Ferryhill Town Council

Annual Report 2024/25

Mayor's Introduction

Councillor Carole Atkinson
Mayor

It has been a privilege to preside as Mayor of Ferryhill for the second time, a role which I have, once again, enjoyed tremendously.

During my term in office I have attended many events and meetings to represent the Council, help raise the profile of local groups and to promote the town. I was honoured to have been able to be part of the Beacon Lighting and the Party in the Park for D-Day 80, to remember the fallen heroes, on 6th June 2024, the Nation came together to remember the tens of thousands of allied forces who gave service on D-Day eighty years ago and helped secure the peace we in the UK enjoy today. Other events included the Summer Gala, Christmas Fayre, Banner Parades, Remembrance Sunday, Senior Citizens Trip as well as the fundraising events I have held as Mayor.

I would like to recognise the hard work of organisations and locals, who have continued to help others and make Ferryhill a better place. Earlier in the year I had the pleasure of presenting Civic awards to those who have gone the extra mile for our community, these awards are a great way of recognising their achievements and celebrating their commitment. I have met so many wonderful people that give so much of their time and energy in making our community so special.

Through the Council's Member's Initiative Fund, it has been possible, for not just myself, but my colleagues too, to support a range of organisations in the Town financially.

During my term as Mayor I have been raising funds for Ferryhill Scout Group and Ferryhill Miners United FC, both great local charities which do amazing work in Ferryhill. Fundraising events such a Charity Dinner, Halloween Quiz and a Wine & Cheese evening were held as well as various tombola's at local events. I am delighted to announce that I have raised £3400.00 and would like to thank everyone for their kindness, supporting me by making donations and attending fundraising events.

It has been a wonderful year and one which I will always take great pride that I was the Mayor of Ferryhill. The support I have received on the many visits and events I have attended will always be with me.

Ferryhill Town Council Overview

Ferryhill Town Council was first established as a Parish Council in 1895. It has emerged through the various Local Government re-organisations since this time relatively unscathed. The Council is a statutory body and is therefore largely funded by way of Council Tax receipts.

The Council's operative area is solely within the boundaries of the Town of Ferryhill serving its 11,500 inhabitants.

Many functions are undertaken by the Council including the provision of:

- 4 parks,
- 7 football pitches,
- sports pavilion,
- bowling green (with bowls pavilion),
- cricket pitch (with sports pavilion),
- 5 children's play areas,
- approximately 350 allotments on 5 sites,
- public toilets,
- Town Centre car park,
- numerous flowerbeds around the Town,
- a large cemetery
- numerous events including a Christmas Fayre, Summer Fayre and Party in the Park.

The Town Council's central office is located in the Town Hall, however the Council workforce operate on several other sites including Dean Bank Recreation Park, Mainsforth Sports Complex, King George V Playing Field, Duncombe Cemetery and several other smaller sites around the Town.

The Council employs a total of 13 staff, 7 outside works staff, 5 office staff and a Caretaker at the Town Hall.

The Town Council is made up of 17 Councillor seats representing 3 wards in the Town. This corporate body devises the policy of the Council in line with legislation and public opinion. The Town Clerk assists in the policy making by providing advice and suggesting policies where appropriate.

Once a policy is devised it is the sole responsibility of the Town Clerk to ensure the policy is enacted. The Town Clerk, as the head of the paid service, is solely responsible for the management of the Council's staff.

Ferryhill Town Council is an organisation that is at the heart of delivering some of the high-quality services essential in ensuring that the community of Ferryhill has an improving quality of environment and life. This is an outstanding achievement made possible by each and every employee who continue to work together to provide efficient and effective services for the local community.

Highlights of the Year

Members Initiative Fund

In 2022 Ferryhill Town Council replaced its Donations Policy with a new Members Initiative Fund (MIF) scheme. Now in its third year, the initiative continues to be hugely successful.

Each year through the MIF individual Town Councillors are allocated £450, which they can use to contribute towards local projects and initiatives organised by community groups/charities. Under the rules of the scheme, Councillors are able to pool their resources to deliver larger projects of significant benefit to the community.

