

Hay Town Council Annual Report For the Year Ending 31st March 2025



1. Chair's Report

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of Hay Town Council over the past year. 2024-2025 has been a year of excellent community support and practical action. As always, our focus has remained on improving the quality of life for residents and ensuring Hay continues to thrive as a sustainable, welcoming town.

Among the year's highlights was the Council's active support for the NHS Mobile Dentist, which has provided essential care to residents, especially those facing challenges accessing regular dental services. By facilitating a central location and raising awareness locally, we've helped make dental health more accessible in Hay for many people.

We were also proud to welcome Wholy Cow, a locally farmed milk bar promoting fresh, sustainable dairy from the surrounding area. The Council supported its setup through local business advice and infrastructure access. This initiative not only supports our farming community but also promotes environmental stewardship and healthy, local produce.

Other highlights include:

- Continued investment in green spaces and inclusive infrastructure

The Council held 12 full council meetings and 15 committee meetings over the past year. All meetings remained open to the public, reflecting our ongoing commitment to transparency and accessibility. With the resignation of Cllr Golesworthy in April 2025 we do currently have a vacancy.

- Enhanced support for local events and youth initiatives
- A renewed focus on resident engagement and sustainable practices

Thank you to our councillors, Council staff, volunteers, and every resident who plays a role in shaping Hay's future. Your voice matters, and together we continue to build a resilient, healthy, and connected community. Please remember you are always welcome at our monthly meetings, first Monday of every month excluding bank holidays. We would much rather a face to face dialogue than mis-information posted on social media.

2. Council Composition

As of March 2025, Hay Town Council consists of the following councillors:

- Cllr. Fiona Howard, Chair
- Cllr. Simon Morris, Vice-Chair
- Cllr. Jeff Morgan
- Cllr. Robert Golesworthy
- Cllr. Alan Powell
- Cllr. James Prothero
- Cllr. Gethin Williams
- Cllr. Phoebe Jenkins
- Cllr. Alex Bielski
- Cllr. Wendy Bielska
- Cllr. Tom Owen

3. Finance Overview

HAY TOWN COUNCIL - Comparison, Last year Actual, this year actual Vs BUDGET/ PRECEPT						
		last year	Last year	This year 24/25 Precept	This year 24/25	This year 24/25
Division	Detail	Acc Income 2023 / 24	Acc Expend. 2023/24		Act. Expend 31/03/2025	Act. Income 31/03/2025
Income						
	Income Bank Interest	230.87		240.00		256.48
	Income from Precept & Powys	78288.43		85000.00		85459.63
	VAT refund	14493.78		5000.00		5544.00
	Income from Entry Charge - Cash	8882.75		7000.00		10138.10
	Income from Entry Charge - Nayax	10953.01		9000.00		8150.96
	Paid Parking - income	1877.42		1500.00		1432.42
	Training Donation	300.00		0.00		0.00
	Fishing	400.00		400.00		0.00
	Pavilion Room Hire	1851.00		2000.00		1700.00
	Land Rental	20.00		20.00		0.00
	Refund	90.00		0.00		0.00
	Donations			0.00		14516.30
	Water from Bowls			1516.00		1516.14
	Grant	500.00		0.00		0.00
Finance: General						
	Clerk/RFO salary		26738.91	28500.00	28,558.83	
	Stationery/Office costs		653.66	600.00	357.30	
	Telephone/internet		378.43	400.00	375.83	
	Accountant/Audit Fees / Payroll		1290.00	1500.00	1,000.00	
	Grant			0.00	10,000.00	
	Town Crier		200.00	250.00	185.10	
	Town Clock		400.00	400.00	400.00	
	Election costs (Reserve)		0.00	250.00	0.00	
	Insurance		1760.41	1800.00	1,407.40	
	Subscriptions		65.00	400.00	879.00	
	Bank Charges		448.21	400.00	359.43	
	Contingencies		1713.21	1250.00	719.38	
	Training		488.00	580.00	668.50	
	Expenses (£156 Cllr expenses)		1716.00	1716.00	1,716.00	
	Petty Cash		0.00	2000.00	0.00	
	Legal & Other up front costs		114.00	4000.00	50.00	
	Reserves		0.00	0.00	2,269.36	
	Input VAT			0.00	5,116.19	
Estates						
	Grass Cutting		2580.00	4000.00	3,538.63	
	Maintenance - General		1347.00	750.00	360.88	
	Tree Management		8904.00	1500.00	122.00	
	New Parking Area		6414.95	5000.00	6,680.00	
	Car Park/Play area Maintenance		0.00	1500.00	124.80	
	Grant to WMG re Dog litter bins		1500.00	1500.00	1,500.00	
	Cleaning Recycling Area		550.00	250.00	250.00	
Premises						
Toilets	Cleaning		13195.20	18000.00	14,206.83	
	Toilets Maintenance		9576.11	6540.00	2,932.99	
	Water Rates - Oxford Rd		848.95	3000.00	2,846.14	
	Water Rates - Broad Street		527.49	600.00	557.64	
	Electricity - The Pavement		2677.96	1200.00	1,269.03	
	Electricity = Oxford Rd		2612.20	3000.00	2,769.42	
	Rates		2996.00	3300.00	3,147.20	
	Water Pavillion		1476.84	1000.00	626.21	
	Gas Pavilion		2133.16	1000.00	2,460.42	
	Electricity Council Offices		2871.98	1500.00	1,014.37	
	Electricity Pavilion		0.00	1500.00	1,467.65	
	Buildings Maintenance		3810.77	4500.00	3,983.18	
	Statutory Testing		0.00	400.00	352.68	
Events						
	Christmas Lights		7000.00	3000.00	3,000.00	
	Easter Egg Hunt			150.00	150.00	
	Halloween / Scarecrow Comp			50.00	0.00	
	Hay Summer Show			3000.00	3,000.00	
Communications						
	Communications & Advertising		183.60	500.00	421.00	
	Website		486.52	400.00	350.00	
	Signage			500.00	420.00	
	Totals		107658.56		111613.39	

