

# WHALEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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Mechanics Institute, Market Street, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, SK23 7AA  
Town Clerk: Mrs S Raybould Tel: 01663 733068 Fax: 01663 734934  
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## ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The parish of Whaley Bridge covers four wards; Fernilee, Taxal, Yeadsley and Furness Vale. There are three councillors representing each ward and the council meets in the Mechanics Institute on the second Thursday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm. Meetings are open to the press and public and local people are invited to address councillors during the agenda item "Open Forum" about any issues of concern.

Your council is officially recognised as a "Quality Town Council" and has achieved the Power of Well Being which means that it has the power to do anything that it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of its Parish.

### **Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk is Mrs Stephanie Raybould. The Clerk's Office is within the Mechanics Institute and is open to the public between 9.00am and 12.30pm each weekday morning to provide information, advice and to deal with queries. Tel: 01663 733068.

### **Chair and Vice-Chair**

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Cllr Jon Goldfinch was elected as Chair and Cllr Anne Winter was elected as Vice-Chair of Whaley Bridge Town Council for 2011/2012.

### **Councillors Expenses**

Members of Whaley Bridge Town Council do not claim any expenses although they are permitted to claim "out-of-pocket" expenses in accordance with statutory regulations. They carry out their roles as town councillors voluntarily giving up time and effort for the benefit of the community. Councillors must also declare a personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda in which they could influence decisions directly affecting themselves.

### **Planning Applications**

All planning applications for the parish are considered by the council at their monthly meetings and relevant comments and recommendations made to the Planning Department at High Peak Borough Council. Members of the public are also able to view all applications in the Clerk's Office weekday mornings, and can come to council meetings and make comments. We urge parallel comments directly to HPBC as well.

### **Precept, Income and Expenditure**

The income for the year amounted to £212,761 and the expenditure was £203,555. The precept for 2011/12 was £70,360 and the precept for 2012/13 will be £73,849. A copy of the receipts and payments account for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 is attached.

## **Whaley Bridge Community Website and Forum**

The Whaley Bridge website [www.whaleybridge.com](http://www.whaleybridge.com) has been particularly active this year thanks to help from many individuals. There are regular interesting and informative local stories published on the site, which are attracting increasing interest from readers. There is lots of local information on the site including all the Council minutes and W4W minutes. We also have a local forum with over 470 users with an active general discussion area, along with a superb local history area, which is probably one of the best in the UK. There are many old pictures of Whaley Bridge. The site continues to develop and we recommend people take a look. Many thanks to James Middleton for all his stories for the site, and to Tim Adlington at Trusted IT who has given many hours of his own time to make the site work. Thanks also to the Forum users who make it so interesting, including Norm, Gnatalee, and RSS amongst many others. We welcome local stories from any budding journalists.

## **Grants and Donations**

WBTC distributed £1600 grants and donations to local organisations during 2011/12. Grant applications are considered in February or September. Requests must be received prior to those dates.

Recipients were:

- £200 Toddbrook sailing club – new buoyancy aids for juniors
- £100 T&F out of school club for summer holiday activities.
- £100 WB primary school – donation towards centenary project for new classroom
- £150 Chapel en le frith mobile physiotherapy service
- £100 Whaley Bridge Royal British legion – towards remembrance day service parade
- £150 1<sup>st</sup> taxal Scout group – towards replacement tents
- £200 Whaley Bridge Band – towards two Baritones for learner group
- £100 Kinder Mountain Rescue team – towards two team ambulances
- £50 Furness COGS – towards newsletter costs
- £150 WB Cricket Club – towards safety fencing
- £50 High Peak Twins and Multiples Club –towards play session costs.
- £75 Whaley Bridge Brass Band
- £100 Whaley Bridge Welldressing (childrens boards)
- £75 Friends of Furness Vale station

## **Whaley Water Weekend**

The highly successful and growing Whaley Water Weekend goes ahead this year on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, run by the irrepressible Barry Rudd and his committee. A climbing wall, the meerkats, bands, stalls, fairground, Punch and Judy, Free boat rides and much much more, including music related events at the various hostelrys in the evenings make Whaley Bridge the destination of choice over this weekend. Whaley Bridge Town Council helped to found WWW through an initiative in 2000, and has helped with contributions towards the event annually. This year, as last year, £2000 is budgeted towards the event.