Any group who would like to apply for a grant through the Members Initiative Fund should speak to one of their local Councillors in the first instance, to ensure that they have support for their project idea, before submitting an application.

During 2024/2025 £7,200 was allocated to local groups, as detailed in the table opposite.

The Fund for 2025/2026 will open in May 2025. Groups looking to apply should contact Ferryhill Town Hall on telephone: 01740 652157 or email enquiries@ferryhill.gov.uk for more information.

All applicants must have a fully constituted group and have a bank account with at least two unrelated signatories.

Project	Organisation Receiving Funds	Sponsoring Councillor	Amount Received
Mainsforth Cricket Club Nets	Mainsforth Cricket Club	Kath Conroy	£225.00
Mainsforth Cricket Club Nets	Mainsforth Cricket Club	Sue Jones	£450.00
Days Away Project	LADDER Centre	Stephen Bowron	£200.00
Work Overalls for Endeavour Service Users	Endeavour Woodcrafts CIC	Kath Conroy	£225.00
Garden Refurbishment Project	Land of Adventures CIC	Peter Atkinson	£250.00
Garden Refurbishment Project	Land of Adventures CIC	Carole Atkinson	£250.00
Miners Utd Pitch Marking	Ferryhill Miners Utd Youth FC	Judith Donald	£350.00
Costumes for Production of Guys & Dolls	Ferryhill Stage Society	Joe Makepeace	£450.00
Football Strip & Equipment	Ferryhill Rangers FC	Curtis Bihari	£350.00
Football Strip & Equipment	Ferryhill Rangers FC	Judith Donald	£100.00
Little Treasures Sensory Groups	Little Treasures Autism Charity	Carole Atkinson	£200.00
Little Treasures Sensory Groups	Little Treasures Autism Charity	Peter Atkinson	£200.00
Little Treasures Sensory Groups	Little Treasures Autism Charity	Christine Woods	£150.00
Ferryhill Town Youth FC U15s –Winter Coats	Ferryhill Town Youth FC	Robyn Hume	£450.00
Promotional Signage for Club Minibus	Mainsforth Amateur Boxing & Fitness Club	Angus Ferguson	£450.00
Community Defibrillator Project	Ferryhill Community Partnership (FSEC)	Bernie Lamb	£450.00
Community Defibrillator Project	Ferryhill Community Partnership (FSEC)	Christine Woods	£300.00
Community Defibrillator Project	Ferryhill Community Partnership (FSEC)	Vicky Collins	£250.00
Interpretation Panel for 'Tommys' on War Graves	FTC Works Department	(Cllr Tinkler's MIF Allocation)	£450.00
Hoodies for School Trip to Borneo	Ferryhill School	Curtis Bihari	£100.00
Kit Bags & Water bottles for U10s	Ferryhill Town Youth FC	Dave Farry	£150.00
New Carpets for Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute	Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute	Gordon Barker	£450.00
Fun Squad – Youth Activities in Ferryhill during Easter Holidays	Deaf Hill Regeneration Partnership	Derek Bradley	£300.00
PE Equipment	Ferryhill Station Primary School	Liam Fellows	£450.00

Advice Service

Specialist benefit service is available at the Town Hall every other Friday from 9.00 – 12.00.

The confidential service is delivered by staff from the LADDER Centre and provides local residents with access to benefit advice including:-

- Housing support
- Referrals for Debt support from Durham Christian Partnership
- Sickness related benefits including Personal Independence Payments, Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Council tax reduction
- All other DWP benefits

Services include support to complete forms, benefit calculations, and also signposting to more appropriate support with established referral partners already in place.

Ferryhill LADDER Centre has been operating for 20 years and provides benefit advice and support to residents of Ferryhill and the surrounding area with an excellent reputation. Providing support in the last year to over 700 local residents and bringing in over £2,000,000 in extra benefit awards to the local community.

Calling All Budding Gardeners

Are you interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables, but need more garden space? If so, have you ever considered an allotment?

