

Sawbridgeworth Town Council

Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth
Hertfordshire CM21 9AN
Tel: 01279 724537



MAYOR
Cllr Reece Smith
TOWN CLERK
Christopher Hunt

e-mail: info@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk
web: www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk

To: Cllr's Furnace, Newell, Pagdades, Rider, A Parsad-Wyatt, Penney
[Cllr R Smith (Ex Officio)]

TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

You are invited to attend a meeting of this committee which will take place on **Monday 10th February 2025** at the **conclusion of the 7:00pm Planning meeting in the Council Chamber of Sayesbury Manor** for the transaction of the following business.

Handwritten signature of Christopher Hunt in black ink.

Christopher Hunt
Town Clerk
3rd February 2025

AGENDA

- T24/29** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
[👏] To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
- T24/30** **PUBLIC FORUM**
 To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee.
- T24/31** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 To receive any Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members
- T24/32** **MINUTES**
[📄] [👏] To approve as a correct record the draft minutes of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 14th October 2024 (T02) [Attached appendix A]
- To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

Owner	Action	Completed
Clerk / Cemetery manager	Cemetery, to discuss land purchase, grave digging and	Ongoing, discussion held throughout the budgeting. Land purchase will need

	funeral costs with cemetery manager	further exploration and earmark reserves made and further areas to increase the cemetery income is continual with reviews on costs for benches, trees, internment fees etc.
Clerk	To arrange for the 3 Acorns report to be put onto the Town Council website.	Completed
Clerk	To write County and District Council regarding ownership and maintenance of the pathway and trees along footpath 22.	Email sent to Herts County officers 15 th October 2024. Response that County will deal with any dangerous trees or branches.
Clerk	To contact the head at Leventhorpe to explore if students could assist in producing a booklet with local information.	Email sent 15 th October 2024 to Malcolm Wight Head. He is liaising with the IT department. IT Department declined as not matching their curriculum.
Clerk	To explore licenses required to run a commuter bus service	Trial set 24 th Feb for two weeks
Clerk	To ask if the RHSO committee require an item on the agenda for the 300 th anniversary celebrations.	Emails sent to Ruth and Eric 15 th October 2024. Celebrations all mapped out and Chamber utilised to launch the years events.

T24/33

ALLOTMENTS



To receive Allotment Officers Report and discuss matters relating to Allotments.

[Attached appendix B]

T24/34

CEMETERY

To note the Cemetery Managers report and discuss any matters arising.

Verbal update from the Clerk

- T24/35 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES**
 [📎] To note and discuss matters relating to Footpaths & Open Spaces.
 To discuss recent update regarding the decision not to add Bell Street on to a regular gritting route by the County Council
[Attached appendix C]
Cllr Rider
- T24/36 OPERATIONS**
 [📎] To receive, note the Clerks report relating to Operations.
- Hailey Centre
 - CCTV
 - Sawbobus.
 - Jubilee Gardens
- [Attached appendix D]*
- T24/37 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY**
 [📎]
 - To note the latest Eco-Audit Working Party minutes 24th January 2025*[Attached appendix E]*
- T24/38 REDUCING THE COUNCILS CARBON FOOTPRINT**
 [📎] Update on progress in relation to the following two items;
- To aim to achieve net zero for the council's own generated emissions by 2030 and do all that we can to assist in achieving this by the same year for the wider town.
 - In the interim, commit the council towards reducing its own carbon footprint to an absolute minimum by May 2027 [end of current council's term] whilst at the same time identifying a pathway to offset its residual carbon.
 - To review the 3 acorns report and debate the actions to progress the recommendations.
 - Reduction in skip use at the cemetery.
 - To explore the cost difference in buying out of the current electricity supply contract. If this is a viable option to then explore gas boiler replacement for heating system to the old part of the office.
 - Change of bank to greener option, i.e. Coop or Unity Trust
 - Explore solar panel energy production.
 - Explore water harvesting at the new allotment site at West Road.
- [Attached appendix F]*
- T24/39 TOWN ACTION PLAN**
 [📎]
 - Update on the 2023-27 Town Action Plan,*Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt*
[Attached appendix G]
- T24/40 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT**
 - Future engagement opportunities
- T24/41 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
 To note items for future agendas

Appendix A

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 8pm on **Monday 14th October 2024.**

Those present

Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Dawn Newell
Cllr Salvatore Pagdades

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt
Cllr John Rider

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk 1 x Councillors

T24/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Simon Penney
[prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt sec'd Cllr Salvatore Pagdades]

T24/17 PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised

T24/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members.