## **Well Dressing**

The Whaley Bridge welldressing event will take place this year between June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>, with the dedication at 2.30pm on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2.30pm at the Canal basin. The making of the various wells takes place in the marquee which Whaley Bridge Town council funds. Last year, hire of the marquee was £1373 and £1400 is budgeted for this year.

## **Bingswood Access and Canal Basin Regeneration Panel**

This group was set up in May 2011, specifically to tackle the much larger long term regeneration projects in Whaley Bridge. It is deliberately separated from W4W to ensure that the larger projects do not detract or get in the way of smaller short term regeneration projects. The panel has the following aims:

1. To achieve safe access to Bingswood Industrial Estate, such as to free Canal Street and Basin from heavy goods and conflicting traffic movements
2. This by means of a second bridge, or whatever means can be funded, whilst maintaining the integrity of the Grade 2\* listed Transshipment Warehouse (TSW)
3. To eventually see the TSW restored and the site around it used to exhibit the role of the TSW in the transpennine movement of goods by way of the inclined planes of the 1832 Cromford & High Peak Railway to High Peak Junction, part of which is in the 'Derwent Mills World Heritage Site'
4. At very least to ensure the 1832 TSW is maintained in a safe condition with its heritage value retained, and best use made of the land around it

The group meets on a monthly basis.

## **Equal opportunities**

This year as a byproduct of our efforts to secure grant funding, The Council agreed to adopt the following Equal Opportunities Policy Statement: "The Council is committed to reviewing, and, where necessary, changing how it does things to address disadvantage amongst the people it serves and its workforce. The Council's policy is to provide services fairly to all sections of the community and to give equal treatment to service users, employees and job applicants regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion, age or disability. The Council promotes the elimination of discrimination and complies with the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (as amended), Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended) and Disability Discrimination Act 1995, together with relevant Codes of Practice and European Directives. All Councillors, employees and those acting on behalf of the Council are responsible for implementing the policy and have a continuing duty to challenge discrimination." Such a statement was overdue and this addresses the issue.

## **Skate Park and BMX Track**

The Skatepark and BMX track area lies adjacent to the football pitches at the top of the memorial Park, and until July last year were owned and maintained by Whaley Bridge Town Council. Following the incredible efforts of an enthusiastic local skater, Jonathan Carnall, who successfully applied for a £50K grant from the Big Lottery via the Whaley Bridge Association, supported by WBTC, a further £84,290 was then obtained through the DCC's Aiming High Capital Grants fund, which aims to support disabled children and young people in order that they can get out and share leisure and outdoor experiences. In July last year, Whaley Bridge Town Council agreed to pass ownership and control of the existing skatepark and BMX track to High Peak

Borough Council, so that the £134K project to rebuild the skatepark and BMX track could go ahead. Jonathan Carnalls vision to improve facilities for Whaley Bridge has been a fantastic success, with hordes of excited youngsters queuing to use the facility. The skatepark is already in operation, with final finishing touches going on around the site, and the BMX track will be completed over the next couple of weeks. The most exciting feature of all this is that Jonathan fully engaged the youngsters in the design of the facility, so it reflects very much what they wanted rather than something imposed by crusty adults. I believe it is this sense of ownership which will make it highly successful, and I would like to congratulate Jonathan Carnall for all his hard work, perseverance, and effort in making this project a success, along with Macauley Quinney, a yr10 pupil at Chapel High School who was instrumental in getting people involved and in helping to organize meetings. When we have young people like this within our community I think we can all be proud and look to a very positive future.

### **Annual Firework Display**

Sadly, The annual firework display was held this year for what may be the last time. Since 2000 it has been very successfully run by the Goyt Valley Round Table, who have done a superb job over the years, and Whaley Bridge Town Council have contributed significantly towards the running costs each year. However the falling membership of the Round Table, the increasing burden of administration associated with putting on this event, and the problems finding volunteers to help on the night has unfortunately led to a situation where the 4 remaining members of the organization no longer feel able to run it. Novembers event reflected these problems: the bonfire was removed to simplify the volunteer and health and safety issues, the firework display itself was run by a firework company, and entrance was by donation. Both WBTC and the Round Table would like to see the event continue, and we are seeking, so far without success, an alternative organization to take over and run the event. WBTC have put £1000 in this years budget towards the event in the hope that it will continue, and the Round Table will provide their knowledge. If your organization is interested in running the event, please get in touch.