Allotments provide an excellent opportunity for people to grow their own produce and at the same time get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Produce grown can contribute to a healthy balanced diet. It is also a great social activity.

The Town Council is responsible for 4 allotment sites within the Council's area. The standard charge is £50 per allotment from April 2025. From April 2026 this cost will increase to £60 per allotment. Anyone wishing to rent an allotment should contact the Town Council (Contact details on page 18)

Ferryhill Commemorates 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Style

Ferryhill Town Council would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the Town who joined in with its D-Day 80 Commemorations.

On Thursday, 6th June 2024 Ferryhill Town Council joined hundreds of organisations around the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories to take part in a National Beacon Lighting Ceremony in the Town Hall garden, where the Town Mayor lit the Beacon and read out the International Tribute. A special thank you to Interim Change Minister, Lindsay Southern of St Luke's Church for delivering a Blessing and Prayers, Ex N.C.O. Andy Denholm, 15th/19th The Kings Royal Hussars for raising the D-Day 80 International Flag of Peace, to Adam Jenkins for playing The Battle's Over on the Bagpipes and to Ferryhill Remembers for the beautiful poppy banners on the main gates to the Town Hall; a fitting tribute to mark the D-Day 80 Anniversary.

The Council's D-Day 80 celebrations culminated in a large Party in the Park on Saturday, 8th June. The event saw 1500 people flock to Dean Bank Park to enjoy a fantastic line up of stage acts including BGT's Soldiers of Swing and Sister Act, Khalysis.

The event was filled with children's entertainment, face painters, inflatables, refreshments, stalls and a licensed bar. Even the sun came out to shine. A huge thank you to Scott from AH Events for organising what proved to be a fantastic event for the whole family.

Ferryhill Miner's Banner Parades

Durham Miners Gala once again returned on Friday 12th July 2024 to Saturday 13th July 2024. For Ferryhill Miners Banner Committee this meant that the Annual Miners Banner Parades could return to the town, which Ferryhill Town Council was pleased to facilitate to commemorate the Town's mining heritage.

On Friday the Dean & Chapter Banner, led by Ferryhill Town Band paraded from the Aged Miners Homes at Dean Bank to Ferryhill Market Place. The following morning it was the turn of the Mainsforth Colliery Banner, again led by Ferryhill Town Band, to be paraded from the Surtees Arms Public House along to the Eldon Arms Public House.

The Banners were then transported to Durham City to take part in the Annual Miner's Gala.

Ferryhill's Annual Senior Citizens Trip 2024

Ferryhill's Annual Senior Citizen's Trip took place on Thursday, 25th July 2024 with approximately 200 residents attending the trip to Scarborough.

The trip was supported by the three County Councillors for Ferryhill who each donated £333.00 from their Neighbourhood Budget, Ferryhill Town Council would like to say a huge thank you to Councillors Peter Atkinson, Curtis Bihari and Joe Quinn for their donation, their support meant that tickets were made available to residents at a low cost of £5 per ticket. Special thanks also go to those Councillors who made themselves available to act as Stewards on the buses and also the residents who helped out.

Town Mayor, Councillor Carole Atkinson, said 'We all had a great day in Scarborough, the weather was lovely and it's so nice that the Council are able to provide this trip for local residents every year.'

Ferryhill Celebrate Town's Unsung Heroes

Ferryhill Town Council celebrated the Town's unsung heroes in 2025 with a special Presentation Evening at the Masonic Hall. Individuals nominated for their outstanding contributions to the local community were each presented with a framed Certificate and Mayor's Medal by Mayor, Councillor Carole Atkinson.

A raffle also took place at the Event, raising a total of £164.00, which will go towards for the Mayor's chosen Charities for the year; Ferryhill Miners United Football Club and Ferryhill Scouts.

This year's Civic Awards for Outstanding Services to the Community were presented to:

- Danny Metcalfe
- Gavin Batty
- Karen Tomkinson
- Keith Lumsdon
- Paula Bihari

The Mayor also presented a special award to Stephenie Bowron in recognition of her ongoing commitment to Ferryhill.

