



MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

**(Incorporating, Mayors' Report, Environmental Audit and
Financial Statement)**

CONTENTS:

Page

2	Summary of the work of the Town Council
7	Councillors' details
8	Mayors' Report
9	Green Charter – Annual Environment Audit
14	Report from the Member for Regeneration
15	Balance Sheet
16	Profit and Loss Statement
21	Yearly Trends – Charts
23	Supporting Notes

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL DURING 2007-2008

INTRODUCTION

The Council has 11 elected members. The election in May 2007, saw 1 Conservative gain, with the Council now consisting of 7 Liberal Democrat Councillors and 4 Conservative Councillors. All Councillors strive to ensure the effective provision of services for both residents and visitors to Matlock. The Council's activities are funded, in the main, by the Council precept.

THE COUNCIL

The full Council oversees all activities that the Council undertakes. It has five committees, Finance and Audit, Christmas, Matlock in Bloom, Health and Safety and Complaints, and two working parties; Staff review and Projects. None of the groups currently have delegated powers – the full Council makes all decisions.

The full Council meets at 7.00pm in the Small Hall of the Imperial Rooms in Matlock, on the first and third Monday of each Month (they do not meet on the second Monday in August). Committees meet by agreement. Prior notification of meetings is always given via the Imperial Rooms notice board on the front of the building and members of the public and press are always welcome to attend any meeting.

Business Plan

The Council have a Business Plan with the overall aim "To conserve and improve Matlock as an attractive and sustainable place in which to live, visit and to do business."

The 4 main Priorities of Matlock Town Council are to:

- Support residents and community & voluntary groups
- Develop a prosperous business community
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Improve the Council

'Champions' have been appointed to oversee these specific areas of the Council's work.

Quality Council Status

The Clerk has attained the CiLCA certificate, which enables the Council to apply for Quality Council Status should they wish to do so.

Planning

The Town Council is consulted on planning applications in their area. All applications, for discussion at meetings, are advertised on notice boards throughout the Town. This enables

members of the public to submit their comments to both the Town Council and the District and County Councils.

The Environment

An Environmental Audit is produced each year by the Councillor Responsible for the Environment. The Council maintains several areas of land throughout the town for the benefit of the local populace – Denefields, the Princess Diana Memorial Garden (Hillside), Kiln Park and, Bailey's Tump – and provides hanging baskets and planters throughout the Town. A copy of this years' environmental audit is enclosed.

Allotments

The Council manages 52 allotments at Chesterfield Road in Matlock. All the allotments are let and there is a waiting list. A competition is held annually as part of the Matlock in Bloom Competition, encouraging allotment holders to keep their allotments clean and tidy.

Grant Aid

One of the powers that the Council uses enables them to consider payment of Grant Aid to local community groups and organisations. Many groups have benefited throughout the year from this aid. A list can be found in the financial report.

Publicity

The Council believes that it is important to keep its residents informed of their activities. They have 7 noticeboards throughout the town with 3 of these being in the town centre. Members of the local press normally attend council meetings.

The Town Council website has been a great success, attracting increasingly more and more visitor numbers. It is proving to be a valuable community resource.

Spring 2007 saw the publication of a Town Council newsletter which was distributed to all the households in Matlock. Previous to this, the newsletter was available on the web, or by request. The Council aims to publish a newsletter four times a year.

Twinning

Twinning became popular after the Second World War and was encouraged to break down barriers and prejudices between nations with the aim that this could help prevent another global conflict.

Matlock is twinned with Eaubonne, near Paris. Regular visits take place between the two communities and members of the public are welcome to join the Matlock/Eaubonne Twinning Association. Regular fundraising events are held throughout the year. The current Mayor of Matlock is the president of the Association.

Imperial Rooms

Matlock Town Council runs the Imperial Rooms, a community facility in the centre of Matlock. It is currently well used by all groups within the community, however buildings of this nature in Matlock are in short supply. The Council are conscious that to increase the fees to cover costs for this valuable facility would exclude many well deserving groups of people and constantly strive to keep an even balance. This year the Council spent £8,442.49 on improvements and upkeep of the Imperial Rooms and wish to continue exploring the possibility of developing the rooms as a more valued resource within the local community. The Reception is now fully staffed and is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

The Civic Function

This year the Civic Service was held at All Saints' Church on Smedley Street, followed by the 'reception' at the Imperial Rooms. The Mayor has represented the Town at various functions throughout the County and has also undertaken a number of local engagements. His report is included in this document.

Walking Leaflets and Town Guide/Trail

The Town Council publish a series of walks leaflets that take in both the scenery and sites of interest throughout the town, and have worked with Matlock Civic Association in the production of a Town Guide/Trail. Plans are afoot for a second trail booklet.

Staff

OFFICE		OTHER	
Town Clerk	Susan Smith	Caretaker	Jennifer Land
Community Development	Catherine Rawas	Caretaker	Herbert Bennett
Clerical Assistant (Finance)	Karen Jenkinson	Outdoor Worker	James 'Jamie' Brocklehurst
Clerical Assistant	Indre Plieskyte	Outdoor Worker	Howard 'Fred' Furniss
		Relief Caretaker /Outdoor Worker	Christopher Rankin
		Groundwork Project Officer	Ben Arnold

All the Council staff are committed to helping residents and visitors to Matlock.

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Environment

For a full overview of the Council's environmental activities please see the environmental audit.

Matlock In Bloom Garden Competition

Residents are invited to enter the annual garden competition run by the Council each year. The standard of entries is always high and the judges are constantly impressed by the ingenuity of some of the entries. Alongside the garden competition is a smaller competition run for the children of the local schools, the Sunflower Competition and an award for the best kept allotment. Both residents and prizewinners of both competitions are invited to attend a presentation evening in September of each year.

The Matlock in Bloom committee also advises on the bulb planting programme throughout the town and suggests various ways of enhancing the townscape.

East Midlands In Bloom

The Council once again entered the East Midlands in Bloom Competition. Matlock usually ranks highly and have won the Best Small Town Category in 2000. This year (Summer 2007) were awarded Silver in the Town Category.