### **XMAS Celebrations**

The Christmas trees for Whaley Bridge and Fernilee were again kindly donated by United Utilities, costing us £556 this year for lighting connection, checks erection and dismantling, which was considerably less than last year. Thanks to the landlords of the Soldier Dick in Furness for use of the site, and many thanks to Footsteps for organizing the events in Whaley Bridge including the Father Christmas Grotto and the Christmas Fair in the mechanics. The Powderkegs provided colourful street entertainment. The switch on events at Furness vale and Whaley were both extremely successful and well attended. The slight glitch with the turning on of Whaley's lights, live on High Peak Radio, caused great amusement to many and blind panic for myself, although it all came right in the end !

### **Hanging Baskets and Tubs**

Whaley Bridge Town council pay for the 75 hanging baskets and 25 tubs around the town to be planted up, and this year we spent £6140 on grounds maintenance in this respect. The flower display is enjoyed by many, and considerably brightens up the town. Next year, through Whaley4Wards, we will try and offer companies and individuals an opportunity to sponsor some of the baskets. Any income from this will allow us to direct more money into other regeneration projects around the town.

## **The Sports Pavillion**

Through Whaley 4Wards, WBTC have come to an arrangement with Stockport College to enable their painting and decorating students an opportunity to work on a live project, rather than a classroom exercise. This is something the college has successfully done before elsewhere. Under supervision of their teacher, students will be decorating much of the interior of the Sports pavilion in the next few weeks. WBTC will pay for materials, and the scheme works to everyones advantage. The plan is to try and increase the amount of community use of the Sports Pavilion, which is very much under-utilised. HPBC, through the park ranger, have already expressed an interest in helping us to do this.

## **Community Newsletter**

The council produce a quarterly newsletter which is distributed with the local newspaper 'The Review' to each household in the parish free of charge to keep the council informed about Whaley Bridge town Council activities. It cost WBTC £987 to print and distribute this year. Other information and stories about Council and other activities in Whaley Bridge will regularly be found on [www.whaleybridge.com](http://www.whaleybridge.com) , where all the council minutes are also published.

## **Allotments**

There are 18 allotments at the Sunnybank allotments site, and a waiting list of over 47 people. The Council continues to look at ways to improve this situation. Carr Field in Horwich End is a possible site for further allotments but it would not provide enough to satisfy the waiting list, and has in the past been discounted because of the central location of the site and the potential for it to become an eyesore. One possible alternative would be to obtain grants, drain and landscape unused boggy ground on the existing sunnybank allotment site, and introduce a large number of raised beds which could be rented cheaply by users. Raised beds can be many shapes other than rectangular, and this approach could be quite effective. These options, and others, will be discussed further. In August, Whaley4Wards organized a highly successful town wide litter pick, and as part of this, made a skip available to allotment holders to help clear some of the accumulated rubbish off the site. Whaley Bridge Town Council would welcome any offers from local landowners who might consider allowing land to be turned over to allotments on some fixed or variable period basis.

## **Parish Paths Map**

The parish paths map is widely available and costs £1.50. It gives details of all the public rights of way in the parish and 3 detailed local walks to enjoy.

## **Whaley Bridge Town Guide**

WBTC spent £808 this year reprinting the popular Whaley Bridge Town guide.

## **Shallcross Incline**

For over 40 years Whaley Bridge Town council has sought to reopen this old disused railway line which runs from Shallcross Mill Road(off New Road next to the scout hut) up to Shallcross Road. The site is owned and maintained by Whaley Bridge Town council, and In August 2011 planning permission was finally given to proceed to allow this section of the old railway line to become a new section of the Goyt Valley

Greenway trail. Funding for the project comes via the South East Manchester Multi Modal Study (SEMMMS), with Derbyshire county council implementing the project. There will be an official opening of the trail on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 10.30am.

