



Skipton Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Town Mayor

Councillor Claire Nash

Chief Officer

Louise Close

Armoury House

Otley Street

Skipton

BD23 1EL

www.skiptontowncouncil.gov.uk



Skipton Town Council

Your Councillors

Mayor and Council Chairman:

Councillor Claire Nash (Mayor)

Councillor Winston Feather (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Sheila Bentley

Councillor Peter Madeley

Councillor Aidan Higgins

Councillor Lewis Morgan

Councillor David Noland

Councillor Stephen Morton

Councillor Virpi Kettu

Councillor Annabel Heseltine

Councillor Brian McDaid

Councillor Robert Heseltine

Councillor Chris Harbron

Councillor Karen McIntyre

Councillor Matt Pickard -Elected Nov 2024

Councillor Jill Woollacott- Co-opted March 2025

Skipton Town Council Mission Statement

“Making Skipton a better place to live, work and visit.”

In March 2024 the Council adopted a Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, this has provided a focus for the Council’s activities over 2024/25. An action plan was produced, and will be updated annually, showing which of the objectives it will be working towards achieving each year.



Councillor Claire Nash– Mayor of Skipton and Chairman of the Council

Following vacancies on the Council, due to a resignation of one councillor and non attendance of another, two new councillors were appointed. Councillor Pickard was elected in November 2024, and Councillor Woollacott was co-opted in March 2025.

Civic Events

In November 2024 the Remembrance Sunday Parade was held and was again very well attended.

In March 2025 the Council voted to make Mr. Roger Ingham MBE an Honorary Freeman of Skipton. He will be presented with the award later in the year.



Twin Towns

Children from Skipton's Twin Towns Simbach, came to visit Skipton in March 2025. The Town Council looks forward to a group from Erquinghem Lys in July 2025.

Supporting the Market

The Artisan Bakers Ltd joined Skipton Market mid-March

The Monday Incentive Scheme started in May 2023 this will continue in 2025 and to-date, of the 18-traders that started on this scheme one-third of the traders have gone on to trade on other Market days.

Monday Re-Imbursement Scheme- The Monday Market continues to remain challenging in terms of trader attendance. As such, the council will be continuing with this scheme from 1 April through to 31 December this year.

Supporting our community and voluntary groups- In 2024 we supported twenty-one local community groups and national charitable organisations, including – Craven College, Dales Community Care, Adult Learning Services, Brooklands School, Dogs Trust and Samaritans.

In 2025 we will continue to deliver on this particular aspect of the Council's Strategic Plan. Ermysted's Grammar School attended the Market mid-March when we supported their Young Enterprise teams, along with Skipton Girl's High School showcasing two separate companies selling different products – Wooden Expressions and Plantables!

Sustainability

The Town Council has been working closely with Climate Action Skipton, and was successful in receiving funding from Cenex to hold an Active Travel Workshop. The findings and ideas generated at this workshop are now informing the work of an Active Travel Working Group.



The Town Council continues to look at all of its events, and how sustainable practices can be embedded in the events, for example rather than traders all bringing small generators to events the council now hires one for traders to connect to.

The Town Council organises monthly litter picks, these rotate around each of the four wards in Skipton.

Community Safety Working Group

The Community Safety Working Group, established in December 2022, has continued to regularly meet over the year. The meetings are attended by Councillors, the Police, Craven College, Ermysteds, Skipton Academy, SELFA, Craven District Council, Skipton BID, and the Youth Council.

This multi-agency group meets every two months. Over the last year the priority has been trying to secure funding and agreement for an additional CCTV camera at the Bus Station. Funding has been secured, and the logistics of its placement are now being focused on.

Allotments

Following all plots being measured at all 3 Allotment sites, a new pricing structure was agreed by the Public Services Committee so that allotment tenants are charged per m². This was implemented in April 2025.

Improvements to our parks

The Council has adopted a strategy for improvements to be made to its parks, with improvements were made to Lytham Gardens and Shortbank Recreation Grounds. Improvements were also made to Middletown Rec and North Parade with the installation of outdoor gym equipment and the rejuvenation of the Multi use games area.



Events– Summer

In June 2024 Sheep Day took place on the High Street, The Council also supported events such as the Car Show, Skipton Gala and Yorkshire Day, and held an event on Skipton High Street in August called Skipton Snap Shot. This event was to showcase the music talent, and food and drink venues available in the Town.



During the school summer holidays, the Town Council continued with its free summer park events, to offer free family activities in the summer holidays and to increase awareness of the parks that the Council manages.

Events– Winter

The Christmas Lights were switched on by Mr Peter Ripley, who has organized the Santa Fun Run.

The Light Switch On followed the Santa Fun Run, where the Town Council again supported the Rotary Club with their road closure for this fantastic annual event.

The Christmas Market took place on the 1st December, unfortunately due to adverse weather conditions the market on the 8th December had to be cancelled.



Working with the Community

The Friends of the Wilderness and the Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground are supported by the Town Council.

The Friends of the Wilderness have held several volunteer days over the year, with bug hotels built, the dead hedge replenished, and plant identification walks completed.

www.theskiptonwilderness.co.uk

The Council has also participated in events such as Skipton Eco Day.