Discover Denefields

The Council, working with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire Dales, have been developing a programme of community involvement on Denefields, two ancient fields crossed by footpaths on a slope just above the town centre. The Council manages these fields on behalf of Derbyshire Dales District Council and hope that with the help of Groundwork they will be able to encourage local residents to take pride in this valuable asset to the town. Working parties are held each Thursday morning, led by a Groundwork Project Officer.

Community Events:

Remembrance Day

As usual, the Remembrance Day service was co-ordinated by the Royal British Legion who work in conjunction with the Town Council. The Council holds its own services at Pic Tor and Starkholmes memorials with the main parade being through the Town to the War Memorial at Hall Leys Park.

Band Concerts

A series of band concerts were organised by the Council in Hall Leys Park throughout the summer. The programme is to be expanded in Summer 2008.

Farmers' Markets

The Farmers' Market in Matlock continues to be well supported and has found a home at the Imperial Rooms where we can offer both indoor and outdoor pitches, with or without electric.

The markets are held on the third Saturday of each month. In 2007 the market was supported by New Environmental Economy (NEE).

Christmas

Christmas Weekend - Along with the Matlock Business Group, the Town Council organises the Christmas Festival annually on the first full weekend of December. Trees and illuminations deck the town to make for a very festive feel. After the success of the additional marquee in 2006, it was again provided this year, gaining many comments of appreciation. It is hoped to continue along the same lines next year.

Regeneration Initiatives:

Matlock Regeneration

The Sainsbury's store and new road opened in Autumn 2007 with a mixed response being received from the residents and businesses in the Town. Whilst there are many 'teething problems' still to be addressed, it is hoped that the people of Matlock will grow to like their new neighbour. The town still awaits the new housing development in Cawdor Quarry (Matlock Spa).

Imperial Room Refurbishment

As mentioned previously, the Council continues to seek improvements to the Imperial Rooms and hope that eventually, funding will be found to enhance their community resource.

Matlock Breakfast Club and Matlock Partnership

The 'social' side of the Business Network has flourished, with well attended breakfast meetings taking place regularly. Funding from the DDEP Progressive Towns fund, has meant that in early 2008, the Town Council, working with Derbyshire Dales District Council obtained funding for the development of a Matlock Partnership and the provision of Interpretation Panels throughout the town. Our Community Development Worker, Catherine Rawas, facilitates these meetings and will continue to work closely with these partners in the future.

Friends of Matlock Station

A new group has been formed, supported by Matlock Town Council, to ensure that Matlock Railway Station looks it's best. Already the group have installed planters and regularly litter pick the area, and whilst there has been controversy over the footbridge at the station, they are committed to improving the area for both residents and visitors to the Town.

CONCLUSION

Matlock Town Council works hard to keep local resident and visitors to Matlock well informed. With the planned regeneration initiatives starting to take effect, Matlock is set to become a more vibrant and welcoming place to visit and live.

The Council welcomes views from any visitors and residents in Matlock on any aspect of the town and will endeavour to answer any queries posed to the best of its ability.

MAY 2007/2008

MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Contact Details

Mayor Responsible for the Community	Cllr David Barker 3 Paxton Close, Sheriff Fields Matlock DE4 3DT <i>(Dimple Rd West & South of River)</i>	55248 <i>davidatmatlock@aol.com</i>
Deputy Mayor	Cllr Mrs Cate Hopkinson 41 Overdale Matlock DE4 3ES <i>(Dimple Road East)</i>	56822 <i>cateofmatlock@aol.com</i>
Responsible for Finance/ Administration and Footpaths (Member Treasurer)	Cllr Tony Rosser 233 Starkholmes Road Matlock DE4 5JE <i>(Starkholmes & Riber)</i>	582855 <i>tony_rosser@hotmail.com</i>
Responsible for the Environment	Cllr Martin Burfoot 12 Megdale, Sheriff Fields Matlock DE4 3JW <i>(Dimple Rd West & South of River)</i>	584301 <i>martin.burfoot@peakdistrict.gov.uk</i>
Responsible for Allotments	Cllr Barry Hopkinson 41 Overdale Matlock DE4 3ES <i>(Matlock Green)</i>	56822 <i>BrryHpk@aol.com</i>
Responsible for Regeneration	Cllr Stephen Flitter 14 Hurst Rise Matlock DE4 3EP <i>(Hurst Farm)</i>	582065 <i>steveflittermatlock@hotmail.com</i>
	Cllr Mrs Susan Burfoot 12 Megdale, Sheriff Fields Matlock DE4 3JW <i>(Dimple Road East)</i>	584301 <i>sue.burfoot@derbyshiredales.gov.uk</i>
	Cllr Geoff Stevens 17 Allen Hill Matlock DE4 3LR <i>(Nth of Jackson Rd & Wellington St)</i>	57677 <i>geoff.stevens@derbyshiredales.gov.uk</i>
	Cllr Barrie Tipping 8 Hawleys Close Matlock DE4 5LY <i>(Chesterfield Road East)</i>	582415 <i>bt8773@aol.com</i>
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	Cllr Mrs Ursula Lunn 52 Overdale Matlock DE4 3ES <i>(Hurst Farm)</i>	581571 <i>ziggysfishtank@yahoo.co.uk</i>

MAYORS' REPORT 2007-08

The most important events during my year of office was the completion of the Sainsbury/Relief Road section of the Cawdor Quarry development and the setting up of the Matlock Partnership. It is a pity that the opening of Sainsbury's was marred by many problems such as the landscaping, and controversy over the footbridge and walling and one way traffic on the bridge. The new partnership brings hope of more regeneration for the town.

As Mayor I have been to many functions and all have been enjoyable. I attended a garden party at Tansley House, opened Starkholmes Carnival and a function on Tor Rise to raise money for Macmillan Care. I was present at concerts in a marquee on the Hall Leys as part of Matlock Live. I opened the new Red Cross shop, started a sponsored walk for the staff of M and Co, attended a reception to mark the formation of the Mercian Regiment in Derby and witnessed the induction of the new incumbent for Holy Trinity, Matlock Bath. I also attended the official opening of Sainsbury's, Bolsover Firework display, a fund raising evening for the British Heart Foundation at the Edgefold Club and the Rotary Clubs 80th anniversary dinner at the New Bath. I judged the annual Boxing Day Raft race on the Derwent. I was at the AGM for SPODA and Matlock Talking Newspaper along with several other events.

