



Councillor
Alan Atkin



Councillor
Sheila Cowen

Report to Full Council

April 2023

Ward priorities

- Address crime and anti-social behaviour
- Help maintain an attractive and welcoming environment
- Improving and enhancing community facilities and green spaces, to ensure they are well used and accessible to all
- Explore opportunities to enhance Wath town centre

How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our ward priorities for the Wath ward. This includes data and information from the new ward profile, the changes in the boundary, the previous ward priorities and the actions taken to address them.

We also consulted with partner agencies, local organisations, and community groups to understand key issues and priorities in the ward.

We asked residents for feedback on the ward priorities and what we could do in response by attending local events and promoting this in our ward e-bulletin.



How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our approach to ward working is centred around the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy by putting our community at the heart of everything we do by:

- Working with communities on the things that matter to them
- Listening and working together to make a difference

We seek to ensure our:

- Neighbourhoods are safe and welcoming with good community spirit
- Residents use their skills and assets to contribute to the outcomes that matter to them

Progress so far

Addressing crime and anti-social behaviour

Our ward was successful in securing funding from the Safer Streets Fund 2 project, to help address crime in a couple of areas in the ward. The funding allowed additional mobile CCTV to be purchased, and SmartWater to be offered to local residents by South Yorkshire Police. We supported community safety events to raise awareness of crime and anti-social behaviour and we distributed free community safety items.

As councillors, we organise regular walkabouts and carried out door knocks with partners in the ward. This has helped identify issues and together we have worked with the community taking a problem-solving

approach to tackle local issues. We have worked together with partners and the community to mobilise ward CCTV to tackle anti-social behaviour, identified key locations for the ward for speed activation signs to discourage speeding, funded parking buddies for a local primary school, installed new signage, installed drop curbs and road markings to improve road safety and provided funding so a local community organisation can be more secure.

Help maintain an attractive and welcoming environment

Through 3 blitz days (street cleansing initiatives) and community skips days organised within the ward, we have encouraged a cleaner and safer environment, helping to make the ward more attractive and welcoming for everyone. Our local litter picking group the Wath, West Melton and Brampton litter pickers have been instrumental in keeping our streets clean and tidy. The group have highlighted several litter hotspots and we worked with the Street Cleansing team to secure new bins in key locations, all thanks to the group.

As part of the Council's commitment to increasing urban tree coverage across Rotherham to mitigate climate change and improve biodiversity, new trees have been planted at Newhill Park. The trees have been selected with the principle of 'right tree, right place', ensuring the tree will grow to a suitable size for the area and maximise the benefits that trees bring. We are currently working with the Greenspaces team and have identified other locations for new trees following consultation with local residents.

Improving and enhancing community facilities and green spaces, to ensure they are well used and accessible to all

The Wath skate park has always attracted budding skateboarders and scooter users. We have continued to support the site to ensure it remains a well-used and popular location for young people. This involved making more improvements, with a new grind rail.

We have also worked with Wath Cricket Club to help secure funding for a newly resurfaced car park. Wath running track is due to be resurfaced in spring 2023. Local organisations were passionate about seeing this track brought back to life and we were delighted to be able to provide match funding through our ward budget.

We continue to support local community facilities to enhance and improve their offer to ensure they are well used and remain accessible to all. Manvers Lake is a beautiful location offering many activities from walking to water sports. We have continued to support the Trust with funding for new throw line signage for the lake to help keep users safe. Montgomery Hall is another community facility we have been able to support with funding along with the foodbank that operates from the hall. We were also pleased to support Community Connect CIC with funding for a new sensory garden. Other groups that we supported included Wath Allotment group, Raising the Rafters and The Rainbow Project.

Explore opportunities to enhance Wath town centre

As Councillors, we continue to support the heart of our community, Wath town centre. Through consultation with local businesses and residents we helped to shape the bid proposal that the Council put together for Levelling Up money for improvements to the town centre. Unfortunately, the Council was unsuccessful in this bid, but we continue to explore other options with officers.

Through regular walkabouts organised with partners, we have made improvements to the town centre, from the removal of old garages on the car park, to working alongside businesses, South Yorkshire Police and the Community Protection team to design out crime in the town centre.

Saturday markets has been a new addition to Wath town centre, and we continue to support the stallholders and promote the markets to ensure our town centre is thriving.

Working with the Wath Events team, we have helped to organise community events in our town centre. As the restrictions of covid were lifted, we supported the group with events again. We organised a lovely fun-filled family event in Wath town centre for the Queens Jubilee celebrations. Christmas 2022 saw the return of the Christmas lights switch-on event with rides, stalls, music and entertainment for all the family.