

Holme Valley Parish Council  
Council Chamber, Council Offices,  
Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3JP

From HBA  
c/o25 Westgate  
Honley  
Holmfirth  
HD9 6AA



17.05.16

Dear Mrs S Barber

Firstly may I apologise for the lack of feedback from the grant awarded to HBA for entering the RHS Yorkshire in Bloom "It's your Neighbourhood campaign". I was not involved with this last year and only became secretary in January of 2016 so did not realise that this had not been done by Liz Wood who was in charge of it last year so again please accept my apologies on behalf of HBA.

Within Honley you couldn't help but notice the many improvements last year in and around the village. There's a long list and the following are just some of the areas we've worked on which we wanted to celebrate:

- The barrel planters at the library, Vali Opticians and Pharmacy have looked beautiful, together with beatification of the well. The latter, together with the flower tower at Balooshai, and the many hanging baskets, gave a real warm, punchy welcome to the village.
- The land at the back of the Co Op and Opticians has been cleared, with a great deal of rubble and litter removal. We've since noticed a reduction in littering which we think is down to the fact that the area now looks cared for, coupled with a small thing, - which still took time and effort to organise - a new litter bin on the Co Op footpath. The planting in the small flower bed behind Vali Opticians would otherwise not have had any impact, had this ground work not been done.
- The flower beds at the car park have been mowed and planted, from seedlings grown by Honley residents. And we hear that 150 polyanthus were lifted from the Park, otherwise destined for Council composting, and distributed to residents' gardens, ready for re-planting this year. And as for the Church - it's flower beds looked superb, thanks to many kind donations of plants and labour
- The bike at our local butchers was adorned with ivy and geraniums. A little bit of France in Honley which looked stylish and inviting.
- The Country Hairdressers was cleared and pruned, and again litter and rubble removed. A local man was even seen stripped to the waist with sweat dripping and scythe in hand, in the grounds of the said Hairdressers. The Library looks great too: Its grounds, hedges and railings have each been enhanced.

- A great deal of painting took place throughout the village: As well as the Library, the railings at the roundabout, Vali Opticians, Gerts Florist, the Hairdressers and some litter bins have all been painted a gentle shade of grey, and our antique phone box is now a fresh, pillar box red.

- Street signs that were bent have been repaired and broken doors to gas meters reinstalled by the support of the Broadbent family at our DIY store. And bags of lime chippings were laid to provide ground cover.

- The well has seen creation of a metal flower bed, made by local craftsman from scraps of metal, into which a glorious floral display has been planted. Similarly the hanging baskets at Chain Reaction, Gerts Florist, Mustard and Punch, Fish and Chicks, and Dixon and Franks were suspended from hand crafted brackets. It would have been much easier these, but better to recycle. This allowed these and more businesses than ever to rent council baskets, creating a perfect pop of village colour. Further evidence of a real joint effort between business and community.

- And behind the scenes, we've seen and heard of tales of weekly weeding and plant watering, with car loads of water hauled to the Main Street, with people up ladders, and down! And we didn't stop there ... we know of emergency watering of every single basket and tub in the village, when the Council forgot to do so. A small blip in Council support in an otherwise spotless record from Bradley Nurseries.

- Not to mention endless litter pick up days by residents, bottle banks washed and disinfected, street furniture scrubbed clean, graffiti removed and cigarette butts picked up, one by one from the Church Street cobbles.

- And finally to enjoy all of this, we of course need somewhere to sit. So the benches have been sanded and stained, and now young and old alike, resident and visitor, have somewhere pleasant to rest.

So what can we say about all of these achievements?

We on the Honley Business Association have been amazed at what has been achieved. The collaboration and determination to make Honley a great neighbourhood in which to live, visit and work, has been 100% successful. And the award by the RHS, of most improved, after only 6 months of working together, is evidence of these achievements, although we could each see it with our own eyes.

We've noticed a sense of pride in our village and we'd like to thank each of you for the part that you've played as without the grant from Holme Valley Parish Council this would not have been possible.

We look forward to enjoying the Spring/Summer displays throughout the village and spending another year joining together to enhance the village for all the residents and businesses of Honley and thank you for your continued support. I have attached some photographs to show just some of the results within the village.

Yours sincerely,

June Mclean – HBA Secretary