T24/19 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15th July 2024 (T01)
[prop Cllr Salvatore Pagdades sec'd Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt]

There were no matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

Owner	Action	Completed
Cllr Reece Smith	A tree stump opposite Reedings School has become a trip hazard. To be raised with SYPRC who may own the land the stump is on	Cllr Reece Smith liaised with garden maintenance manager who stated that the root if removed could harm the tree. SYPRC will explore further options.
Clerk	To add LCWIP and the local recovery plan to the next Full Town Council meeting 22 nd July 2024	Added 16 th July 2024
Clerk	To add the Town market to be	Added 16th July 2024

	discussed at the next Full Town Council meeting 22 nd July 2024	
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T24/20 ALLOTMENTS

Received and noted – Allotments Officer Report

The report was talked through by the Clerk. Cllr John Rider asked if the meters are read to assess if there is a water leak. The Clerk confirmed this was done every month.

T24/21 CEMETERY

Received and noted – Cemetery update from the Clerk.

The Clerk explained that the cemetery needed to be assessed to future proof availability by purchasing land to the rear of the cemetery. Once this has been explored the development of the cemetery needs to be assessed as current prices are low compared to other locations. It was felt that the first step was to assess if the land was available for expansion and the cost that will be incurred. Grave digging and costings were to be assessed in the short term.

ACTION – Clerk to discuss land purchase, grave digging and funeral costs with cemetery manager.

T24/22 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES

Cllr John Rider explained that the riparian rights had not been settled and a residents solicitor did not feel the house owner did not have responsibility. It was requested the Clerk asks the County and District Council regarding ownership and maintenance of the pathway and trees.

EHDC have agreed to assess the gritting adding Bell Street to the routes.

Cllr Annelise Furnace raised the concerns of footpath 9 surfacing and explained a member of Sustainable Sawbridgeworth has submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. This has been submitted to East Herts Council as Sawbridgeworth Council and Herts County Council had asked for this path to be added to the plans for improvement but this appears to have been removed from the agreed plans with the developer. The FOI request may assist in understanding why and who made this decision.

The Clerk explained he has written to the ramblers association to request any paths obstructed they encounter for them to report this to him for further action to clear this. He also has formulated a letter to go out to residents who have overgrown trees or bushes to request these are cut back to derestrict any footpaths.

Cllr Furnace stated Mr Royle is working with EHDC officer Nicholas Maddox regarding grass cutting schedules and will be checking these for completion when walking around the town.

ACTION – Clerk to write to the County and District Council regarding ownership and maintenance of the pathway and trees.

T24/23 OPERATIONS

To receive, note and discuss matters relating to Operations. The Clerk covered the following items:

- Sawbobus: The Clerk explained that an approach had been made regarding sponsorship but the Town Council were not desperate to take on sponsorship but will be exploring a previous approach to Dorrington's Bakers.
- Public toilets have had a lock repaired and the toilets remain operational.
- CCTV has been used to collate evidence for a fail to stop accident which has led to a prosecution. Cllr Salvatore Pagdades asked if the CCTV could be monitored as per Hertford and Bishops Stortford. The Clerk explained that the cost would be restrictive due to the high cost and would negatively impact on the budget.

T24/24 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY
Received and noted – Eco Audit Report

T24/25 REDUCING THE COUNCILS CARBON FOOTPRINT

Update on progress in relation to the following two items;

- To aim to achieve net zero for the council's own generated emissions by 2030 and do all that we can to assist in achieving this by the same year for the wider town.
- In the interim, commit the council towards reducing its own carbon footprint to an absolute minimum by May 2027 [end of current council's term] whilst at the same time identifying a pathway to offset its residual carbon.

