



EYE TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

7.30 pm Eye Town Hall, Tuesday 9th April 2019
In the Chair, Cllr Johnnie Walker, Deputy Town Mayor

1. Welcome from Cllr Johnnie Walker, Deputy Town Mayor

In attendance 40 members of the public and the Town Clerk.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Jane Hudson, Cllr Nick Gowrley

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 22nd May 2018

Cllr Mann proposed that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd May 2018 were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Gould and agreed.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Cllr Walker proposed a minute silence out of respect for the late Cllr Robins and Cllr Burke. This was observed by all those in attendance.

5. Presentation of 2018/19 Civic Awards

Paul Durrant – As the contractor for the Town Hall refurbishment Paul was always contactable, always calm and helpful particularly when the Council had to source welsh slates for the roof which were required at very short notice by the Conversation Team at MSDC. He always went the extra mile.

Sarah Hucklesby – As the architect for the Town Hall refurbishment Sarah put in many more hours than those which she charged for. She was very supportive of the Town Hall Committee and there were times when the project was a little scary. Sarah steered us through all the issues.

Shula Collins – Shula is one of the postal delivery services operatives for Eye. She is always very happy and always has a smile on her face. The post is delivered without a hitch and nothing is every too much trouble for her.

Alistair Govan – For several years Alistair has played a key part in recording events in Eye for the purposes of creating a film archive. In partnership with Andrew Brown, he has produced “A Year in the Life of Eye” from which residents have been able to review

the past year. Proceeds from the film show have been donated to the Community Centre. Alistair is another one of Eye's unsung heroes.

Liz Govan – Liz worked as a co-opted member of the Town Hall Committee. She raised funds to pay for replacement of the Town Hall chairs. More recently she worked with other committee members to buy the items needed for the toilet refurbishment. This saved the Council a great deal of money.

June Gould – June was also a co-opted member of the Town Hall Committee. She arranged the procurement of items for the re-furnished kitchen at the Town Hall and working with Liz those needed for the toilet re-fit. She chose the colours for the interior decoration of the Town Hall and we are still receiving compliments about the hall six months later.

Julia Shekleton – Julia is secretary and organizer of The Dove Project Luncheon Club and the Memory Lane Dementia Café. She is always willing to help and assist elderly people with their mental and physical problems.

6. Outgoing Mayor's Report

I am sure that you are all aware that a great deal has been going on in Eye during the past year, so much indeed, that not every initiative can be mentioned in this short space of time.

However, such events were overshadowed by the untimely deaths of two real contributors to the life of our town.

The Mayor of Eye, Councillor Mick Robins, a long serving Town Councillor died in December. Despite feeling unwell, he was delighted to join the trip to Pouzauges celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the twinning of the two towns of Eye and Pouzauges. There he made a speech, thanking our French hosts for their generous hospitality.

In addition to Mick Robins, we were also shocked by the tragic death of Councillor Michael Burke who joined our Town Council on his retirement. His wisdom, enthusiasm and energy were an enormous asset to Eye, and amongst many of his achievements he would have been proud of the Electric Car Charging point that has arrived in Eye.

We celebrated the arrival of our own Community Library in Cross Street, which already is being used by a number of local Primary schools and various other groups.

Those of you who wish to join the lending library only have to show- up with official documentation showing your address and your library card will be activated.

After what has seemed an eternity, the long- suffering pedestrians among you will be relieved to hear that the long awaited 20 mile an hour speed limit in the centre of Eye is scheduled to arrive at last.

An enormous amount of time, energy and dogged determination has been devoted to the total refurbishment of the Town Hall. Through the efforts of hard-working individuals, the Council raised over £160, 000 in grants towards various features of the refurbishment. We

are delighted that this stunning facility is already being used by so many residents, and those local to Eye, and who are so pleased with the transformation that has taken place.

There is a great deal going on in Eye this summer, and we all look forward to a busy and successful year ahead of us, so please keep an eye on our informative Eye magazine and the innovative and helpful Eye to Eye. Thank you all who work so hard to make Eye such a vibrant community.

7. Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Byles – Chair of the Town Hall Committee

The Town Hall Committee has never been so busy as it was during the last 12 months and I would venture to say its never been so busy since the Town Hall was built over 100 years ago. 2017-18 was the year of raising the funds to carry out the extensive refurbishment which was planned and this last year has been the excitement of spending the money raised to complete the works which we have dreamed and planned the three years previously.

In the last year we have finished reroofing the Town Hall literally the roof over your heads. We have installed an accessible toilet, refurbished the existing ladies and gents, installed new LED lights and decorated the hall, the stairwell, the foyer and the Council Chamber. I have attended numerous meetings with our main contractor Paul Durrant who was always so calm, with our architect Sarah Hucklesby who I am sure put in more hours than she charged us for and the Committee had a great deal of help in sourcing material and items for the toilets from Mrs June Gould and Mrs Liz Govan. Their work saved us thousands of pounds literally. The person on the Town Council I would particularly like to pay tribute to is Cllr Richard Berry. He is a retired Chartered Building Surveyor and gave hours of his time to planning and organizing the execution of the works. He attended many more meetings than I did and without him this project would not have got off the ground or run as smoothly as it did.

