

Knutsford Town Council

Annual Report
2013/14



Knutsford Town Council

looking to the past, the present and the future
www.knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

01565 653 929

@knutsfordtown



Introduction from your Mayor

It has been an incredibly fulfilling year in office, which started with the Mayor Making in May 2013. I was delighted to be elected to the office of Town Mayor and have been assisting in my duties by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Neil Forbes. Civic Sunday is always a highlight in the Mayoral calendar but was especially so this year as it saw the introduction of the Town Awards Scheme. The Town Awards is a scheme close to my heart and it is great to be able to give the sincere appreciation to those who give so much to the Knutsford Community.

It was rewarding to see the first asset transfer from Cheshire East Council take place as the two toilet blocks were returned to the direct ownership of the town. The Town Council are proud to have been able to quickly effect drastic improvements to the facilities for both our residents and visitors.

It has been a year of great markets, with the Artisan Market having become a regular feature of Princess Street and the two day Christmas Market, directly organised by the Town Council, being a huge success.

I thank all the councillors who have been involved on the various committees and working groups throughout the year for their endless hard work.

I would also like to thank Helen Dytham;



my PA until January, for all her help and assistance. I am pleased to welcome the new Mayor's PA, Lisa Benskin who got immediately stuck in to helping me organise the Mayor's Ball.

I have been privileged to be invited to many different events during my year in office, ranging from Civic Sunday's in our neighbouring towns, award presentations, concerts and open days. In total, I have attended over 90 events and others were attended by the Deputy Mayor or one of the former Mayor's in my place.

Throughout my year as Mayor, I have been raising funds for two extremely worthy causes; The Knutsford Lions and Cheshire Search and Rescue.

It truly has been an honour to serve as Mayor.

Cllr Barbara Coan.

2020 Vision

In February the Council adopted a 2020 Vision; setting out 13 key strategic aims for the Council over the next six years.



- I** Produce a Neighbourhood Plan reflecting the wishes of the residents and businesses of Knutsford in 'the peoples' vision for Knutsford.
- 2** Use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other income to the benefit of Knutsford by providing tangible improvements to the town, whilst minimising the annual precept required by Knutsford Town Council.
- 3** Establish the appropriate level of 'community space' available to residents of Knutsford and organisations/activities based in the town. Ensuring this space is available and actively promoted to all residents, encompassing Knutsford's wide age related and socio-economic need.
- 4** Undertake appropriate asset acquisitions from CEC to Knutsford Town Council, enhancing facilities and providing an improved service.
- 5** Develop the existing good relationship with businesses in Knutsford, working together to promote and enhance the economic vibrancy in the town.
- 6** Encourage, support and promote volunteer organisations and charities within Knutsford for the benefit of the town and act as a dependable signposting centre.
- 7** Evaluate the cost/benefit potential on the transfer of historical play areas in Knutsford from CEC to Knutsford Town Council improving recreational facilities across the town.
- 8** Work with partners to protect the heritage and character of Knutsford, ensuring conservation areas, buildings, developments, modifications and materials are in keeping with Knutsford.
- 9** Work with partners to ensure Knutsford's open and green spaces, street trees and woodland are protected, maintained and safeguarded for the future.
- 10** Work with Highways, Transport for Greater Manchester, rail, bus and other companies, to improve public transport and reduce road congestion in Knutsford and to consider diversion of 'through traffic' and reduced speed limits, where appropriate.
- 11** Work with relevant partners to promote cycle routes and pedestrian access as a sustainable and healthy form of transport.
- 12** Work with NHS bodies and CEC to hasten the delivery of the new primary health-care provision for Knutsford in line with results of the public consultation
- 13** Consider taking on enforcement duties for low level anti-social activities from CEC.

Town Awards

2013 saw the introduction of the Town Awards which were presented on Civic Sunday in June.

The first Civic Award was presented to Jan McCappin for the dedication to the many community groups she is part of. The second Civic Award went to Patricia McAndrew and Louise Reed for their dedicated work as volunteer youth leaders at the Welcome Cafe. The final Civic Award was presented to Rowena Acton for all the work she carries out in Longridge and Shaw Heath.

The Business Award went to Peter Murray of 'Pulse of Perfumery' for his work bringing the business community together to promote Knutsford.

The final presentation, the Community



Award, went to to the Knutsford Lions for the vast and varied work they do across the town.

The 2013 awards were sponsored by the Forum of Private Business, who have also decided to sponsor the 2014 awards!

For 2014 a new award, recognising the contributions of those under 21, has been introduced.

Nominations can be made for the 2014 awards until June 2nd either online, or at a number of locations across the town.

Toilet Transfer

The first asset transfer from CEC to the Council took place in July. The toilet blocks at King St Car Park and Bexton Road then immediately went under refurbishment by leading public toilets provider DANFO.