In addition I was present at all the Remembrance Services and the memorial service at Crich for our local regiment. The French from Eaubonne visited us in June which culminated in a dinner at the New Bath. I also attended the first public concert of the renamed Sir Richard Arkwright Masson Mills Band at Highfields, a sell out with over 500 people attending.

There was also the usual round of Civic Services for neighbouring towns, Bakewell, Ashborne, Wirksworth, Belper and a new one this year Ripley. In addition I attended the Derbyshire Dales Civic Service at Marston Montgomery plus the Legal Service and Evensong on Easter Sunday, both in Derby Cathedral. The High Sheriffs at home at Chatsworth was also enjoyable.

My Civic Service was held in All Saints Parish Church in April and at the reception afterwards I was pleased to give out achievement awards to Mick Tomlinson for forty nine years service as treasurer to Matlock Green Scouts and Guides, Sara Pagliano for her dedicated work with the Air Training Corps in Matlock, Josh Moody for winning national events in athletics and Sam Mak for being the World Champion in his class at Wushu which is a Chinese Martial Art.

I also held two fund raising events for my charity Macmillan Cancer Care, the Dalesmen Choir at Matlock Methodist Church and a concert put on for me by the Matlock Musical Theatre and Matlock Band at All Saints Church. Together the total raised was about £1000.

I would like to thank everybody who have supported me during the past year especially Indre who has looked after my diary and Maureen Mannion and Paddy Mellor who have acted as my consorts. I wish my successor every success in their year of office.

Councillor David Barker
12 May 2008

MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL GREEN CHARTER – ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT AUDIT, MAY 2008

Cllr Martin Burfoot, Lead Councillor for the Environment, 2007/8

COUNCIL MANAGEMENT

The Council has continued to maintain the 26 miles of public footpaths in the parish, but this work has had to compete with other environmental maintenance work eg. the Bailey's Tump site and bus shelters. However, the contract with Derby and Derbyshire Groundwork has allowed the employment of a part-time Project Officer, who has supervised a team of invaluable and willing volunteers, mainly on Denefields, but on other sites as well, carrying out some very useful management and repair tasks. Also, the Council has taken on a further employee, who is assisting with open space and footpath maintenance work.

A comprehensive scheme to tidy, prune or fell some 80 or more trees planted by the Council over the past 20 years or so (mainly on road verges), or inherited on land such as the allotments site, is currently being carried out by a local tree surgery contractor. Current restrictions on roadside tree planting by the County Council has been a deterrent to further tree planting in recent years, and will be a particular obstacle to the Town Council's environmental enhancement plans in the future.

The new heating system at the Imperial Rooms has proved to be successful, but the planned revamp and extension of the building has not been progressed, mainly due to lack of a suitable external funding source. However, continuing cramped conditions for Council staff demands that some improvements, even medium term, will have to be agreed soon and a more comprehensive scheme linked to the town centre 'Masterplan' proposals in due course.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Denefields, as last year, has continued to benefit from the regular efforts, not only of the Groundwork Project Officer, but also of an enthusiastic and willing group of volunteers working under his supervision. The group includes Bill Quinlan – our volunteer warden for Denefields.

Following last year's unexpected felling of the entire row of Lombardy Poplars, along its boundary with Matlock Town Football Club – during which a number of trees planted by the Council some 17 years ago were destroyed or damaged, more trees and shrubs have been planted by the Lead Member for the Environment and a new hedge has been planted along the east side of the same boundary (with the Cricket Club) by the Project Officer and his volunteers. Oak trees, grown and donated to the Council by a resident, have also been planted elsewhere in Denefields, particularly in the vicinity of Denefields Court and the volunteers have just finished replacing the dangerous and deteriorating steps down the hillside from below Lime Tree Road to Denefields Court, on the line of one of the several public footpaths which cross the site.

Bailey's Tump, off Asker Lane – the major project to restore and enhance this important and prominent Second World War site has finally been completed, and was formally opened, with the unveiling of a bronze interpretation plaque, by Peter Attwater, amplified by the 'fly past' of a 'Lancaster' bomber on 10 May, marking the culmination of several years of volunteer effort in conjunction with the Town Council. The success of this project is mainly due to the physical effort of several members of the Civic Association, who have been involved in frequent work parties, along with the effective use of external grants, following detailed design and contract organisation work led by Ken Parker, the long serving Civic Association Secretary and the Council's Lead Member for the Environment. The Town Council's day-to-day management of the site will be crucial in maintaining the site as a useful area of public open space, but also as an important

grassland conservation and wildlife haven, with grassland and hedgerow habitats, as well as a focus for wartime historians.

Tree Management A local arboricultural contractor is currently carrying out a comprehensive tree management and felling project, on behalf of the Town Council, under the supervision of the Lead Member for the Environment. This has included work on trees on the Council's Hillside site, various street trees and trees on the Council's Chesterfield Road allotments. Adequate replacement trees have also been planted - not only in Denefields, but also at Bailey's Tump and on the allotments, where the Council needs to exert its authority, in spite of opposition from some allotment holders to any trees on the site. It is also unfortunate that neither of the two principal councils is pro-active as regards tree and shrub planting for conservation or amenity purposes, particularly on highway land.

Wildlife Conservation Projects More recently, apart from several impressive conservation projects at All Saints Junior School, and St Giles and St Joseph's Primary Schools, we have witnessed the efforts of a small group of allotment holders, who have been working with local school children to create a wildlife garden on the Wellfield site, at the same time harnessing excess water outflow from a spring to form two small ponds.

LITTER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT / RECYCLING

This issue continues to provoke complaints from residents, as in previous years. In particular, since the implementation of the Smoking Ban last year, both cigarette butts and chewing gum have become a serious problem in the vicinity of pubs and bars in Matlock town centre, where landlords are not providing adequate disposal facilities. The District Council does not appear to have any facilities to remove chewing gum from the town centre's already unsightly streets.