We hit lots of problems. The Conservation Officer insisted on the use of welsh slates on the roof which added £15,000 to the cost. Leaks appeared which had to be plugged. A toilet was found to have a hairline crack in when we unpacked it and it was due to be installed the next week. You will all have heard of our lowest moment which occurred almost exactly one year ago when an intruder broke into the Town Hall on Easter Sunday and slashed four pictures. An act of mindless vandalism. We were insured and had to convene another subcommittee to prepare and pursue an insurance claim. More work for everyone. However, the insurance claim has been accepted and the first two pictures to be repaired will be back in situ this Easter and the next two pictures will be repaired.

You can see the result of our work around you. The Committee's next aim is to improve our webpages on the Council's website, to advertise these spanking new facilities which are available for use by all the people of Eye and the surrounding area. We want to see the building used 24/7 by the community. That is our aim this year.

8. Report from County Councillor – Mr. Guy McGregor not present to give report.

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9. Report from District Councillor – Mr. Nick Gowrley – no report available as MSDC is in purdah due to the local elections.

10. Police Report – Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team – Simon Green, Community Engagement Officer

There are 9 Community Engagement Officer’s 400 square miles in Suffolk Constabulary.

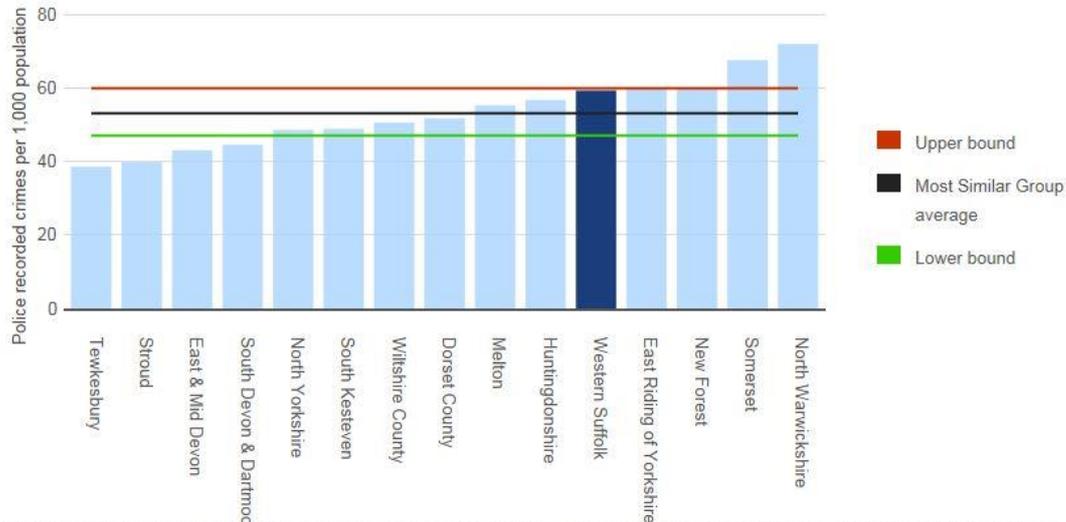
The following report shows the annual crime figures for Eye.

Annual Crime Figures for Eye 2019

The following represents all crime recorded by Suffolk Constabulary for the twelve-month period ending 12th March 2019 for the ward of Eye.

A	B	C	D
	Eye	Arson not endangering life	2
		Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	8
		Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery	18
		Attempted - Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity No Penetration - Offender 18 or over	1
		Attempted - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (Indictable)	1
		Attempted Burglary - Business And Community	2
		Attempted Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	1
		Burglary - Business And Community	11
		Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	4
		Carrying a loaded or unloaded or imitation firearm or air weapon in public place	1
		Crime Investigation - Action fraud:- NFIB Referral	1
		Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury be	1
		Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, Dogs worrying livestock on agricultural land	1
		Drunk and disorderly in a public place	1
		Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship.	3
		Engage in sexual communication with a child	1
		GBH serious wound without intent (s20)	1
		Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)	7
		Having possession of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	4
		Interference with a motor vehicle	1
		Minor wound without intent (s20)	3
		Other criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (£5,000 and over)	1
		Other criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (Under £5,000)	4
		Other criminal damage to a dwelling (Under £5,000)	5
		Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	9
		Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)	2
		Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person or assistance dog	6
		Pass etc counterfeit coin or note as genuine	1
		Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	1
		Racially or religiously aggravated Harassment or stalking without violence	1
		Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress	1
		Road Traffic Act 1988, Driving or attempting to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle whilst unfit to drive through drink or drugs, D	1
		Robbery (Business) (Indictable)	1
		Sec 4 POA Fear or provocation of violence	4
		Sec 4a POA Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	12
		Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988	8
		Sexual assault on a female	1
		Theft by an Employee	1
		Theft from a motor vehicle	3
		Theft from shops and stalls	3
		Theft if not classified elsewhere	13
		Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	4
		Theft of a motor vehicle	1
		Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Pedal Cycle	1
		Threats to destroy or damage property	1
		Threats to kill	2
		Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (does not include 'driving or being carried knowing motor vehicle has been taken')	1
	Eye Total		161

In the year ending September 2018, the crime rate in Western Suffolk was about the same as the average crime rate across similar areas.



