Droitwich Spa Town Council

Report of the Chairman of the Community & Amenities Committee 2025/26

The Communities and Amenities Committee is responsible for the following:

- Droitwich Spa Heritage Centre at St Richard's House
- The Community Hall in Heritage Way
- Copcut Park and Spring Meadow Open Space
- 4 allotment sites at Vines Lane, Chawson Lane, Westwood Lodge and Copcut Park
- Bus shelters, public benches and notice boards within the Town centre
- Summer and Winter planting
- Band in the Park program at the Lido Park band stand
- Logistical support for local Town Centre events including equipment to loan to other users
- Grants Appraisal Panel for Grant Funding and Sponsorship
- Christmas Illuminations and the Annual Switch On event

Droitwich Spa Heritage Centre at St Richard's House

The Heritage Centre is operated by the Heritage Managers Catherine & Becky, and their volunteer team. They offer a range of services for locals and tourists alike and have a gift shop selling a range of local gifts, including a range of Droitwich Salt, local honey and other products.

In 2024 we were successful in gaining a £130,000 grant from Wychavon's Community Legacy Grant Fund. The work started on the renovation in 2025, with the reopening on the 11th February 2026, and official opening scheduled for 20th March 2026. Far Post Design Ltd and Bourne Site Services have done a fantastic job, giving the Heritage Centre a new lease of life. Please do support and visit the new look centre which is free of charge, open Mon-Fri 10:00-16:00 and Saturday's 10:00-13:30.

A special thank you to Becky and Catherine for all of their hard work, curating this new centre for us all, and as always, to our wonderful volunteers who look forward to welcoming you!

Land Holdings

The last professional arboreal survey was completed in 2024. From the report produced all category one works arising have been dealt with in February 2025. This category includes dead, diseased or dangerous tree defects that presented an immediate risk in the public realm at Copcut Park.

Following the collaboration with Natural Networks at Spring Meadow and Copcut Park to enhance the sites for the wildlife, I can confirm that the wildflower meadow at Spring Meadow was beautiful in bloom last year. The newly planted 21 native fruit trees are doing well and create further habitat and boost floral diversity.
Thanks are expressed to Mr Dan Lovett and his team from Top Cut for their diligent standards towards the regular grounds maintenance & mowing covering both areas of public open space.

Allotments

Currently all four sites are fully tenanted with measures to let any vacant plots from the waiting list. Investment to maintain the sites to a suitable standard within a limited budget has continued during the year.
The Town Council reviewed tenancy charges again in January 2026 and resolved to maintain the current fee, which represents value for money.

Summer and Winter Planting

Acorn Environmental Care have been awarded the contract to maintain the municipal planting for the Town centre hanging baskets and displays at St Richard's House and the War Memorial in Victoria Square for another 3 years. We receive many positive comments from residents and visitors (in person and online) about the fantastic displays of flowers and colours. Thanks are expressed for the whole team at Acorn for their hard work and dedication, it is very much appreciated and enjoyed by us all.

Charter Market and Monthly Market

A Weekly Charter Market on Fridays at Victoria Square from April 2023 was resurrected through the Company Bluebell Events. The Friday Market is well attended and brings people to the town. Following this success, we have extended the market to every second Saturday of the month, which will continue in 2026, starting 14th March.

The Community Hall

The Community Hall has been well used by a variety of groups and organisations throughout the year. Bookings and regular hirers remain strong and the revenue derived is a valuable source of supplementary income within the Town Council finances. A review of the charges tariff has once again been completed at Year end budget setting. The tariff and associated 20% charity status discount remains unchanged.
To book the Community Hall: venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Droitwich-Spa-Town-Council or contact Katy direct with your enquiry: katy.prew@droitwichspa.gov.uk

Summer Band Concerts in Lido Park

The Band Concert programme will operate Sunday afternoons from 2:30pm onwards, in Lido Park from 17th May – 20th September 2026. The concerts are hugely popular and well supported by residents and visitors to our town. This year we welcome a few new bands to the programme, which I hope you will enjoy.

Local Town Centre Events

The Town Council organised many events and occasions during 2025. The year featured many themes and different emotions including:

- VE Day 80 - 8 May 2025 – music entertainment, Punch & Judy and the beacon lighting at St Augustine's Church
- VJ Day – the 80th anniversary on 15th August
- Armistice & Remembrance Sunday- November
- Edward Winslow Festival – November, to recognise the historical significance of the Winslow family from Droitwich where the theme is Thanksgiving.
- Christmas Lights and Switch on Event, 22 November. As always, thanks to the Droitwich Lions for providing us with a Santa's Grotto. Entertainment included the Salvation Army, The Star Project, Norbury Theatre, Westacre Middle School choir, ENTW9, SB Danceworks and I Sing Choir. Thank you to all those involved and to those who attended.
- Civic Service, 15th February '26 at St Peters Church where the theme was love

St Richard's Festival, The Food & Drink Festival, Rik Mayall Comedy Festival, Salt Fest, monthly Bike Night's on the High Street and Edward Winslow Festival were all well attended, and I wish them success for the events planned in 2026.

In 2026 we plan for:

- Launch of the new look of the Heritage Centre – 20th March
- Biodiversity project - collaboration with the Droitwich Placeboard – Gurneys Lane
- Future proofing ahead of Unitary – we hope to progress converting the second floor of St Richard's House working with Wychavon District Council as a lead partner

EVENT	DATES 2026
Droitwich Spa Heritage Centre Opening	20th March
Bike Night (on the High Street)	9th April, 14th May, 11th June, 9th July, 13th August, 10th September, 8th October
Easter Kids Fun Fest (Vines Park)	4th - 5th April
Droitwich Dine & Devour (Lido Park)	9th - 10th May
Band in the Park (Lido Park)	17th May – 20th September Sunday afternoons (2:30-4:30pm)
St Richard's Festival (Vines Park)	1st - 4th May
Rik Mayall Comedy Festival	29th May – 6th June

Food Festival (Lido Park)	19th – 21st June
Salt Fest (Vines Park)	1st – 6th September
Remembrance Sunday	8th November
Christmas Lights Switch On	21st November
Edward Winslow Day	26th November

Community Banking Hub

The Town Council collaborated with the Droitwich Spa Place Board, and campaigned successfully for a Banking Hub. The doors opened in 2025, with the official opening with the MP Nigel Huddleston on the 9th January 2026. They are open Mon-Fri, 09:00-17:00 and can assist at the counter with: cash withdrawal (notes and coin), depositing cash and cheques, pay utility bills, check account balance, and collect change (registered business customers). There is also an external ATM.

Grants Appraisal Panel Awards

The Grants Appraisal Panel allocated fund of £5000 was expended to support various groups and organisations during 2024/25. A similar fund value is allocated for the period 2026/27 and the next appraisal panel meeting takes place at the end of the month to consider any applications received. The Panel continues to be very impressed by the amount of voluntary work and charity support given by many people to improve the lives of their fellow residents showing true community spirit.

Expansion for 2026/27 to include an enrichment fund of £3000 to support the underprivileged.

Throughout the year I have had the full support of my Vice-Chairman Councillor Richard Morris and members of the Community and Amenities Committee. Finally, on a personal note I would like to thank the Town Clerk, Mark Keld, and the Deputy Town Clerk, Community and Amenities, Katy Prew, for their support to me during the year. I must also pay tribute to Jane Greenfield, Deputy Town Clerk, Civic and Finance, together with all other members of staff and volunteers who enable the work of the Town Council to be undertaken so efficiently.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bowden

Chairman of Community & Amenities Committee