As in previous years residents continue to demand a locally accessible Civic Amenity Recycling Site, while the fly tipping of bulky refuse has undoubtedly increased in lay-bys and on verges alongside rural lanes around the edge of the town. While the excellent Saturday morning bulky waste collection service has survived recent service cuts by the District Council, it is obviously only a temporary replacement for a proper, permanently manned site – as provided last year in Ashbourne – but without any element of re-use or recycling.

As last year, despite the presence of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, there remains no evidence that it has had any effect in Matlock whatsoever, and parts of the town remain beset by dog mess and littering is worst at weekends.

As always, the lack of information about the new street cleansing rotas in Matlock remains a mystery, even now that the District Council's own 'Clean Team' has taken over their CCT contract from Focsa. It is to be hoped that road sweeping and gully emptying can be carried out more efficiently in future and the problems of obstruction by roadside parking overcome. Otherwise, some streets, such as Snitterton Road, will scarcely ever be swept, nor gullies emptied and therefore flooding problems will be exacerbated. Many gullies have been blocked and some inoperative for years, thereby increasing surface water run-off. Despite Government advice there has still been no evidence of sustainable drainage techniques adopted for recent building developments, including Sainsbury's, the relief road and associated tarmac surfacing.

Household waste collection remains similar to last year, but there is still some evidence that a minority of residents are disposing of excessive amounts of residual waste. The 'green bin' compostable waste recycling system, now extended to include kitchen waste and cardboard, appears to be working efficiently and well supported by those residents with a wheelie-bin system. However, there is some concern from residents whose properties are less accessible or where wheelie bins are impractical to accommodate. A system using biodegradable plastic bags has been considered by the District Council, but apparently any decision to introduce it postponed

until next year. As before, there has been no progress towards kerbside collection of additional recyclables, such as plastic and cans.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

This important topic has been included this year, given its raised profile nationally, but unfortunately there are still too few examples of renewable energy generation schemes locally. This could, in part, be a symptom of restrictive planning policies, probably justified in Conservation Areas, but also a result of poor design of domestic solar panels and wind turbines in the past, as well as the increasing tendency for additional bedrooms to be incorporated into the roofspace of new properties, thereby reducing the space available for panels. Revised planning guidance from the Government will, hopefully, augment the present advice, so that such proposals become more acceptable to the District Council, while improved technology and design should make such features less obtrusive.

It is highly regrettable that no renewable energy generation was included in the design of the new Sainsbury's store and likewise on the flat roofs of the proposed flats on the former gas-works site, on Bakewell Road.

Furthermore, one of the problems with the new supermarket is the degree of light pollution emanating from the site every night, which has illuminated half of Matlock since the day it opened.

MATLOCK'S TRANSPORT LINKS, PARKING AND TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

The past year has seen the completion of the main features of the town centre relief road – the most dramatic change to our transport links for many years, and yet, regrettably, a scheme which has been vastly over-engineered, encourages excessive speeds over short distances, but incorporates a succession of **traffic signals**, producing a polluting and uneconomic driving style – stop / start and evidence of considerable congestion on Dale Road for most of the day, exacerbated by unnecessary delays caused by the Pelican Crossing. The phasing of the traffic signals is questionable and pedestrians using the new crossing or crossing the Snitterton Road junction simply do not feel safe. The frustration for drivers, and ammunition for their resistance to the one-way system over Matlock Bridge, is further reinforced by the unnecessary traffic signals at the Sainsbury's junction. It is patently obvious that a roundabout would have been ideal at this location, would have kept the traffic moving more consistently and would effectively shorten the longer route back to the town centre.

The entire scheme gives the impression of the worst possible tarmac, concrete and steel dominated 'urban by-pass' type of scheme, excessively wide and exacerbated by unsightly and wholly inappropriate **concrete walls** (allegedly demanded by Network Rail) and **steel crash barriers** throughout (courtesy of Derbyshire County Council), completely without any mitigation.

The road is further urbanised by the extent and size of new **signage** erected and the unnecessary traffic signals already referred to.

Such a scheme, poor though it is could still have been ameliorated to some extent by a high standard of soft landscaping and a sensitively designed bus station and public car park. Regrettably, that has been far from the case, with as low a standard of landscaping as could have been imagined and a bus station forecourt, which is excessively large and, like the car park, exclusively tarmac paved. The **car park** is also badly laid out, with too much wasted space - particularly unfortunate given the shortage of parking spaces in the town centre. The only 'icing on the cake' is perhaps the design of the Bus Station building itself, marred to some extent by the '**ugly footbridge**' and ramp alongside it. This 'engineering' structure is completely unsuited to a Conservation Area site, adjoining a listed building and Victorian Station.

The **landscaping**, still presumably incomplete, lacks both structure and design concept, has been poorly implemented, contrary to the approved scheme and shows a lack of regard for any protection of the shrubs planted, as well as pedestrian desire lines.

A further negative feature of the development is the uncertainty surrounding the anticipated **residential development**, expected to commence immediately after completion of the relief road, but apparently fraught by worse contamination problems than originally predicted. The 'knock on' effect of this is the postponement of any associated infrastructure works, including new roads and the effective treatment of the unsightly, **former regraded quarry slopes** immediately behind the relief road and railway tracks. The railway, which could still prove to be a 'white elephant', divides the supermarket part of the development from the relief road and other associated infrastructure and car parks. It simply accommodates railway sidings demanded by Network Rail and also the notional Peak Rail extension into Matlock Station, still being negotiated, after several years of constant debate.

The new 'one-way' system over **Matlock Bridge**, tends to provoke a backing up of traffic into Crown Square during peak periods, and again has hardly been sensitively designed and surfaced. Nearby, the diverted **riverside footpath**, which was supposed to be upgraded throughout, still appears to be unfinished, with a wide swathe of stone chippings and an unrestored river bank, adjacent to the new drain outfall, as well as a retained, derelict looking timber barrier.