Cllr John Swift attacked this project anew in 2010 and continued in 2011, and it is thanks to all his efforts and those also of Wayne Bexton at DCC, along with the generosity of a local landowner, that we have been successful in bringing this scheme to fruition. The trail is already extremely popular, and provides a safe walking route to school for children as well as a wonderfully scenic artery into and through the centre of Whaley Bridge. Benches and Interpretation boards, designed through the considerable efforts of Stephanie Raybould, the Town clerk, will soon be in place, and after 40 years of aspiration the project can now be enjoyed by all.

### **Mechanics Institute**

Whaley Bridge Town Council is the trustee of the Mechanics Institute, which is run as a registered charity for the benefit of the local community. The rooms are always in demand by local community groups and others. The Town Clerks office is on the ground floor by the main entrance. Rooms can be hired for local events, parties, meetings, classes etc seven days a week, with kitchen and bar facilities available as required. A reading room is open regularly where daily newspapers are provided. Just some of the activities it is used for include citizens advice sessions, weightwatchers, Zumba classes, history exhibitions, dance classes and presentations, amongst many others. The Town council contributed £1875 this year towards replacement windows intended to maintain and improve the efficiency of the building. The Council also contributed £2945 to allow various local organizations to have concessionary free use of the buildings, another way by which WBTC supports local events and organizations.

### **Grit Bins and Snow**

WBTC look after 25 grit bins placed at locations in Furness Vale and Whaley Bridge, and originally set up as part of a joint grit bin scheme with groups of local residents. Although the scheme is no longer running, the bins are filled once a year by the council costing £535 this year. The Council also participated this year in a scheme run by DCC to try and improve the situation in the face of prolonged winter weather, with Cllr Jon Goldfinch taking on a role as Snow Warden, fortunately not required this year due to the mild weather. Participation allowed access to a free grit bin, placed in Furness Vale, Yeardsley Lane, and a tonne of bagged salt which is in storage.

### **Annual Community Award**

Each Year the Town council awards the annual community award to a person or organization which has contributed outstanding voluntary work within the local community for the benefit of local people. This year the award is made to Sheila Walton for her service to the Whaley Bridge Brass Band , where she has been a member, teacher and organizer for 46 years, and to the Whaley Bridge Rose Queen Committee, where she has been treasurer and active participant for 32 years. This in addition to her other community work.

### **Furness Vale War memorial**

WBTC arranged for the chains at the Furness Vale war memorial to be renovated and powder coated. Our thanks to Garrie Bevan Coatings for their generosity with this work.

### **Whaley Memorial Park Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid**

Whaley Bridge Town Council backed the HLF bid and have committed £10K over 5 Years towards the successful £478K Heritage Lottery Fund bid in the park, paying £2K per year. In total, this is 4.3% of the total capital expenditure of around £230K in the park, which is a significant sum. Preparatory work has started around the park as many people will see. Work has also started on the restoration of the war memorial, one of the key elements of the works, and there is much more work to follow, including replacement of the play equipment, replacement of the bridge from the play area to the memorial area, resurfacing of all the paths, handrail replacement and entrance features. A plan of all the proposed work is held in the Town Clerks Office.

### **Whaley4Wards**

Whaley 4Wards was set up by WBTC in June 2011 to propose, define and implement small to medium size regeneration projects across the 4 wards of Whaley Bridge – Furness Vale, Taxal, Yeardsley and Fernilee. Once defined, projects are brought to WBTC and funding is then agreed from the WBTC regeneration budget. The main aim of the projects is to directly benefit the residents and businesses in the four wards of Whaley Bridge, through projects which improve the Town centre and other areas, and which help to revitalize and attract visitors into the area, whilst maintaining and capitalizing on the historical character of the town. The idea is to pick projects which are truly achievable in the short term, so that the group gathers momentum and maintains enthusiasm through success. W4W has been extremely successful this year.

#### Completed projects:

townwide litterpick-furness vale 13<sup>th</sup> aug, WB 14<sup>th</sup> aug  
arranged repairs to potholes on linear pathway under Chapel road bridge.  
Litterpick and tidy up at Canal Basin Nov 26<sup>th</sup>  
WB.com banner above mechanics institute reprinted.  
Organized the reprinting of the new town guide.

