

HOLT TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL TOWN'S MEETING

The Annual Towns meeting was held on 28th March 2017.

The Mayor opened the meeting and highlighted some of the successes of 2016. We were reminded of the Holt in Bloom project which saw us winning not only a special award for the environment, but also a silver award for our first attempt in a few years. The Council also remembered the successful celebration of the Queens Jubilee and the unveiling of the Teucer stone which were collaborative projects with the Church and the Holt Society.

He also went on to report on some of the future projects such as the Cley Road car park, the evolving Holt Owl Heritage trail and the excitement felt as we enter a new council year with lots of ideas and plans already emerging. There were guest speakers at this year's meeting, firstly Shan Vincent from Abzag who is the consultant the Town Council has employed to take our Neighbourhood Plan forward. Shaun spoke about the impact a Neighbourhood Plan can have on a town and encouraged everyone to get involved. He stressed that when completed and gone through the referendum this becomes a legal document that has to be referred to by all developers. There will be some more public consultation events and we would love to meet you and hear what you want from this plan.

The second speaker spoke about the vision of having a Norfolk orbital railway. This is a very exciting scheme and although perhaps a long way in the future, what a vision, that would benefit tourists, residents and commuters. The commitment of the team was impressive and it would be good for not only Holt but the whole of Norfolk if it can be achieved. We wish them luck and look forward to hearing of their future progress in coming months.

Just the week after this meeting we heard they had won a large lottery grant to help towards their ultimate goal.

The Annual Towns meeting also saw the Holt Honours awards being presented. This year there were lots of worthy nominations but it was decided there should be only one winner in each category so, the Holt Dementia Group won the group award and Carolyn Burns of the Holt Community Cafe won the individual award.

It was lovely to welcome Wendy Richley back to receive the Holt Dementia award on behalf of the committee and to hear of their plans for the future which include the funding for an Admiral nurse. Carolyn was also delighted with her award and it was good to hear just what a positive effect the Holt Community cafe is having in Holt. Someone present at the meeting was very concerned with accessibility for wheelchairs in Holt. This is a serious problem and the Clerk is going to arrange a visit with the lady who uses a wheelchair and go around the town looking at the potential issues for a wheelchair user. Holt Town Council is determined to try and achieve good access for everybody who wants to come and visit Holt. Further reports about this will be given at Town Council meetings.

Questions were asked of the council and it was confirmed that Aldi is not coming to Holt, however the old Thaxter's plot will not be used for housing and a new supermarket will arrive in the future.