At the opposite end of the scheme, the new raised **roundabout** on Bakewell Road is an appalling indictment of both principal councils involved in its approval. It is poorly constructed, un-drained, with no provision for vehicle overrun and features a further example of low standard and insignificant landscaping. It simply cannot be left in its present state and desperately needs to be re-designed to provide an attractive and meaningful focal point, as requested by the Town Council last year.

Finally, there have been a number of issues arising from the decision, not only to close lower **Snitterton Road** to through traffic, but to physically close it off even to access for residents to and from Bonsall or Snitterton etc. and create, instead, what has become a free, all day, linear car park. Signage at the bottom of the road is confusing, so HGVs are still accessing it, when an 'Access Only order would have been a preferable solution. The closure itself is badly designed; the turning head is too small and has become a parking bay; neither the residents car park nor the turning head have been landscaped; the supermarket access has appalling visibility for pedestrians and the waiting restrictions opposite have not been properly marked or enforced.

All these features of the scheme tend to downgrade its quality in the eyes of both residents and visitors. Overall, it must be the worst possible outcome that could have been imagined by interested residents and town councillors, who have had no responsibility whatsoever for the outcome so far.

The lack of convenient **car parking** facilities at a reasonable price, close to the town centre continues to provoke concern from traders, workers, residents and visitors alike. The District Council has so far refused to take responsibility for the problem, so town centre residents are still

being forced to compete with daytime 'parkers'. It is to be hoped that the **Matlock Masterplan** can incorporate some imaginative additional facilities in due course.

The Masterplan discussions have not progressed in the past year as fast as predicted, so the current proposals have not been developed. Even the expected Traffic Study has not yet materialised, but several meetings have been held of the **Matlock Partnership** (comprising a range of stakeholders), promoted and serviced by the Town Council. The success of this initiative will depend on the achievement, in the short-term, of 'small wins', arising from the conclusions of several working groups, which have already been established.

TRAFFIC CALMING AND ROAD SAFETY

Traffic and road safety issues relating to this topic within the relief road and supermarket development scheme, have already been considered, so the main issues involving the existing town centre are restricted to reaction to the County Council's proposed traffic signals in Crown Square, including the removal of the landmark 'Crown' roundabout. Most people seem to believe that such a solution would be a visual, environmental, traffic congestion and pedestrian disaster. What Crown Square needs, following the opening of the new relief road, which has removed much of the through traffic, are solutions which improve the climate for pedestrians, but also allow through traffic to move reasonably freely and without the daily 'peak period' congestion, exacerbated by the over-provision of traffic signals. The 'shared space' principles, now accepted throughout Europe by many eminent highway engineers, would probably benefit the town centre as part of the Masterplan proposals, and these ideas have been more widely aired during the last year, following presentations by Phil Parker, a leading British exponent of 'shared space' ideas. The promised, experimental pedestrianisation of the bridge needs to be carried out sooner rather than later, in conjunction with switching off the new Dale Road traffic signals and putting in place significant traffic calming and deterrent measures on Starkholmes Road, where 'rat-running' is becoming endemic.

TOWNSCAPE ENHANCEMENT

As in previous years, it has been the Town Council which has taken responsibility for enhancement schemes in the town, in conjunction with the Civic Association, in the absence of any initiatives by the County and District Councils. Smaller groups, such as the **Wild Thyme** Community Garden Project, have been working steadily over several years to develop their already impressive site.

The culmination of the Bailey's Tump restoration scheme, which has certainly enhanced the Asker Lane area, has been referred to previously.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Very few schemes have been completed during the year, except that the **HERS scheme** on Dale Road has been terminated by central Government funding cuts. However, a number of properties have been repaired or restored to their former appearance and their use extended. It appears that work has commenced on some ancillary parts of the **Riber Castle** site and there is currently a revised planning application for **Tansley Wood Mills**. The local Jehovah's Witnesses have recently completed the building of a very attractive new **Kingdom Hall** with associated unit paving, on Bank Road.

THE TOWN COUNCIL'S WATCHDOG ROLE

The Town Council has made representations on every planning application submitted in Matlock – as well as highway schemes and other environmental and policy proposals. These have included a Matlock Bank Conservation Area Analysis and revised boundary, as well as a successful campaign, on behalf of local residents, to resist the proposed re-siting of the County Council staff (NALGO) club to the former Chatsworth Gym on Wellington Street. This was finally rejected following an Appeal to the Secretary of State.

MSB / 12 May 2008

REPORT OF MEMBER FOR REGENERATION ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2008

It is important as a town council to assess the scope of powers, what is locally desired and what is also achievable within budgets set by the council.

The projects working party has enabled the members with responsibility to work closely together by initiating small projects to enhance the town environmentally such as a new seat outside the market, new planter on Lynholmes Road and investigating the treatment of the new island and triangular area of land alongside the new A6.

The appointment of Catherine Rawas as our community development officer opened the way for possible funding opportunities that realised the Wayfinder project and provided a definite link with the business, schools and community groups.

A disappointment was of course the lighting of Matlock Bridge, a project supported by the whole council but gained little momentum as costs were way beyond the councils financial capabilities and work promised by developers did not materialise.

Matlock Alive, the Town Council's newsletter, was produced highlight the Wayfinder project, Interpretation panels, annual Benchmarking survey, Farmers' Markets, Matlock Business Club, Matlock Live and Matlock in Bloom. The next issue is soon to be considered and we should highlight working partnerships and support for community groups, retail and commercial businesses.

A new Council/Community/Business partnership is being developed at the moment, once the constitution has formulated it will form an important link in the towns future development. Catherine has acted as a facilitator bringing people together and now hopefully searching for those vital funds to realise projects to encourage local businesses to develop and prosper.

Farmers' Markets have continued to be successful, bringing a variety of produce and traders to the event. Marketing and publicity will be issues to consider and discussions on an outdoor event could take place if traders agreed.

Friends of Matlock station is another partnership that has been instigated as it is part of the gateway to Matlock alongside the new bus station and is seen to be an important first impression of our town with visitors and commuters. Work has already commenced with new planters and litter picking.

The Town Council has supported Matlock Live forging links with Highfields School and it is hoped that we can now build on that relationship gaining a view to what are the issues affecting the youth of our town and surrounding villages that use our services.

