



TODMORDEN COUNCIL NEWS

www.todmordencouncil.org.uk

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Judging from the photographs of former Mayors in Committee Room C in the Town Hall, I am the first ex-foreigner to be Mayor of Todmorden and definitely the first Swede. Ex because I became a British citizen in 1973. I believe that if you are going to spend the rest of your life in a certain place you should belong properly. I came to Todmorden 40 years ago and then the town was charcoal black, there were gas lights at the station, nobody seemed to lock their doors, most people didn't have a telephone, central heating was regarded as unhealthy and you never saw anybody drunk in the street. Smokeless zones had just been introduced and stone cleaning was starting. Todmorden has changed - some for the better and some for the worse. No one can deny that it looks better after stone cleaning and the excellent work of Todmorden In Bloom.

Now we are again facing great changes. This time it is potential development, which will affect not only how the town looks, but also the whole economy of Todmorden. What will happen in the three development sites of Rose Street, Abraham Ormerod and Halifax Road from the health centre to Kilnhurst Bridge can boost or destroy our very identity as a market town and development which takes place now will be with us for a generation. We need to be vigilant and fight back against types of development which could destroy the market and small shops. We need to fight for designs and building styles which are in tune with the town centre conservation area and the character of Todmorden. We need affordable homes and if we want more visitors and tourists, we need more hotel beds.

They say that it takes years to be accepted in any small town, but I have felt that I belonged in Todmorden from the first week. It is a pleasure, honour and responsibility to be elected Mayor of this town, where I have spent the largest part of my life. I pledge that I will try to serve Todmorden to the best of my ability and judgement.

We need to do more to engage young people in our community and that brings me to this years Mayor's charity. I wanted it to be local to Todmorden and to support young people in particular, so the Mayor's charity this year is the Youth caravan in Bramsche Square, which is a wonderful facility for young people in the evenings. It is organised by a small and dedicated team of volunteers and offers an informal place to hang around, talk, play games and do artwork. Extra money will go a long way for this group.

Cllr Margeta Holmstedt, Town Mayor

RECENT WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

- **West Yorkshire Fire Service** - At a recent meeting Robin Ward, Todmorden Fire Station Manager addressed the Council and gave an overview of fire related matters affecting Todmorden. These included the day-crewing system which was working well, the replacement of an appliance by a 4-wheel drive vehicle with a narrower wheel base and a new Land Rover for moorland/wild fires and off-road terrain. Improved building regulations and fire prevention measures had meant a continued fall in the number of fires reported.
- **Citizenship Awards For Todmorden** - New Citizenship Awards for Todmorden have been introduced this year to recognise the commitment and contribution shown by individuals and groups for the benefit of the community of Todmorden. Two awards have been presented for 2009 to Mrs Pamela Booth and Mr and Mrs Peter & Margery King. The awards were presented by the Mayor, Cllr Cheryl Stovin prior to the Annual Meeting on 15th May in the Town Hall. The recipients and their guests later joined the new Mayor, Cllr Margareta Holmstedt and other invited guests at the Mayor's Day reception held in the ballroom at the Town Hall.
- **West Yorkshire Police Service** - Inspector Derek Oldham, Upper Valley Neighbourhood Policing Team attended a recent meeting and discussed general policing issues in Todmorden where the main drive had been in obtaining satisfaction and confidence in policing. The importance of meeting and working with local people to determine their issues and concerns had proved beneficial. The PCSO's, part funded by the Council, were felt to be making a large contribution as a visible presence in the town and in assisting police officers.

TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL 20010/2011

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Cllr Cheryl Stovin—Town Mayor 2009-2010

As my Mayoral year comes to an end I would like to reflect on what has been a truly memorable and enjoyable year. Both myself and the Mayoress have attended in excess of 100 engagements and would like to thank everybody for their warm welcome at all these events.

My charity for the year has been Age Concern Todmorden and I would like to thank everybody who has helped in raising funds and promoting the organisation. The commitment of the Age Concern Todmorden volunteers is amazing and truly humbling. They work so hard to make sure that the older people of Todmorden have a good quality of life. Their endeavours earlier in the year during the spell of arctic weather is to be particularly commended, especially as a number of the volunteers are well over 80 years of age themselves. It was a privilege to present a group of six 80 plus volunteers with over 20 years of volunteer service each, with a special memento in recognition of this.

The total raised during the year for Age Concern Todmorden will be in the region of £5,000. This will help this vital local charity to continue their good work. Thank you once again.

Funding Opportunities**Community Grants**

The Town Council operates a small grants scheme for financial assistance towards a specific project or activity from community associations, cultural, educational, sporting and charitable organisations, which are non-commercial and whose membership and field of activity is centred in the Town Council's area. If your organisation feel that they wish to apply, then please contact the office or download an application pack from the 'grants' page of the council website. Since the last newsletter Community Grants have been awarded to:

Hour Car - £1,500
Churches Together in Todmorden - £500

Refund of Town Hall Hire Charges

Since the last newsletter the following groups have been able to hold fundraising events in the Town Hall following the agreement of the Town Council to refund the hire charges to Calderdale Council. Application forms for refund of Town Hall Hire Charges are available from the council office or may be downloaded from the 'grants' page of the Council website.

Todmorden Amateur Swimming Club - Disco & Gala Presentation £248.15
Friends of Overgate - Coffee Morning £56.50
Age Concern Todmorden - Coffee Morning £56.99
Todmorden Society For The Blind - Coffee Morning £61.50
Todmorden Business Association - Made in Tod Exhibition £800
Todmorden Photographic Society - Annual exhibition £505.50
Upper Valley Stroke Club - Dance £232.50