Cllr Annelise Furnace updated the meeting with the following:
 In 2019 the 3 Acorns company produced a report following an Eco Audit and a second report has now been received. The following items had been taken from the report for discussion and progressing. If agreed.

- Reduction in skip use at the cemetery.
- To explore the cost difference in buying out of the current electricity supply contract. If this is a viable option to then explore gas boiler replacement for heating system to the old part of the office.
- To explore a change of bank to greener option, i.e. Coop or Unity Trust
- Explore solar panel energy production.
- Explore water harvesting at the new allotment site at West Road.

Resolved: To explore the above points to reduce the councils carbon footprint as per the advice from the 3 Acorns report.
[prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt sec'd Dawn Newell]

ACTION – Clerk to arrange for the Three Acorns report to be put onto the Town Council website.

T24/26 TOWN ACTION PLAN

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt updated the meeting with current progression on the action plan.

- There has been some good work in road repairs but utility companies are still causing disruption
- Police liaison has improved and offices regularly used by local officers with the police car parked in the carpark. Police visibility has improved with councillor engagement.

- Sawbobus commuter service is being explored and a driver has completed a route for suggested commuter use and the times suited a link to train travel. Further work needs to be completed to assess if a different operator's license is needed.
- The Rangers have a new grit spreader and salt reserves for the winter months.
- Road treatment in the winter is being monitored by Cllr John Rider.
- Rangers are now completing simple bush cutting where it is reported causing issues for pedestrians.
- The car park consultation has now closed and an update should be released soon.
- Encouragement should be made for residents to fault report via the District Council website rather than on social media.
- A Christmas event with shops was discussed and Cllr Greg Rattey and the Events manager are exploring a project on the run up to Christmas.
- The market was discussed and a response from East Herts Council regarding the use of the Bell Street car park was being sought.
- A booklet was being explored to contain local information with who to contact and for what, key contacts, business directory, local events, sports groups and venues for hire.

ACTIONS –

- the Clerk to contact the head at Leventhorpe to explore if students could assist in producing a booklet with local information.
- The Clerk to explore licenses required to run a commuter bus service.

T24/27 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

- Cross border meeting highlighted sharing each councils events calendar to assist in promoting and negate clashing events.
- Energy Hub at the Christmas lights event.
- Police regular engagement patrols along Bell Street, times and dates to be confirmed.

T24/28 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

ACTION - Clerk to ask if RHSO require an item on the agenda for the 300th anniversary celebrations in 2025?

Meeting ended at 8:33pm

ACTIONS

Owner	Action	Completed
Clerk / Cemetery manager	Cemetery, to discuss land purchase, grave digging and funeral costs with cemetery manager	
Clerk	To arrange for the 3 Acorns report to be put onto the Town Council website.	
Clerk	To write County and District Council regarding ownership and maintenance of the pathway and trees along footpath 22.	Email sent to Herts County officers 15 th October 2024
Clerk	To contact the head at Leventhorpe to explore if students could assist in producing a booklet with local information.	Email sent 15 th October 2024 to Malcolm Wight Head. He is liaising with the IT department.
Clerk	To explore licenses required to run a commuter bus service	
Clerk	To ask if the RHSO committee require an item on the agenda for the 300 th anniversary celebrations.	Emails sent to Ruth and Eric 15 th October 2024

Appendix B

Sawbridgeworth Town Council

Paper from the Allotments Officer

To: Amenities Committee
From: Laura Carter
Subject: **Allotment Report February 2025**
Date: 03 February 2025

General Tenancy renewals were distributed in October to all continuing tenants. We have received the renewals along with payments for the upcoming season.

Southbrook

Flooding - This year, we have experienced fewer flooding incidents on active plots. A small working party of the Southbrook Allotment Association, along with assistance from the rangers have planted an orchard in areas previously affected by floods. This should help soak up flooding as the trees and bushes mature.

Bird Flu – The Chicken Club are prioritising the health of the chickens, as they always do with regular checks and stringent care measures to prevent bird flu.

West Road Allotments The allotments have been completed with fencing, gates, and a connected water supply. The solicitors are finalising the handover paperwork. Once transferred, the allotments will need to be registered with the Land Registry before they can be used. This process currently takes 12 months but may be expedited if we can demonstrate that tenants are ready to start working on the plots.