The future development of partnerships taking account of view from the community and business, working alongside civic and interested specialist groups are paramount if we are to succeed. We need to be mindful of our commitment to Fairtrade, Shop Local and Climate Change when making our decisions in our aim to secure a bright future for Matlock.

Cllr Steve Flitter
Lead member for Regeneration
12 May 2008

BALANCE SHEET

March 2008

ASSETS

Royal Bank of Scotland Current Account	£2,681.99	
Royal Bank of Scotland Special Interest Account	£19,023.40	
Royal Bank of Scotland Treasury Reserve	£175,000.00	
Royal Bank of Scotland Mayors' Account	£326.27	
Petty Cash	£108.75	
Undeposited Funds	£313.33	
Shares	£223.30	¹
Debtors	£21,697.27	
Total ASSETS		£219,374.31

LIABILITIES

Creditors	£46,918.08	
VAT Due	(£37,695.96)	
Deposits Collected	£55.00	
PAYE	£943.21	
NIC	£946.82	
Pension Contributions	£2,135.37	
Union Contributions	£112.85	
Total LIABILITIES		£13,415.37

NET ASSETS

£205,958.94

CAPITAL

Current Earnings	£24,261.59	
Historial Balancing Account	£181,697.35	
Total CAPITAL		£205,958.94

¹ At 5 May 2008 these shares were trading at £10,238.35

Centrica	301.00 x 324 shares =	£ 975.24
HBOS	495.50 x 847 shares =	£4,196.89
National Grid	713.00 x 111 shares =	£ 791.43
BG Group	1261.00 x 339 shares =	£4,274.79

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

April 2007 through March 2008

INCOME

2006-07

£232,000.00 PRECEPT £237,000.00

Lettings

General	£20,297.89
Events	£6,429.57
Commercial	£7,903.43
Equipment Hire	£0.00

£30,102.06

Total LETTINGS £34,630.89

Office Income

Photocopies	£62.40
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£47.10

Total OFFICE INCOME £62.40

Allotments

Allotment Rents	£1,128.00
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£1,030.00

Total ALLOTMENTS £1,128.00

Interest and Investments

Royal Bank of Scotland Interest	£13,785.73
Share Dividend	£472.89

£10,856.73

Total INTEREST AND INVESTMENTS £14,258.62

Matlock in Bloom

Hanging Baskets	£2,305.00
Floral Displays	£0.00

£2,775.00

Total MATLOCK IN BLOOM £2,305.00

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous	£290.43
Mayor's Charity	£613.14

£4,628.59

Total MISCELLANEOUS INCOME £903.57

Funding

Environmental Grants	£565.00
Rural Community Access Fund	£0.00
Awards for All	£292.80
NEE (DDEP)	£0.00
Breathing Spaces Grant	£9,959.00
Wayfinder (Progressive Towns Grant)	£15,000.00

£18,726.56

TOTAL FUNDING

£25,816.80

Farmers' Market

	Farmers' Market	£4,500.50	
£2,156.00	Total FARMERS' MARKET		<u>£4,500.50</u>

Christmas Weekend

	Christmas Weekend	£17,958.51	
£14,035.77	Total CHRISTMAS WEEKEND		<u>£17,958.51</u>

£316,357.81 **TOTAL INCOME**

£338,564.29

	Telephone	£1,320.40	
	Computer Equipment	£1,785.89	
	Photocopier rental and copies	£1,035.23	
£5,845.03	Total OFFICE EXPENDITURE		<u>£6,002.19</u>

Advertising

	Adverts in Press	£1,926.37	
£56.00	Total ADVERTISING		<u>£1,926.37</u>

Citizens Advice Bureau

	Mid Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau	£0.00	
£2,000.00	Total CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		<u>£0.00</u>

Grants - Section 137 Expenses

	Community Grants	£10,136.16	
	Grant - Twinning	£0.00	
	Remembrance Sunday	£624.50	
£7,037.42	Total GRANTS		<u>£10,760.66</u>

Environment

	Footpath maintenance	£209.77	
	Denefields	£9,869.25	
	Breathing Spaces	£132.57	
	Baileys Tump	£2,380.00	
	Equipment and maintenance of	£46.05	
	Street Furniture and maintenance	£18,140.65	
	Plants/Bulbs/Trees	£572.11	
	Environment - other	£81.00	
£5,152.88	Total ENVIRONMENT		<u>£31,431.40</u>

Matlock in Bloom

	Hanging Baskets	£4,285.70	
	Floral Displays	£1,227.64	
	Awards Evening	£37.44	
	Sunflower Competition	£5.96	
£4,562.59	Total MATLOCK IN BLOOM		<u>£5,556.74</u>

Christmas Lights

	Lightbulbs and refurbishment	£0.00	
	New Lighting	£14,750.00	
	Installation and removal	£9,235.00	
	Electricity Payments	£1,174.09	
£17,106.23	Total CHRISTMAS LIGHTS		<u>£25,159.09</u>

Christmas Weekend

	Christmas Weekend	£25,740.77	
£14,064.77	Total CHRISTMAS WEEKEND		<u>£25,740.77</u>

Mayor			
	Mayor's Allowance	£49.13	
	Mayor's Charity	£3,001.78	
£2,640.92	Total MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE		<u>£3,050.91</u>

Election Costs			
	Election Costs	£3,913.58	
£0.00	Total ELECTION COSTS		<u>£3,913.58</u>

Miscellaneous			
	Miscellaneous expenses	£599.48	
	Courses/Seminars/Training	£50.75	
	Publications/Literature	£259.85	
	Stock adjustment	£524.72	
£2,412.80	Total MISCELLANEOUS		<u>£1,434.80</u>

Vehicle Costs			
	Fuel	£2,215.44	
	Maintenance	£0.00	
	Insurance and Road Tax	£745.78	
	Van Lease	£3,150.64	
£6,171.38	Total VEHICLE COSTS		<u>£6,111.86</u>

Bus Shelters and Street Lights			
	Bus Shelters and Maintenance	(£168.18)	
	Street Lights	£939.84	
£4,364.17	Total BUS SHELTERS/MAINTENANCE		<u>£771.66</u>