Ex Councillor, Stephen Bowron who had recently retired from the Council also received a Mayor's medal for his services to the Town.

100th Birthday Celebration

The Mayor of Ferryhill, Councillor Carole Atkinson, was invited along to the Masonic Hall on Friday 31st January 2025, where she joined Albert Cutting as he celebrated his 100th Birthday, with family and friends. The Mayor presented Albert with a birthday card and Ferryhill Town Council engraved Whisky Tumbler.

Albert was born in West Cornforth to Albert and Maria Cutting; he was a Doggy lad. He left school at 14 and went to Leicester to work in a typewriter factory. He came home for a week's holiday when war was declared, so he decided to head back north. He followed his dad into mining, with a job at Mainsforth Colliery.

He met Margaret, the love of his life, at the Rink in Spennymoor. They married in 1950 and he moved to Ferryhill where he has lived ever since. They had 2 children, Jeff and Jill and a very happy, active family life. The highlight of each year was their summer holidays when they ventured to Devon, Cornwall and the Isle of Wight – long adventures in those days!

After 28 years, he finally left the pit for a job at Union Carbide until he retired in 1986. They had a great retirement, lots of holidays, visits to family and friends and many happy times travelling to Spain and Italy.

Sadly, his beloved son Jeff was diagnosed with MND and died in 2018, followed by Margaret who died of covid at the start of the pandemic in 2020.

Albert adjusted as best he could and has continued to live independently ever since, until very recently still digging his garden! Almost 40 years after retiring he's still drawing his pension and looking very good on it.

Mayor, Councillor Carole Atkinson said "it was lovely to be invited along to Albert's 100th Birthday celebrations and wonderful to meet Albert as he celebrated this milestone Birthday."

Diamond Couple Receive a Visit from the Mayor

Mayor of Ferryhill, Councillor Carole Atkinson visited Raymond & Cath Smailes on Thursday 27th June 2024 as they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, where she presented Cath with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and Raymond with a Ferryhill Town Council engraved Whisky Tumbler.

The couple were married at St Aidens Church, Chilton on 27 June 1964. Cath was born in East Howle and Ray belonged Spennymoor. They started off married life in Ferryhill, they did move to West Cornforth for a year but soon returned to Ferryhill where they have lived ever since.

Raymond worked for Gray's Pop and then moved onto HGV truck driving until he retired from Stan Robinson. Cath worked at the Clothing Factory in Ferryhill.
They both enjoy caravaning together on a weekend, Raymond enjoyed DIY as and when he could and Cath is great on a sewing machine and puts her hands to many of things along with her baking.

Ray & Cath have 3 children, Darren, Karen and Martin, they have 3 grandchildren, Arron, Rachael & Reece along with 2 amazing great grandchildren, Keaton & Oliver.

They celebrated their special anniversary with a get together with family and friends in the Surtees Arms.

Summer Gala

Ferryhill Summer Gala took place on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August 2024.

Show rides and family amusements were on offer on both days. The event this year welcomed a slightly different them with a visit from Exotic Animal Encounters which was well received from the community.

Part of Market Street was closed on Sunday so that additional attractions could be accommodated, including craft stalls and family entertainment.

Art & Photography Exhibition

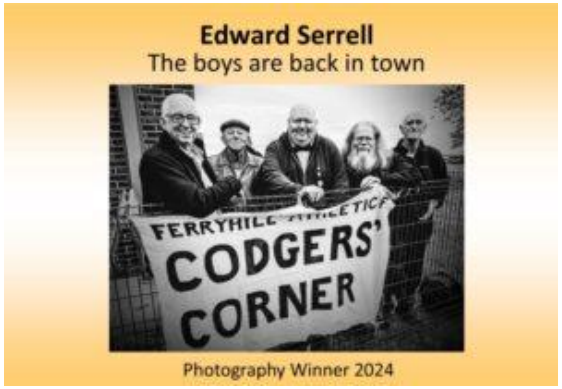
In July Ferryhill Town Council held their annual Art and Photography Exhibition. The event allows local artists and photographers, both experienced and amateur, to showcase their work.