Total Expected Income: £111676

Total Actual Income: £128714

Total Expected Expenditure: £111686

Total Actual Expenditure: £111613.39

Major Areas of Spend

- Public amenities (toilets, bins, benches): £26,332
- New Parking Area: £6,680
- Supporting Community Projects: £6150
- Gas at the Pavilion which has resulted in a gas leak being found and repaired.



Our approach remains careful and community-focused, balancing essential service provision with long-term sustainability goals. A full financial breakdown is available on request.

4. Estates Report.

Hay Town Council, Estates Sub-Committee has responsibility for managing land owned or leased by the council and has to comply with statutory legislation e.g., Occupiers Liability Act 1957 & 1984 which covers duty of care to the public, Environment (Wales) Act 2016 covering biodiversity. This land comprises of the Old Railway and Bailey Walk footpaths, The Gliss riverside area, Black Lion Green, Gypsy Castle play area, Brecon Road car park, play area and recreational facilities, plus various grassed areas around the town.

Maintenance of woodland is done by the volunteers of Hay Community Woodland Group, who carry out regular inspections of trees and ensure the footpaths are clear and safe. Any work that is beyond the ability of Hay CWG will be carried out by contractors. Grass cutting is carried out by contractors, the work going out to tender every two years, mowing is carried out approximately every two weeks from April until September.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem on the footpaths, it's not as bad as prior to the four red bins being installed in 2016 but, unfortunately, there are still some thoughtless and irresponsible dog owners. So, if you have a dog please be responsible and do the right thing, "bag it, bin it".

As in previous reports, we still have issues with properties backing onto HTC owned land, it is an offence to tip garden waste or rubbish over your fence, this is classed as fly tipping and as well as being illegal it also has a negative impact on biodiversity. Powys CC have a garden waste collection scheme so please use that or compost it yourself.

The survey, to check for any safety issues within the HTC estate, is working well and is identifying problems that previously may have gone unnoticed. A councillor is allocated an area of land and reports back to the clerk on any problems found. The frequency of inspection is based on the perceived risk e.g., Bailey Walk and Old Railway footpaths will be assessed weekly due to the high footfall and tree cover, whereas open areas such as playing fields will be inspected monthly. We encourage anyone, whether resident or visitor, to report to the clerk if they encounter problems.