Allotments			
	Allotment water charges	£947.18	
	Allotment - Miscellaneous	£216.64	
£1,124.61	Total ALLOTMENT EXPENSES		<u>£1,163.82</u>

Projects			
	Wayfinder (Progressive Towns)	£922.86	
	Farmers' Market	£884.95	
	Music in the Park	£325.00	
	Town Improvements-general	£3,010.64	
	Catalyst Project	£13.15	
	Awards for All	£1,474.16	
	Shop Local	£137.00	
£47,773.95	Total PROJECTS		<u>£6,767.76</u>

£310,194.69 TOTAL EXPENSES

£6,163.12 NET PROFIT/(LOSS)

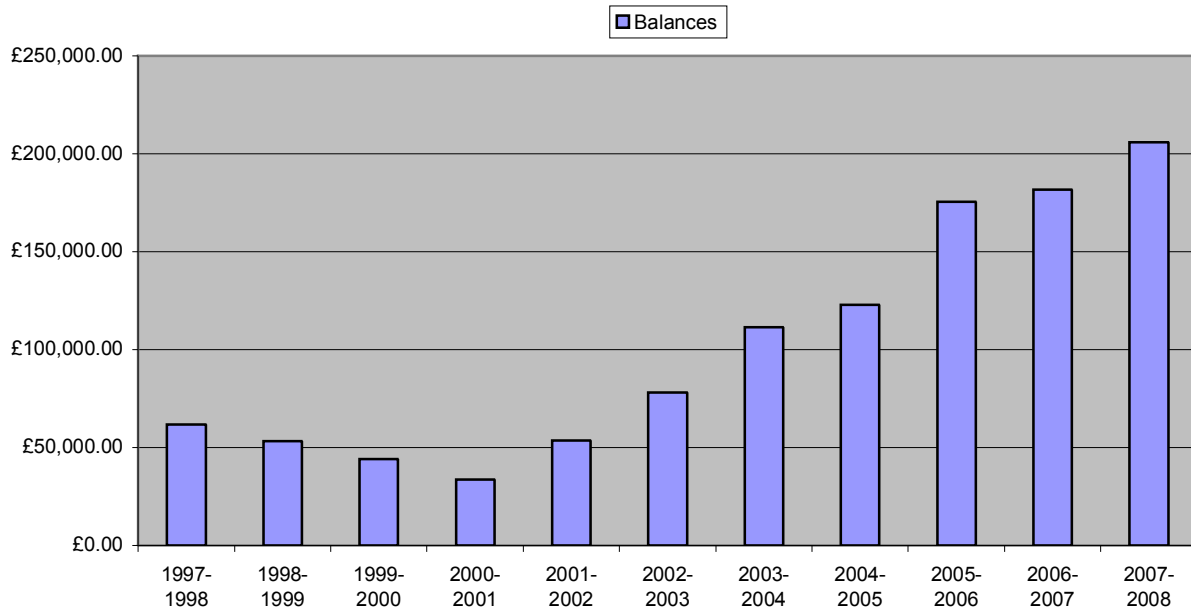
£314,302.70

£24,261.59

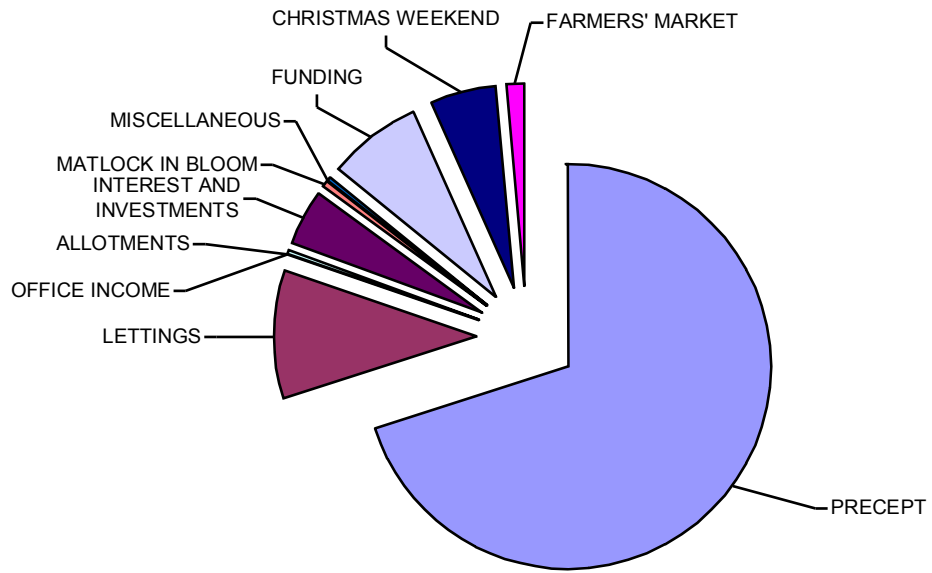
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - YEARLY TRENDS