The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Western Suffolk lies between the red and green lines, so its crime rate is normal for the group.

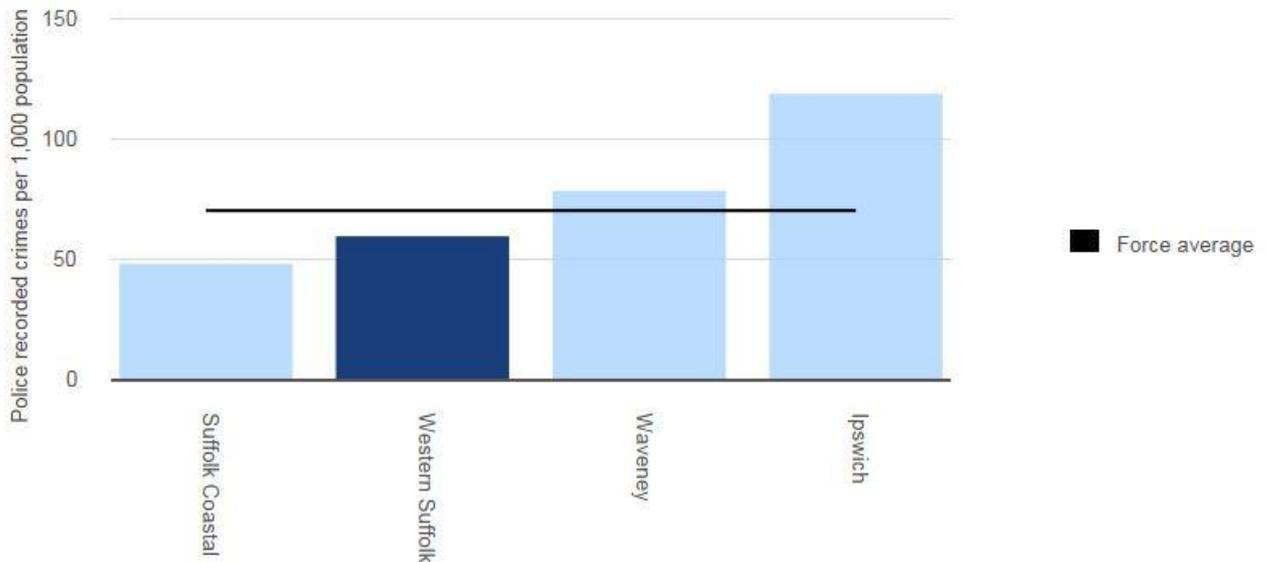
How to interpret this chart

This chart compares the crime rate in your local area to the average crime rate across similar areas. It shows the total number of crimes over a twelve month period per thousand residents, for the crime type selected.

Where your area lies in relation to the red and green lines is more important than its rank among similar areas. If your area lies between the red and green lines, its crime rate is normal for the group. If your area lies above the red line, its crime rate is higher than normal for the group, and similarly, if your area lies below the green line, its crime rate is lower than normal.

The areas shown in this chart are those that have been assessed to be most similar to your own. However, the circumstances within these areas do still vary and these variations can have an impact on the crime rates observed.

In the year ending September 2018, the crime rate in Western Suffolk was lower than average for the Suffolk force area.



How to interpret this chart

This chart compares the crime rate in your local area to the average crime rate across the force area. It shows the total number of crimes over a twelve month period per thousand residents, for the crime type selected.

11. Verbal reports were given from the following organisations and charities within the Town: -

- Eye and District Twinning Association
- Forge Community Church
- Eye Women's Institute
- Eye Magazine
- Eye Town Moors Woodland Society

All reports submitted will be uploaded to the Council website with the minutes of this meeting in full.

12. Elector's questions

A member of the public spoke of the Women's Tour of Britain Cycle Race coming through Eye on the 10th June. She said that the route would pass down Victoria Hill. She was disappointed to see the rose bed on the junction of Victoria Hill and Castleton Way looks a disgrace and asked if something could be done to tidy up before the event.

Cllr Walker responded that the rose beds were the property of Suffolk County Council so permission would be required by them as the owners before any work could be commenced.

13. Any other business

Cllr Walker reminded the meeting of the forthcoming Local Election and the importance of voting.

The meeting finished at 20:40.