Apart from the everyday issues mentioned above, 2024/25 has seen a number of projects completed under the direction of the Estates Team:-

1. The new cemetery extension was officially handed over to Powys County Council in October 2024, this was a long-drawn-out process which started with the purchase of the land by HTC in 2019. The community owes a debt of gratitude to all current and former councillors who have worked on this project.
2. August 2024 saw the space between the Pavilion and cricket pitch remodelled into an area that now provides hardstanding parking, with a fence and gates. This work also removed the ongoing issue of fly tipping in the area.
3. The small patch of grass at the top of the main car park was transformed by the installation of a new public

artwork, a spectacular dragon carved by local chainsaw artist Danny Thomas. This provides a fine example of Hay Town Council's continued commitment to enhance the town, showing Hay as a vibrant community with a rich cultural heritage.

4. In the arduous January weather, the Bailey Walk public footpath had a major makeover, with all the rotten revetment timbers, along with steps and handrails, being replaced. The work was funded by the Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership who saw it as an opportunity to increase residents and visitors' access to nature.
5. In August 2022 HTC applied for tree preservation orders on 7 horse chestnut trees, 5 along the Bailey Walk and 2 behind the sewage pumping station. These trees are believed to have been planted in 1897 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, TPOs were confirmed in April 2025.

While it's always the case that, you can't please everyone, we've received nothing but praise for the works described above. Some of the projects have caused disruption, we thank you for your patience.

Cllr Jeff Morgan (Chair of Estates) together with Cllrs Fiona Howard, Alan Powell, Alex Bielski, Gethin Williams & Phoebe Jenkins

5. Premises Report.

The Premises Sub-Committee has continued to oversee the management and maintenance of Council-owned buildings and facilities throughout the year. Below is a summary of key updates and ongoing matters relating to council premises.

Public Toilets – Craft Centre

The main toilet block at the Craft Centre continues to be a critical facility for both residents and visitors. However, the site has faced repeated incidents of vandalism during the past year. These acts have not only caused disruption to service but have also led to increased maintenance costs and additional strain on council resources. The committee is currently exploring potential solutions to improve security at the site and reduce future incidents, including enhanced surveillance, improved lighting, altering opening hours and community engagement initiatives. The town clock toilets have remained open for the past year with minimal disruption from vandalism and misuse but we are striving to reduce that even more

The Pavilion

The Pavilion remains one of Hay's most actively used community spaces. It continues to be well-utilised by a variety of user groups and is booked every evening of the week. This level of use reflects the Pavilion's important role as a community hub. A key improvement this year has been the **installation of a new**

heating system, providing a more reliable and energy-efficient solution to support year-round use. Feedback from regular users has been very positive, and this upgrade is expected to improve comfort while reducing energy costs over time.

There is still **availability for daytime and weekend hire**, and we encourage local organisations, businesses, and individuals to make use of this excellent facility for meetings, workshops, and events.

Looking Ahead

The Sub-Committee remains committed to maintaining and improving council facilities, ensuring they are accessible, safe, and welcoming for all. In the coming year, we will continue to explore funding opportunities for building improvements and work closely with local stakeholders to address issues as they arise.

We would like to thank all users, staff, and volunteers who support the management and upkeep of these vital community spaces.

Cllr Simon Morris (Chair of Premises) together with Cllrs Fiona Howard, Robert Golesworthy & Alan Powell.

6. Looking Ahead: 2025-2026 Priorities

In the coming year, the Council will focus on:

- Creating a Sustainability Strategy with carbon targets and green infrastructure plans
 - Expanding mobile and pop-up health and wellbeing services
 - Increasing accessibility in public spaces, with a focus on inclusive design. This includes improving play areas and introducing shared growing areas.
 - Enhancing tourist and residents experience in Hay.
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7. Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- All Council staff for their continued professionalism and commitment
- Local volunteers and community leaders who give so generously of their time
- Residents of Hay for your ideas, feedback, and positive spirit

Together, we are making Hay not only a beautiful place to live, but a forward-thinking, supportive, and environmentally conscious community.

Contact Hay Town Council

Email: [townclerk@haytowncouncil.gov.uk]

Website: [www.haytowncouncil.gov.uk]

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Let's keep working together to make Hay a place we're all proud to call home.