#### Ongoing projects:

Shallcross Incline interpretation boards and seating.  
Shallcross Incline route signage and waymarkers.  
Creation of a tourist information point using the former Bings Road Telephone box.  
Using Stockport College for decorating the Sports Pavillion.  
Brookfield Pond tidy up.  
Street Furniture upgrade and maintenance.  
Sponsorship of flower tubs.

Canal bank litter pick.

### **Whaley Bridge Station**

Network Rail's restoration of the Whaley Bridge Station Waiting Room was completed in Autumn last year, and as many of you have seen, work then began on Phase One of the Buxton Platform project, which is intended to raise the level of the Buxton platform to allow easy access onto the trains. On the Manchester platform



side, an Easy Access area has already been installed, and so at long last we are on our way to having platform facilities that can actually be used by all residents, rather than by just those fit and agile enough to navigate the huge gap between train and platform we were expected to put up with, and which caused so many problems for the less agile. The raising of the Manchester platform has not been without difficulties, and foundation problems caused a redesign of the plans which delayed progress. However Phase One is now nearing completion and the first part of the platform has been raised and resurfaced. The work has unfortunately resulted in problems of noise and inconvenience to a number of residents in the station's vicinity at night; this because of Network Rails necessary working practices around a live Railway. The noise issue is being addressed and there is on-going consultation between High Peak Borough, Network Rail and the contractors, Story Rail, to try and mitigate against excessive noise overnight. Phase 2 work on raising the level of the second half of the platform should follow as soon as possible and will also include the refurbishment of the bridge over the tracks and the necessary access ramp to it. WBTC recognizes that the noise at night is extremely unwelcome, but we hope that residents can find a way to bear with this and consider the huge social benefits to residents and the wider community that the raised platforms will bring, coupled with the benefits of all the other station improvements. Whaley Bridge Town Council has tried for years to get the platforms raised, and I would like to thank Cllr John Pritchard, Cllr Anne Winter and the Friends of the Station group who have worked extremely hard to build contacts and have been instrumental in bringing these changes to fruition at a time when so little funding is available. I would also like to thank Network Rail for their decision to invest in our community in this way

### **Furness Vale COGS**

The campaign by Furness Vale residents to improve their playing field, by making it available as an open space for all sections of the community and to include sporting facilities, a garden area and activities for children and young people, has received a significant boost after DCC agreed to designate 8000m<sup>2</sup> of the field for community use. The remaining 10000m<sup>2</sup> is to be designated as a potential site for a new school. The decision to retain over half the land for a school which does not seem obviously viable, and in doing so, to block progress in the improvement of that bit of the land for community and recreational use, is an issue which COGS remain in discussion with DCC about to try and resolve. This project will develop further through the year. WBTC made £1000 available towards this project last year, and has made the same available in next years budget. WBTC paid £439 for the erection of a notice board at the site. The Furness Vale Field day , which is a fundraising exercise for the project and a great family day out will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012. There will be a number of bands playing live music, a BBQ, beer tent, bouncy castle, stalls, facepainting and many other childrens activities on the day and all are invited.

### **Notice Boards**

The Horwich End Community notice board was replaced at a cost of £587. In addition the Furness Vale notice board was refurbished at a cost of £235 .

### **Safer Neighbourhood Team**

The next safer neighbourhood team meeting will be on Wednesday 25th Apr 7pm in the Mechanics. A number of Councillors attend. Your opportunity to talk to the police and choose the next three months priority targets, and determine the local policing



priorities for the area. Each team works in partnership with local agencies, which include parish, town, district and county councils, housing associations, Derbyshire Youth Service, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, Neighbourhood Watch among others, to help keep your area a safe, clean and pleasant place to live. Priorities can include a wide variety of issues, including anti-social or nuisance behaviour, graffiti or vandalism, speeding, parking or anything which you feel impacts on the quality of life for you and your neighbours. All are invited. Current targets are: dealing with antisocial behaviour in Furness Vale Car park, traffic problems on Old road and Buxton road in Whaley Bridge.

### **Tesco 106 money and projects**

In 2011 Tesco applied for a store extension to the Whaley Bridge store. £115,000 of S106 money will become available as soon as the extension starts being built, 82% of which will go to specific projects in Whaley Bridge. We await news of any progress on the extension, but Tesco are not progressing this at present. Should a Buxton Tesco be built, we would also look for an additional S106 arrangement for that too.