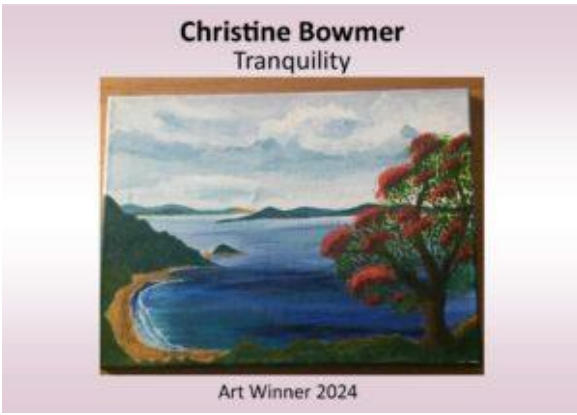
This year's event was held virtually online, on Ferryhill Town Council's Facebook page.

The exhibits entered were extremely varied and the event was once again a huge success. Residents were asked to vote for their favourite pieces of work.

The winners of the 2024 Art & Photography Exhibition are as follows:

Art	Tranquility by Christine Bowmer
Photography	The Boys are back in Town, by Edward Serrell
Children's Art	Meowscream, by Amelie Turner and Manfred Mantis, by Carson Turner.





Ferryhill In Bloom

The Town Council once again held its annual Ferryhill in Boom competition aimed at celebrating the incredible gardens and allotments tended by green fingered residents of the town.

Over 100 people entered the competition, which included categories for best front garden, back garden, back yard, and commercial premises. The competition also included awards for the best garden in each of the Town Council's allotment sites, the best overall plot and site.

A big thank you to Windlestone Nurseries for sponsoring the event.

Competition winners are as follows.

Best Back Yard 2025

BEST FRONT GARDEN

1st Place – Mrs Rita Hewitt
2nd Place – Mr Paul Slater
3rd Place – Mrs Patricia Kavanagh

Highly Commended
Mr Gordon Harris
Mrs Susan Todd
Mrs Maureen Vincent

Commended
Mrs Elizabeth Large
Mr Barry Mitchinson
Mr Mick Mundell
Mrs Jean Hardy

BEST BACK GARDEN

1st Place – Ms Susan Osment
2nd Place – Mrs Rita Hewitt
3rd Place – Mr Jason Williams

Highly Commended
Mr Paul Slater
Mrs Karen Dowling
Mrs Vivien Auton
Mr Gordon Harris

537,746
175,654
0
765,150
51,750

Commended
Mrs Jean Hardy
Mr & Mrs Langthorne
Mr Mick Mundell

BEST BACK YARD

1st Place – Ms Joanna Orlowska
2nd Place - Mrs Danuta Rykowska
3rd Place - Ms Sally Pattinson

Highly Commended
Mrs Elizabeth Large

Commended
Mrs E Large
Ms Carol Hall

BEST COMMERCIAL PREMISES

1st Place - The Garth

ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

Best Overall Allotment Plot
Mr A Pybus & Mr G Pybus – Paxton Street Allotments

Best Overall Allotment Site
Mainsforth Row Allotments

Best Plots
Storehouse Allotments – Mr Bell

East End Allotments – Mr Stan Auton

Paxton Street Allotments – Mr A Pybus & Mr G Pybus

Mainsforth Row Allotments – Mr & Mrs Bullock

Most Improved Plots
Storehouse Allotments – Darren Hume

East End Allotments – Hannah Lindsay

Paxton Street Allotments – Mr Graham

Mainsforth Row Allotments – Mr Dickinson

Ferryhill Remembers

Ferryhill again turned out in large numbers to remember all those who have served and died in conflicts since the First World War.

Hundreds of people attended the **Remembrance Sunday**, parade and services held in St Luke's Church and at the War memorial in the Town Hall Garden on 10th November 2024.