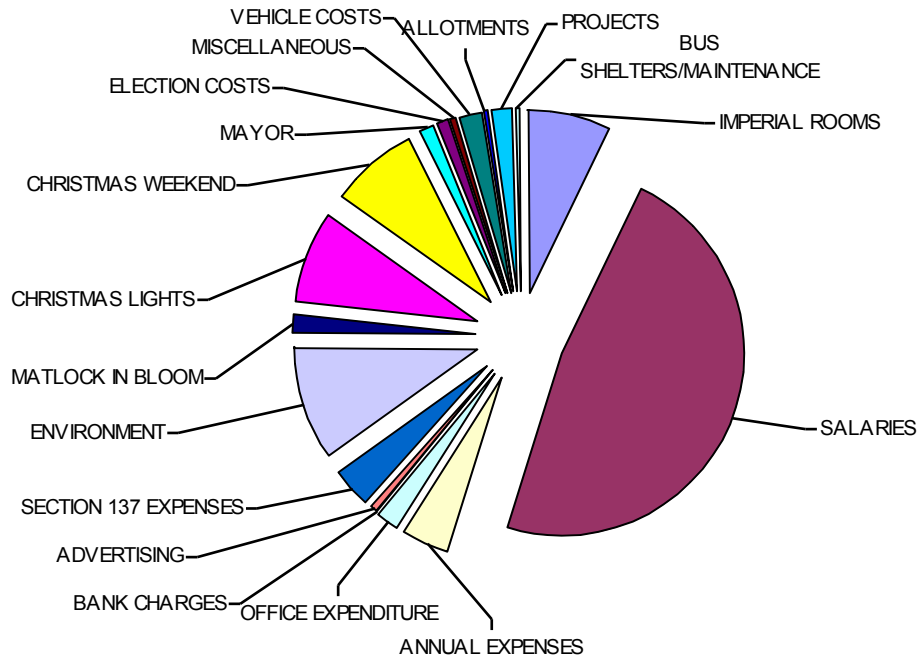
YEAR END BALANCES - TREND



INCOME AT A GLANCE



EXPENSES AT A GLANCE



MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

SUPPORTING NOTES YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2008

1 ASSETS

Movements in the Year:

(a) During the year the following assets were purchased at the cost shown:

	COST (£)
5 Dog Fouling Bins	675.00
1 Street Light	939.84
1 Loop Amplifier for Imperial Rooms	729.67
1 Triple Bay Noticeboard	2,486.00
100 sets of new Christmas Tree lights	14,750.00
1 Seat for Denefields	365.65
1 Allotment Noticeboard	<u>425.00</u>
	20,371.16

(b) During the year the following assets were sold for the amount shown:

	RECEIPT (£)
None	0.00

(c) At 31 March 2008 the following assets were held:

Asset:

	Basis of valuation	Value (£)
Building - Imperial Rooms	Insurance	560,764.97
Fittings	Insurance	38,827.01
Office Equipment	Cost	14,889.76
Tools	Cost	7,356.52
External fixtures and fittings incl bus shelters, storage container, seats etc.	Cost	108,985.68

Land:

Allotments at Chesterfield Road 2.3 Acres
(Council legally obliged to maintain and provide the land for public allotment use) NIL

Land to the south of Megdale, Sheriff Fields
(known as Kiln Park) presently unknown

Land at the foot of Dimple Road
(known as Hillside Garden)

presently unknown

(d) Investments

324 shares - **Centrica** - Nominal face value
111 shares – **National Grid** (Lattice) - Nominal face value
847 shares – **HBOS** (Halifax) - Nominal face value
339 shares – **BG Group** – Nominal face value

2 LEASES

Lease agreement	with	for	Monthly cost £
5141027	Lex Vehicle Leasing Ltd t/a Business Partner	Ford Ranger 2.5TD Regular 4x4m and Truckman Top Registration no: YP05 HJA	307.52
Terms – Year 3 <i>5 year contract, full maintenance. Annual mileage limit 10,000. 1 advance payment of £922.55 followed by 59 monthly payments. Excess mileage 7.6 pence per mile.</i>			

1 March 2007 to 28 Feb. 2013	Derbyshire Dales District Council	Land at Denefields, off Chesterfield Road, Matlock	1 payment of £25.00
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50 year lease from 28 March 2006	The Presentation Sisters of the BVM English Province	Land at Bailey's Tump, Asker Lane, Matlock	Peppercorn
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3 BORROWINGS

None

4 DEBTS OUTSTANDING

As at 31 March 2008 debts of £21,697.27 were outstanding and due to the Council.

	VALUE (£)
Less than 1 month old	20,331.42
Between 1 and 2 months	119.40
Between 2 and 3 months	1,075.85

Between 3 and 6 months	170.60
Over 6 months old	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>21,697.27</u>

5 TENANCIES

During the year the following tenancies were held:

Council as Landlord:

Tenant	Property	Rent p.a.(£)
Allotment holders	51.5 plots at Chesterfield Road	20.00 per plot

6 137 PAYMENTS

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables parish councils to spend up to the product of £5.64 per head of electorate for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers.

The limit for this Council in the year ended 31 March 2008 was £43,303.92 and the payments made were as follows:

Payee	Nature of payment	£
Matlock Live	Community Grant	500.00
MOMS campaign	Community Grant	2,466.66
Age Concern	Community Grant	100.00
Hurst Farm Community Association	Community Grant	500.00
Vitalise	Community Grant	319.50
Relate	Community Grant	250.00
SPODA	Community Grant	100.00
MOMS campaign	Community Grant	1,500.00
Matlock PCC	Community Grant	100.00
Starkholmes & District Tuesday Club	Community Grant	150.00
Babadag Youth Connection	Community Grant	300.00
Matlock Area U3A	Community Grant	300.00
Golden Club, Matlock	Community Grant	200.00
Victim Support	Community Grant	250.00
Derbyshire Childrens Home	Community Grant	300.00
Matlock Derwent Valley Lions	Community Grant	500.00
Wild Thyme Garden	Community Grant	300.00
Remembrance Sunday	Grant	624.50
Economic Development (5 hrs/wk 01/10/07 to 31/03/08)	Salary	1,051.20
	TOTAL	<u>9,811.86</u>

7 AGENCY WORK

During the year the Council undertook no agency work on behalf of other authorities.

8 ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

The following costs for advertising and publicity were incurred during the year:

	£
Advertising and publicity	<u>1,926.37</u>
	<u>1,926.37</u>

9 PENSIONS

The Council holds a Pension Scheme for it's employees through Derbyshire County Council. This is linked to the Local Government Pension Scheme. Employers payments made during the year amount to £22,957.71.

10 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The following provision has been made to cover costs incurred at elections:

Election expenses	Financial Year 2004-2005	800.00
Election expenses	Financial Year 2005-2006	800.00
Election expenses	Financial Year 2006-2007	800.00
Election expenses	Financial Year 2007-2008	<u>1,000.00</u>
		3,400.00
Election costs	May 2007	<u>3,913.58</u>
		<u>(513.58)</u>

11 CAPITAL RESERVES

None

12 EARMARKED RESERVES

None

Signed:

Chairman

Signed:

Town Clerk/RFO

Date:

02 June 2008

Date:

02 June 2008