Staffing, Finance and Governance

A program of staff training continues with training needs and opportunities identified at staff appraisals. The Deputy Clerk passed the Certificate of Local Council Administration, becoming a qualified Clerk.

The Council recruited a new Market Officer and Office Assistant in 2024/25.

The Council also provides work experience for Students from Craven College who undertake the recording and live streaming of Full Council meetings. The first live streaming was carried out in January 2024 and has continued through the Council year.

The Council was also extremely proud to be awarded Foundation Level in the Local Council Award Scheme, with plans to achieve the next level in the coming year. This achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, Skipton Town Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.



The Award Scheme report highlighted the council's particular areas of strength, including the improvements it has made to its governance over the last three years.

The Council also made the move from the office space they leased at the Town Hall to offices on Otley Street.

Finance

In May 2024 the Council launched a community grant scheme, enabling local groups, charities and organisations to apply for up to £2000 for projects benefiting the people of Skipton. Over the course of the year grants were awarded to:

Skipton Walking Football £2000

SELFA £1250

Craven Gymnastics £1792.80

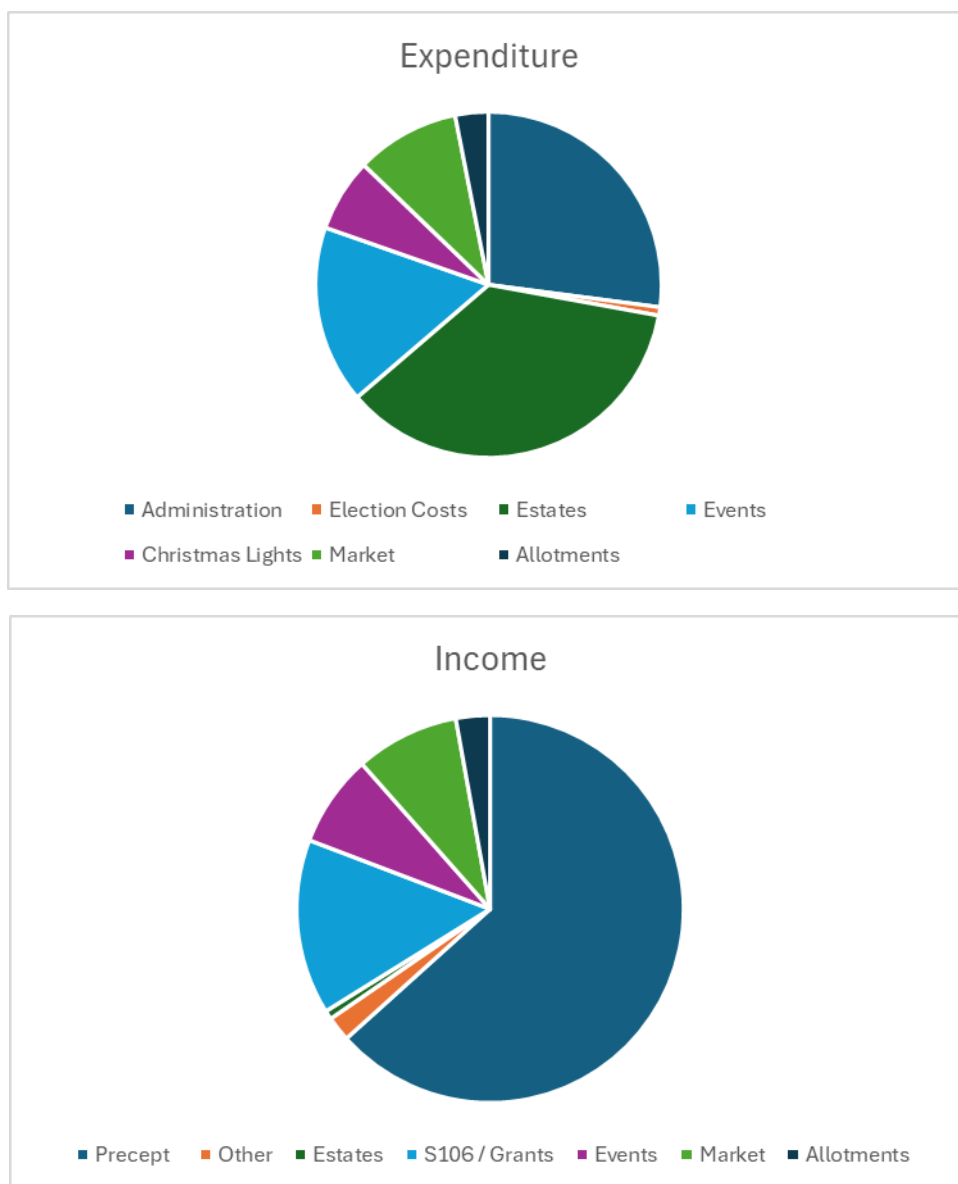
Share Skipton £1999

Home Start Craven £1980

Skipton Community Sports Hub £2000

Skipton Pride £2000

The Town Councils Annual Governance and Financial Statements can be viewed on the Council website. The Town Council precept for 2024/25 was £570,00. Other income was received from Market Trader Fees, Income from Town Council run events, Section 106 funding and allotment rents. Allotment rents remained unchanged from the previous year.



At the budget meeting in Dec 2023 the Council agreed to request £572,500 precept for the 2025/26 financial year.