The parade was led by Ferryhill Town Band and included, Ferryhill Mayor, Councillor Carole Atkinson, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liam Fellows, and representatives of the armed forces, ex-servicemen, uniformed services and many other Ferryhill based organisations.

Following a service at St Luke's Church, the parade made its way to the war memorial in the Town Hall garden where, together with hundreds of onlookers, two minutes silence was impeccably observed at 11.00 am and then wreaths were laid.

The flag was lowered by ex-serviceman Paul Gray, of 5th Regiment of the Royal Artillery.

Ferryhill Town Council formally acknowledges the hard work carried out by Ferryhill Remembers in creating the fitting poppy tributes displayed at the Town Hall and around the town to mark the occasion. Tribute is also paid to all those involved in making the remembrance services a success and to those who attended to pay their respects. It is very humbling to see the community come together to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Warm Space Support Fund

In 2024 Ferryhill Town Council announced the launch of a new Warm Space Support Fund. The Council invited organisations hosting a warm space in the Town, to apply for a small grant of between £200 and £400. The aim of the fund was to support existing Warm Space facilitators to offer a hot meal, refreshments and/or activities, to essentially build on their existing provision. The fund was open during the Winter months, from November onwards, and managed to support the following organisations:

Organisation	Project	Grant Amount Received
Ferryhill Sports & Education Centre (FSEC)	Warm space Coffee Mornings Fortnightly	£400.00
Ferryhill Town Youth FC	Food Drive - Warm Space and Hot Food over Festive Period	£300.00
Ferryhill Methodist Church	Warm Space/Welcome Space - Heating costs	£300.00

Ferryhill Town Council's Christmas Tree

Following its popularity in 2023, Ferryhill Town Council purchased a real Christmas tree again in 2024. The Christmas tree was welcomed by members of the community with many comments being received that the Christmas tree had brought a lot of joy to the Town.

The tree was a great addition to the Town Hall Garden and is something the Town Council are keen to purchase annually.

Christmas Festivities

Councillor Carole Atkinson with Brax Macdonald-Morris from Cleves Cross Primary School.

Ferryhill Town Council would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported its Christmas Fayre on Friday, 29th November. A special thank you to all the stallholders at the Christmas Market, to Turners Fun Fair for providing show rides and catering vehicle, to the Town's Primary Schools for their fantastic Carol Singing in the Town Hall garden, and to Glittery Girl face-painter Dawn Belshaw, and Mr Windbags for providing children's entertainment, and not forgetting Santa who took time out of his busy schedule to greet local children in a special grotto inside the Town Hall.

Despite the cold weather conditions hundreds of people turned out for this year's Christmas Fayre event and watched on as Brax Macdonald-Morris, from Cleves Cross Primary School switched on the Town's Christmas Lights accompanied by Mayor, Councillor Carole Atkinson and Miss County Durham, Ashleigh Craggs.

Councillor Atkinson said 'It was lovely to see the community of Ferryhill come together to enjoy the Christmas Fayre with all its activities. It was great to see that the freezing cold weather didn't deter people from attending the event, which shows what an amazing community Ferryhill really is. A big thank you goes to everyone who participated and attended this year's event.'

The Town Council also held additional festivities planned in the run up to Christmas including a Mayor's Civic Christmas Carol Service at St Luke's Church on Monday, 9th December, which included a performance from Ferryhill Town Band with singing by local children attending Cleves Cross Primary, Broom Cottages Primary and Dean Bank Primary Schools.

Santa pictured in his Grotto inside the Town Hall

On Friday, 13th December Schoolchildren attending the Town's Primary Schools took it in turns to sing Christmas carols in the Town Hall garden, to the delight of parents and onlookers.

Schoolchildren singing Christmas Carols in the Town Hall Garden

Improvements to Dean Bank Park Dog Walking Facility

Thanks to funding secured via the 4Together Partnership totalling £35,000, Ferryhill Town Council has been able to commission a series of improvements to the Dog Walking Area at Dean Bank Park, which was re-named Brian Avery Walk after the County Councillor, who championed the facility from the beginning, and who sadly passed away in recent years.

