Lab)

Selby South

Mrs W Nichols (Lab)

M Davis (Lab)

S Andrew (Lab)

H Davis (Lab)

T Beharrell (Green)

J Proud (Lab)

Selby West

Mr M Dyson (Cons)
C Laskey (Lab)
K Arthur (Con)
C Middlebrook (Con)
M Lawton (Con)
I Lawton (Con)

St James Ward

R Pope (Lab)

Offices

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of the Town Council Committees are elected annually in May. During 2025/26 the following Councillors held office:

Town Mayor

Cllr. J Proud

Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr. S Shaw-Wright

Chair Finance and Staffing Committee

Cllr. F Matthews

Chair Environment Committee

Cllr. M Davis

Chair Land and Property Committee

Cllr M Davis

Chair Town Hall Management Committee

Cllr. F Matthews

Selby Town Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out any Council business (apart from the mayor who receives an annual allowance to cover travel and out of pocket expenses).

Staff

The Clerk of the Council (Responsible Finance Officer)

Gill Bell – 01757 708449

Facilities Manager

Tony Hargreaves – 01757 708449

Deputy Town Clerk

Stacey Remde – 01757 708449

There are thirteen members of staff, in total, working at the Town Hall, the 1811 Building, Cemetery and Scott Road Community Centre.

Council Facilities

The Town Council manages the town's cemetery on Westfield Road, along with three play areas, at Barwic Parade, Flaxley Road and Wistow Road. The Town Council also

carries out the administration for the Scott Road Community Centre, for Selby Community Trust including the play areas and Bondgate Community Woodland.

The Town Council provides allotments – Stonebridge - Bawtry Road, Pymble - Flaxley Road and Westbourne Road allotments. We continue to split the larger plots, when they become available, and re-let as smaller more manageable plots to encourage more residents to gain the benefits of “growing their own”.

Council Events

Every year the Town Council organises an annual Family Fun Day in June. As well as lots of events for young children at the Community Centre, the day also includes a live band concert on the Portholme Road Recreation Field. The event is free of charge to all that attend.

The Selby Town Council Beer Festival which started in July 2010, is an annual event and is held in July/August on the Saturday closest to Yorkshire Day. Around 20 Yorkshire beers and 5 Yorkshire ciders are the stars of the event. Live bands play on the evening of the event and food is available.

The Bonfire/Fireworks Event is a free event to attend. There are local caterers providing high quality, affordable refreshments at the event, along with children's rides.

The Christmas lights were installed in the town to great appreciation from residents and visitors to the town. The now Annual Christmas Market and Annual Switch-On event is hugely popular held on the Marketplace during the day with a local radio station in attendance, appearances from children's favourite TV characters, as well as Santa. Further entertainment was provided by local school choirs and bands. The Mayor attended and switched on the lights.

The Town Hall Arts Centre

A wide programme of music, drama and events has continued at the Town Hall during the year. The venue has had several sell-out performances, and the programme has a vast range of diverse shows. National Theatre Live has eight shows sent to the Town Hall by satellite per year and these are well received by local residents and visitors to the Town.

Selby Markets

In September 2010 Selby Town Council took over the running of the traditional Monday market from the District Council. The Town Council sees this function as a major part of attracting people to Selby. Although the Market has shrunk in recent years, largely due to the population working outside of the Town, it still provides a variety of quality stalls, and the Market/Events Manager is always on the look out for interesting stalls to add to the offering.

The monthly Farmers and Craft Market, held on the 3rd Saturday every month, is immensely popular and often has new pop-up stalls in addition to the regulars.

The Market/Events Manager has introduced additional speciality markets throughout the year, including Twilight Markets and the very popular Oktoberfest.

Recreational Facilities

The Town Council continues to maintain the play areas and update the equipment where required. We also maintain Bondgate Community Woodland, on behalf of Selby Community Trust, which is a beautiful place for walks, picnics and enjoying nature. There are many sculptures to view and a bug hotel to explore. You will also find the Mining Memorial Wheel located in the woodland along with the recently added Memorial Wall where relatives can remember their loved ones.

Environment

In May 2024 we launched our Nature Recovery Action Plan. This has been drawn up in order for us to take the necessary steps to stop the decline of biodiversity and to assist the council in achieving their aim of reaching Net Zero by 2030.

This year we have concentrated on communicating the councils intentions to the community and identifying projects.

We have already:

- Set up a Nature Recovery page on our website Selby Town Council – Your Community
- We have installed a Wild Pod in the cemetery and continue to plant with wildflowers and native plants. The Wild Pod provides a home for lots of different species – hedgehogs, insects – supporting nature and increasing biodiversity. We will monitor how well the Wild Pod meets our aims before considering installing more.
- We are continuing to plant wildflower bulbs throughout the cemetery, and sowing wildflower seeds in some of the older sections of the cemetery.
- We are continuing with “No Mow May” – leaving areas in the old sections uncut, along with boundaries around the bottom fields at the cemetery and Scott Road Community Centre.
- We are leaving log piles on and around various sites we own or manage.
- We are continuing to plant trees and hedges, and maintain and manage all our trees to keep them healthy.