### **Diamond Jubilee Beacon**

Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. WBTC has decided to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee by holding an evening beacon and barbecue at the Whaley Bridge Cricket ground on the Monday, to which everyone is invited. It is in the evening after the Village Inter pub 6-a-side cricket match which is always very well attended, and we would like to thank the cricket club for allowing us to share their facilities like this. The expectation is that a community walk will take place up to the Cricket Club to minimize vehicles. The beacon will be one of 3445 across the country that will be lit that night, and one of 6 across the High Peak. Further details closer to the time. Fingers crossed for the weather! Volunteers to help eagerly sought!

### **Artificial Grass Pitch project**

In March this year Whaley Bridge Town Council took official delivery of the new state of the art artificial grass playing surface on the site of the old tarmac Multi Use Games area, and in doing so we successfully reached the end of a 4 year project which raised £155,000 in Grant money to make a new surface a reality. The new surface is one of the most modern in the country, looks superb, and a fantastic community asset. The playing surface consists of a 40mm thick artificial grass carpet loaded with a layer of sand and then a layer of rubber granules (made from old lorry tyres). This sits on top of a 15mm thick rubber shockpad which was laid on top of the old surface. It is surrounded by new fencing, with a spectator area, and renovated floodlighting. New paths surround it to act as a sterile barrier, and provide vastly improved disabled access. The result is a perfect playing surface for football, hockey and other sports, and the surface is already heavily booked up at the peak periods and set to make a healthy surplus in line with the business plan in the first year, which will be directed into projects around the facility as per the grant conditions. Whaley Bridge Town Council teamed up with Whaley Bridge football club in this project, who pulled out all the stops to work towards an FA Charter Status qualification, which was key to the ability to get support from the Derbyshire FA and access funding from the Football Foundation. To do this the club needed to amalgamate the junior and senior sections of the club, as well as meet many other

obligations. In fact, they were so successful In this that they obtained the highest possible qualification – the Charter standard community Club, and in a stroke of luck they were also the 500<sup>th</sup> Club to achieve this, and were duly presented with the award at the pitch by David Bernstein , head of the FA.

This paved the way for a grant application to the FF, but match funding was always going to be required and consequently grant applications to WREN and to Sport England and to DCC were also prepared and a local fundraising campaign was started.

There were many disappointments, trials and tribulations, and problems to solve along the way, coupled with a seemingly unending pile of documentation to prepare, but as the project moved towards the end of last year all the work started to fall into place and in January construction work was finally able to start. Even though the construction process was expertly handled by the contractors under the direction of Robinson Lowe Francis on behalf of the Football Foundation, there were inevitable practical problems which surfaced, and I am indebted to Steve Rampley , chair of WBFC and a chartered engineer, for all his time and practical help in helping to solve these within the budget we had.

When this project was first mooted some 3 years ago, we fancifully thought we might be able to achieve something for a few tens of thousands. In May 2010 we were working on £60K. In the end it cost £155,628, the funding coming from the following sources to whom we are incredibly grateful.

Football foundation £97,048  
DCC Community Action Grant £1,000  
Sport England £38,980  
Friends of Whaley Bridge Memorial park £1,000  
Whaley Bridge Football Club £8,000  
Derbyshire County Council(Cllr Barry Taylor) £4,000  
WBTC Chairs Allowance £300  
WBTC Chair match contribution £300  
Whaley Bridge Town Council £5,000

The new facility is a triumph for Whaley Bridge, and provides the community with a superb resource. The aim has always been to make the facility self sustaining, and to this end a sinking fund is in place which uses the facility income to build up a fund which is ring fenced for replacing the surface in 10 to 15 years at the end of its life. Currently run by the Town Council and Sports Association executive, the aspiration is that Whaley Bridge Football club will in due course take on the lease of the facility and continue to run it for the benefit of the community, with income remaining in the community and being spent on facility improvements.

**Thus ends what I think has been a superb year for Whaley Bridge.**

**Cllr Jon Goldfinch  
Chair, Whaley Bridge Town Council  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2012**