The Dog Exercise Facility has benefitted from several improvements including the installation of a tarmac footpath around the site, installation of a shelter, tree planting scheme, additional bins, inclusive picnic bench and dog agility equipment and installation of dog bag dispensers.

The Town Council would like to say a huge thank you to the 4Together Partnership and County Councillors Peter Atkinson, Curtis Bihari and Joe Quinn for contributing capital monies through the Towns & Villages Fund and Individual Neighbourhood Budget Allocations to enable this project to be brought to fruition.

Reducing the Council's Carbon Footprint

In order to build on its environmental credentials, following the installation of an impressive solar panel array with battery storage facility at the Sports Facility Building at Dean Bank Park, Ferryhill Town Council secured a further £65,250 through Tarmac Ltd's Landfill Communities Fund, to enable additional solar panels and battery storage unit to be installed at Ferryhill Town Hall, together with additional works to ensure that the building is better insulated.

The Town Council is extremely grateful for the financial contribution made by Tarmac, which has enabled the Town Council to increase its energy efficiency, reduce its carbon footprint and hopefully in the long term also reducing its energy bills.

The new Solar Photovoltaic Array
on Ferryhill Town Hall Roof

Town Council Budget 2024/25

2023/24 Actual £	Expenditure & Income	2024/25 Budget £	2024/25 Actual £
	TOWN COUNCIL		
485,730	Staffing	501,770	504,733
280	Democracy – General	650	214
980	Mayor's Expenses	2,750	1,903
0	Elections	0	0
31,480	Town Hall	30,800	27,608
35,600	Overheads	23,890	24,702
33,360	Capital Finance	13,310	19,651
18,000	Community Support	18,610	16,850
25,370	Community Events	20,000	18,592
630,800		**624,280**	**614,253**
	AMENITIES		
2,160	Allotments	-4,210	-3,042
14,450	Open Spaces	7,310	8,507
3,860	Public Toilets – Station	1,750	194
-5,890	Market	-5,300	-7,109
20,700	Ferryhill in Bloom	17,050	16,960
3,970	Public Toilets (Town Centre)	5,070	5,036
620	Market Place Car Park	1,000	1,026
780	Cemeteries	-2,980	3,732
-870	30 Market Street	0	-10
39780		**19,690**	**25,294**
	RECREATION		
14,460	Dean Bank Sports Facility	12,380	12,027
6,650	Dean Bank Recreation Park	4,000	5,358
19,980	Mainsforth Sports Complex	14,150	13,134
6,340	King George V Playing Field	4,680	4,800
860	Surtees Doorstep Green	880	1,401
9,310	General Expenses	8,890	8,605
36,970	Vehicles and Machinery	34,400	33,265
94,570		**79,380**	**78,590**
765,150	Net Expenditure	**710,850**	**718,137**
	FINANCED BY:		
537,746	Precept	566,840	566,840
175,654	DCC Grant	144,010	144,010
765,150		**710,850**	**710,850**
51,750	**Deficit for the Year**	**0**	**7,287**

Council Tax 2025/26

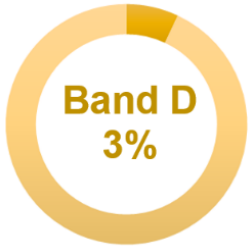
The cost of living crisis is already real for many of our town's residents. Steep rises in energy prices are outstripping wage and benefit increases and putting enormous pressure on daily life.

The Council is also facing financial pressures but wanted to limit any increase in this year's Council Tax. We have therefore reduced our budgets where possible to limit this year's increase to only 2.98%. This follows a 4.4% increase the previous year.

There are eight council tax bands which range from

Band A - Properties valued at below £40,000 on 1st April 1991, to
Band H - properties valued above £320,000 on 1st April 1991.