In the meantime, plots can be marked out, and water use can be planned to minimize reliance on mains water.

Please see photographs of the new site taken at the end of January 2025.



Appendix C

From: Ross Bevan <Ross.Bevan@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 November 2024 13:49

To: Eric Buckmaster <Eric.Buckmaster@hertfordshire.gov.uk>; Cllr John Rider <john.rider@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk>

Subject: Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth

Hi Eric/John,

Hope you're both well.

Following on from our various discussions, we have now had a chance to trial Bell Street Sawbridgeworth on a live practice run with one of our smaller 3.5t gritting vehicles.

Unfortunately the gritting vehicle was unable to safely pass through without using/mounting part of the kerbline & footway due to the parked vehicles along Bell Street. The issue being that once the parking restrictions are no longer in place in the evening, vehicles are able to park freely along Bell Street, and what is already a narrow road is reduced considerably.

We aren't able to use the footway to pass and re-pass as this is considered a safety issue for pedestrians, along with having a maintenance implication too. Therefore it remains the case that this location is considered inaccessible and therefore doesn't meet our criteria and we won't be able to routinely treat it as part of our gritting network.

Whilst this doesn't change the situation for the coming season there are a few considerations below which might provide a resolution for the future. I'm conscious we want to try and find a route forward for routes like this around the county, and not just shelve the issue indefinitely.

- **Consideration of parking restrictions.** The primary issue for the smaller gritting vehicle is that of an evening cars can park and this narrows the road. If the parking restrictions were extended in duration, the full road width would be maintained. Most (although not all) gritting runs take place around 7pm and 4am. Clearly there is a flip side to any extension in that residents & businesses must rely heavily on the ability to park so any extension may prove unpopular on that front.
- **Self-Help Scheme.** We are still offering up to 1 tonne of 'free' salt for all schools, town, parish, district councils to use in their areas. I'm not sure if you already tap into this offer, but it is available (and we are able to be flexible on how much salt we provide). This might prove useful if there is somewhere to store, and the people power to spread it, in keeping footways in particular clear during periods of severe weather.
- **HST Contract Change & evolution of our Winter Service.** From October 2025 we will have a new maintenance contract in place at HCC. Our fleet is likely to be reviewed, as is the product(s) we use to treat our network. We currently use a liquid solution on some of our cycleways/footways (as a trial) and there is a possibility, although not yet a commitment, that this could be used on some carriageways. Where this might become relevant is that it can be administered by a small tractor with a liquid tank (it's what we currently do on our cycleway trials). We don't currently have sign off for using this liquid product on carriageways which are higher trafficked than cycleways & footways clearly, but it is something we are exploring. Bell Street, therefore could be the kind of location where in future years we utilise an even smaller vehicle (a tractor) with a liquid solution to treat. There are a few things that would need to align; our Winter Service Plan would need to state that we are using liquid solutions on carriageways and we'd need a sign off that it was considered sufficiently effective/safe on carriageways. We'd need to expand our current fleet to have use of more than one of these tractor vehicles on the fleet. And our new provider would need to be happy with the implementation of this.

As ever there are some moving parts but I think a combination of point 2 in the shorter term and point 3 in the medium-longer term are probably our best bet. I appreciate it'll be a disappointment we haven't been able to resolve the matter for this coming season, but I am continuing to push for a

solution to locations like this (there are a number of similar cases around the county), so that we can provide as much network coverage as possible. Inevitably budget, logistics and safety tend to shape most of what our service can provide.

If you would like to discuss the Self-Help salt offering then let me know as we are in the process of delivering this salt currently. The scheme closed on 31st October but we can still accommodate your order if needed.

Kind Regards,



Ross Bevan

**Assistant Network Manager – Winter Service | Network
Management - Strategy | Growth & Environment
Hertfordshire County Council**

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Appendix D

Sawbridgeworth Town Council

Memorandum from the Town Clerk

To: TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
From: Christopher Hunt
Subject: Clerks update
Date: 10th February 2025

Hailey Centre

Liaison with Kerry Reynolds is taking place as dates are being sought to start the refurbishment. It is hoped the summer period could be possible and that the Chamber can be used as a temporary measure to support the continuity of the meetings and events usually held at the centre.