Planning

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications. As such it is responsible for commenting upon all the applications which fall within the Town. These comments are passed to North Yorkshire Council who take them into account when making planning decisions. A total of seventy-nine applications had been considered by the Town Council during the year.

Promoting Selby

Selby is a thriving town with a deep sense of community and is fortunate to have many residents who give willingly of their time and energy. The Council is always looking at ways to promote the town to the outside world. The Town Council web site

(www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk) is a useful point of information, and the Town Council produces a bi-annual newsletter which is widely circulated in the town. The Town Council has also taken a more initiative-taking approach with the local press and media and has issued a number of press notices to publicise events and decisions.

The Civic Function

The Council has continued to play an important Civic role. The annual Remembrance Service was well attended. The Mayor has represented the Town at various functions throughout the Town and District and has also undertaken a number of local engagements, including attending events organised by clubs and organisations based within Selby.

Annual Competitions

Every year the Council holds a number of competitions including the Selby in Bloom Best Kept Garden/Allotments Competition and an annual painting competition held for the local primary schools. A Christmas Window competition for the Town's businesses, was held and the winners were announced at the Christmas Market/Lights Switch-On event.

Grants to Voluntary Groups

The Council gives financial support to a number of local clubs and organisations. In May 2026, the Town Council awarded grants totalling more than £37,000.

Highways and Traffic

North Yorkshire Council is responsible for Highways matters but the Town Council takes an active interest in traffic issues by advising the Council of matters of local interest and alerting them to matters of concern.

How Your Money is Spent

Each December, the Town Council sets a budget for the next financial year. The money is collected from the properties in the town by North Yorkshire Council as part of residents Council Tax. This goes towards the upkeep of the Town Council's properties, facilities, and events we put on in the Town.

Conclusion

Selby Town Council welcomes views from residents and people working here on any aspect of life in the town. Look out for our Community Engagement gazebo popping up at events throughout the year, we will be happy to listen to you and welcome your ideas. Please contact your Councillor or the Town Council at the Town Hall, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ.

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Mayor's Report 2025–26

Firstly, I would like to thank fellow councillors for giving me the opportunity to serve as Mayor of Selby over the past 12 months. It has been an immense privilege and something I am hugely proud to have undertaken.

It hasn't always been easy, as much of the role did not come naturally to me. The support I have received from Gill, Stacey and Lisa has therefore been invaluable. Between them, they ensured I was always where I needed to be and on time, so thank you all.

Many of the experiences this year have been new to me, and I have thoroughly enjoyed a varied and engaging calendar of events. From travelling to Carentan with the Twinning Group last May as my first official duty, to welcoming our friends from Carentan to Selby at their gala dinner to end the year, it feels like a fitting full circle. I am sure they will feel as welcome here as they made us feel during our visit to them.

I have been especially pleased to share many of these moments with my children, who accompanied me in lighting the bonfire, switching on the Christmas lights, judging the best stall at Fun Day, and attending a cream tea and bingo session at the Coultish Centre with residents.

We are fortunate in Selby to have the Abbey as the setting for our Remembrance and Holocaust Memorial services. These are important dates in the town's calendar, and I have been proud to speak at them and lay a wreath on behalf of the town. This was particularly meaningful to me in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice or live every day with the effects of their service, including my late grandfather. I am grateful to Gill for including his photograph in the order of service, which featured poems and readings referencing the Navy, in which he served.

Other highlights of the year include attending the Yorkshire Day celebrations in Bradford on 1st August, meeting the Filderstadt group, and judging the Christmas window competition with my wife, Sarah. It was wonderful to see so many local businesses getting involved and helping to make our town festive and vibrant.

Above all, the most significant aspect of this year has been witnessing the strong community spirit that exists across Selby. This has been evident on many occasions, from children from Barwic Parade carol singing in the rain

on the Market Place, to the warm welcome we gave Lindsey Burrow and Amy Garcia during their 1,000-mile challenge for Children in Need, to name just a couple.

I would also like to recognise the continued efforts of all councillors in ensuring that Selby Town Council is run in a sensible and effective manner. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to deliver a varied and successful calendar of events for our community to enjoy. Serving as Mayor has given me a greater insight into the time, coordination and dedication required to bring these events together, and I am grateful to everyone involved for their commitment to making our town such a great place to live.

As I come to the end of my tenure, I would like to wish everyone across the town who has helped organise events and supported me throughout the year all the very best. I hope that, in handing over to next year's Mayor, they will enjoy the role as much as I have.

Thank you

Cllr J Proud – Mayor of Selby