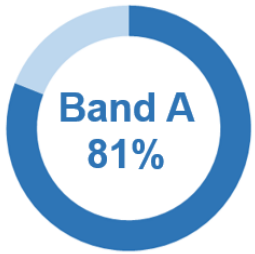
Council Tax is usually quoted at **Band D** so that comparisons can be made with other councils. However, this does not give the full picture as the majority of people within our area live in Band A properties.



Only 3% of properties in the Town Council's area are Band D

These households pay £249.86 per year - £4.80 per week

An increase of £7.24 per year - 14p per week



81% of properties in the Town Council's area are Band A.

These households pay £166.57 per year - £3.20 per week

An increase of £4.82 per year - 9p per week

Note – The Above figures do not take into account Council Tax benefit

External Funding

Ferryhill Town Council continues to apply for external grant funding to improve the facilities and amenities within its ownership for the benefit of local residents and visitors to the Town. The Council is extremely grateful to all of its funders for enabling the following funding for projects totalling **£147,477** to be secured during 2024-2025.

Funding Body	Project	Amount
Small Grant via 4Together Partnership of Cllrs P Atkinson, C Bihari & J Quinn	Contribution to the Buses for the Annual Senior Citizens Trip	£999.00
Area Budget Funding via AAP	Create Toilet Facility at Duncombe Cemetery	£17,851.00
Small Grant via 4Together Partnership of Cllr Bihari	20ft Metal, Lockable Storage Container for Mainsforth Sports Complex	£999.00
Small Grant via 4Together Partnership of Cllr Bihari	Letters to Loved Ones Post Box at Duncombe Cemetery	£300.00
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Miners Lamp Sculpture at Ferryhill Station	£20,000.00
Neighbourhood Budgets via 4 Together Partnership of Cllrs P Atkinson & C Bihari	Miners Lamp Sculpture at Ferryhill Station	£15,000.00
Tarmac Ltd	Replace existing Play Area at Dean Bank Park and also create an Inclusive Play Area on land where old Bowls Pavilion was removed	£90,000.00
Neighbourhood Budgets via the 4 Together Partnership of Cllrs C Bihari (£1,980) & Cllr Peter Atkinson (£348)	Contribution to a Hearing Loop System at Ferryhill Town Hall Meeting Room	£2,328.00

Members Expenses - 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Councillor	Travelling and Subsistence Allowance	Participation Allowance	Total	Number of Training Courses/ Sessions Attended
C Atkinson	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
P Atkinson	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
G Barker	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
C Bihari	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
V Collins	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
K Conroy	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
D Farry	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
L Fellows	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
R Hume	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
S Jones	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
B Lamb	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
J Makepeace	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
J Quinn	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
K Tinkler	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
J Donald	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
C Woods	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
A Ferguson	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	0
TOTAL	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**0**

These gross figures include all hotel and transport costs incurred in attending training courses.

In 2005 Ferryhill Town Council considered the recommendations of the independent remuneration panel for the area and resolved not to take the full Councillors Allowance. Councillors are instead only entitled to claim a daily Participation Allowance when away from home on a training course or other similar event. In addition to this, Councillors are also entitled to claim actual travelling and subsistence allowances in accordance with the Members Allowance Policy.

Meet Your New Councillors

Broom Ward

Cllr Carole Atkinson
Caroleatkin66@icloud.com

01740 656118

Cllr Curtis Bihari
curtisbihari@hotmail.com

07915 905642

Cllr Tony Hewitt

Tonyhewitt2002@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr John Lathan

07858 048159

Cllr Paul Mountford

Pmount4961@aol.com

Cllr Joe Quinn
Joe.Quinn@durham.gov.uk

07879 113024

Vacancy

Vacancy

Ferryhill Village & Dean Bank

Cllr Vicky Collins

Vickycollins70@hotmail.com

Cllr Angus Ferguson

Angus.ferguson@icloud.com

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Ferryhill Station Ward

Vacancy

Vacancy

County Councillors

Cllr Paul Mountford
Cllr Joe Quinn

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall
Ferryhilll
Co Durham
DL17 8JL

Tel: 01740 652157

email: enquiries@ferryhill.gov.uk

website: ferryhill.gov.uk