CCTV

Recent CCTV enquiries made by the police has allowed evidence to be captured of a road traffic collision.

Three cameras have been fitted and a booster for the WIFI signal neat to entrance to the Bell Street car park. These improve coverage of the London Road end of Bell Street and also cover Jubilee Gardens to prevent and detect anti-social behaviour as the gardens are developed.

Sawbobus

The bus continues to run with healthy passenger numbers and has required less maintenance this year. Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt is developing a commuter bus service pre and post the normal operating times of the Sawbobus

Jubilee Gardens

Jubilee Gardens will move into the next phase of tree removal and planning application and tender document for the groundwork. Once these have been submitted and agreed the project can move towards the pathways being positioned and replanting started.

Appendix E

Eco-Audit Working Group Meeting via Teams, 24 January 2025 at 12.00

Attendees: Cllr Annelise Furnace (AF) Chair; Bob Reed (BR); Hazel Mead (HM); David Royle (DR); Chris Hunt (CH), Joanne Sargant (JS); notes taken by DR.

Apologies: Cllrs Ruth Buckmaster (access issues) and Eric Buckmaster (another meeting).

1 STC Eco-Audit next steps. CH confirmed the following action on the Eco Audit report: Allotments water issue resolved; LED bulbs in use; 19-20C temperature when chamber occupied; recycled paper and bin; green spaces managed at West Road and cemetery; ranger's tools to be battery-driven when replaced; eco-friendly cleaning products in use; green energy tariff from 2026; banking change possibly to coop being considered; audit monitoring through full council and committees.

2 Energy Hub. AF reported Christmas Lights feedback (managed by Sustainable Sawbridgeworth members): 180 leaflets on Christmas sustainability savings, home energy efficiency given out. Next event 25 January in Bell Street car park with Raynet vehicle. Focus on deeper conversations with residents based on Sustainable Sawbridgeworth members' experiences. Key messages: lower cost heating/warmer home/reduced climate impact/grants for home improvements.

3 Citizen Science Group. BR reported: support from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust on measuring nitrates/phosphates in the river; River Day on 31 May will include pond dipping and water testing.

4 Sustainable Sawbridgeworth (SS) update. DR/AF reported : Energy Hub participation as above; members have signed up for EHDC promoted Climate Conversation workshops from March to help volunteers talk on a range of topics and have accessed Energy Savings Trust training resources through EHDC; booklet of vegetarian recipes produced. Carbon Footprint Bananas Game purchased, to be shared with residents, school eco councils etc. Green Business Award to be revisited. No real progress on resurfacing Footpath 9 as less polluted route to/from West Road to Cambridge Road or on responsibility for path alongside Mandeville's playing field. **Forthcoming events:** May Fayre 4 May, Banana Game to be deployed to engage the public; Repair Café 17 May; River Day 31 May; Veggie Feast TBC .

5 Allotments update. HM reported: Southbrook has planted 125 trees for hedging plus 50 fruit trees; pursuing bird conservation grant (possible bird boxes on sheds); no update on Bullfields allotment. CH confirmed West Road allotments handover imminent.

6 Air quality real time data update. AF reported that SS members and councillors have access to monitor data; need to talk to data company ; unsure if any schools were currently monitoring air quality (DR to follow up with primary schools; maybe schools would like to reintroduce a similar Spring in Your Step focus); Clare Ginders still actively pursuing idling etc. with Leventhorpe; CH noted apparently high unsafe readings he had seen.

7 Pishiobury Local Nature Reserve. BR reported that formal Local Nature Reserve registration was with Natural England but not yet on their website. Only two LNRs in East Herts. Comprehensive series of events planned in the Park by the Friends for children, families and specialised activities, detailed on Friends Facebook page and forthcoming updated website. STC and SS will help publicise.

8 EV charging: no update. AF to chase up with EHDC. CH discussed with Co-op at meeting on 23rd January

9 LARA/HCCSP conference update (Retrofit Accelerator): AF and DR attended workshop 2 in November; Workshop 3 on 21 January for sector specific inputs; community stakeholders to be re-involved at a later date. No timetable.

10 AOB: none

Next Meeting date: 15 April

Appendix F

Sawbridgeworth Town Council

Memorandum from the Town Clerk

To: TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
From: Christopher Hunt
Subject: Clerks update
Date: 10th February 2025

Review of the 3 Acorns Report and Discussion on Progressing Recommendations

1. **Reduction in Skip Use at the Cemetery**

- Skip use has been reduced by almost 50%, with changes now occurring every two months instead of monthly.

2. **Exploration of Cost Difference in Buying Out the Current Electricity Supply Contract**

- The current contract will expire in 12 months. The buyout cost has been quoted at £3,612.50.
- If viable, we will explore replacing the gas boiler for the heating system in the old part of the office.

3. **Change of Bank to a Greener Option (e.g., Co-op or Unity Trust)**

- We are investigating changing banks but face issues with locations and the ability to pay in cash in part payments. The nearest Co-op bank is in Chelmsford and would be the greenest option.

4. **Exploration of Solar Panel Energy Production**

- This option has been previously explored. However, due to large trees on the south side of the building, the panels would not generate sufficient electricity as they would be shaded for long periods of the day.

5. **Exploration of Water Harvesting at the New Allotment Site at West Road**

- Laura is investigating potential legionella issues from stored water. Once this has been assessed, we will consider setting up a system to reduce mains water use.

Appendix G

Sawbridgeworth Town Action Plan - Update – February 2025

Whilst the Sawbridgeworth Town Action Plan contains a number of issues for which the Town Council is not responsible, progress continues to be made across several areas, including:

- **Sawbobus commuter service** – a two-week passenger trial will run from 24th February – 7th March. Uptake and feedback will be assessed before instigating a full paid-service. The planned provision of this service is in response to comments raised in the Town Action Plan (TAP) regarding congestion, air quality, availability of parking at the station, and community cohesion including Spellbrook and the new estates.
- **Jubilee Gardens** – Notices have gone up around the green showing the proposed design, and information about tree removal, which is due to take place soon. The development of this site has been planned for several years, and will deliver on requests in the TAP to ensure access to green spaces and community facilities.
- **Footpaths** – Funding is expected to develop Footpath 9; resurfacing works are taking place soon around Yewlands; the Rangers have cleared detritus from Footpath 21 (Fair Green to Vantorts Park); and Rangers will keep an eye on the pavement opposite the Maltings on Station Road.
- **Parking** - Draft proposals for changes to parking charges in Bell Street have been published by East Herts and are out for consultation. Cllr Eric, Cllr Greg, Town Clerk and others are meeting on 04/02 to discuss parking issues around the town centre.
- **Air pollution** - the Air Quality Monitor has been installed and data is being tracked by STC and Cllrs. Town Clerk has requested training and access.
- **EV charging points** – Co-op declined the suggestion due to concerns about parking if a charger was faulty. Cllr Angus has sent an enquiry to Connected Kerb, and will follow up with Shell.
- **Library** – refurbishment works are scheduled for FY25/26.
- **Crime prevention** – STC has further expanded our CCTV coverage across the centre of the town, with 3 new cameras. Footage has been of assistance to, and praised by, the local police.
- **Street lighting** – the main current issue is the lighting on Station Road which has been out for several months. Cllr Eric has raised this with HCC Highways, and it has been escalated to UK Power Networks as it is an electrical issue. Cllr Eric continues to chase.
- **Litter bins** – Cllr Eric secured a commitment from EHDC to retain the litter bin on the corner of Cutforth Road. Residents are encouraged to report to EHDC any bins that are overflowing.
- **Shops** – the Christmas gift scheme – a partnership between STC and local businesses - worked very well, with over 400 gift bags donated. The business WhatsApp group is established and provides a forum for important communications.
- **Farmers Market** – the market has now been budgeted for in FY25/26, and further planning will take place once the Town Projects Manager returns.
- **Town Council meetings** – more people are aware of STC's work and meetings due to recent high profile issues (Leventhorpe Pool and 28 Knight Street). The Town Clerk is working on plans for the Annual Town Meeting (24th March), to ensure it provides a greater platform for community groups and organisations, and more opportunities for residents to engage with them.