Now under Town Council control the two blocks benefit from increased opening hours – 6am to midnight every day. The toilet blocks both comprise



three toilets, unisex accessible, unisex & female and cost 20p to use which offsets the cost of maintenance and refurbishment.

The Town Council were 'flushed with joy' in December when both toilet blocks were awarded Gold status in the 2014 Loo of the Year UK awards.

Looking Forward

In 2014/15 the Town Council will:

- Launch the 2014 Town Guide
- Investigate ideas for new Town Events
- Finalise the transfer of the Town Market
- Finalise the transfer of the Sparrow Lane and Warren Avenue Allotment Sites
- Establish an action plan in support of the 2020 Vision
- Continue to listen and respond to suggestions from the community



Community Grants

The Finance Committee of the Town Council administers a Community Grant Scheme which offers funding to local bodies that enhance the lives of Knutsford residents.

In 2014/15 we awarded over £15,000 in grants to 8 organisations: Knutsford in Bloom, Community Spirit, St Johns

Wood Lunch Club, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Friends of the Moor, Royal May Day, the ATC and Knutsford Heritage Centre.

If you would like to find out more about the Community Grant scheme, visit the Town Council website or call the Council Offices.

Finance

The 2014/15 precept for the Town Council was set at £255,307; representing a 1.18% decrease on the 2013/14 precept of £228,000 (inc. £75,000 grant from Manchester Airport).

The precept represents a band D rate of £40.07.

The total budgeted expenditure for

2014/15 is £405,890 with budgeted income of £365,780 (including the precept). The difference of £40,110 will be drawn from the left over funds from the current financial year and a slight reduction in the Council reserves.

We publish financial information including payments, budgets and spending to date on the Council website.

Looking Back

Here are some of the highlights of the work carried out by the Committees over the past year...

Moor Pool

The Environment Committee have been working with Natural England, Tatton Estate Management and the Cheshire Wildlife Trust to seek mitigation and prevent the fish death in the Moor Pool which occurred in 2010.

Wallwood

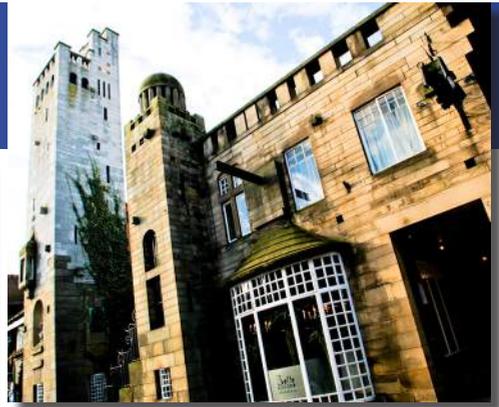
The Operations Committee installed new fencing around the woodland to replace the old and damaged fencing which was beginning to become a safety hazard. The Committee also ensures that routine care is taken of the trees in the small woodland both for the safety of visitors to the area and to ensure the trees thrive. The Committee will next be looking at improving the paths in the wood and installing signage.

Artisan Markets

The Events Committee agreed that the Artisan Market become a permanent fixture of the Town Events calendar running on the first Sunday of each month February to November.

Knutsford Hosts

The Town Council is the lead partner on this multi-partner project seeking to establish a bank of volunteers to help out at Town Events. The project is



funded by a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

Christmas Lights and Market

The Events Committee oversaw the organisation of the most successful Christmas Market to date, along with the Christmas lights switch on. This included a primary school competition to design a new motif!

King Canute Sculpture

The Environment Committee have been organising the installation of a sculpture of King Canute, designed by Jubilee Arch designed Christine Wilcox-Baker, in the Council Office grounds. The sculpture was used as part of a RHS Tatton display and has not been on display since.

New Benches

The Environment Committee have overseen the installation of three new town centre benches. Two were installed in recognition of former Town Mayors, Jennifer Holbrook and Wilson Hamman, whilst a third, which replaces one which was damaged, will be dedicated to Laurie Burton.

Town Councillors

You can contact any of your town councillors by letter, phone or e-mail.

Each councillor has a dedicated Council e-mail address:

firstname.lastname@knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Bexton Ward

Tony Dean	8 Trevone Close	01565 650 527
Michael Houghton	67 Ashworth Park	01565 634 180
Simon Hutchence	23 Queen Street	01565 641 906

Nether Ward

Vivien Davies	9 Higher Downs	01565 751 078
Stewart Gardiner	23 Queen Street	01565 641 906
Clive Nicholson	39 Warren Avenue	01565 751 197

Norbury Booths Ward

Gary Lasham	Greenfields, Bexton Lane	07778 767 666
Jan Nicholson	39 Warren Avenue	01565 751 197
Peter Raynes	13 Hallside Park	01565 633 487

Over Ward

Yvonne Bancroft	Beech House, Thornyholme Drive	01565 631 833
Barbara Coan	24 Mansion Drive	01565 651 489
Peter Coan	Mereside, 2 Birch Grove	01565 632 159
Neil Forbes	69 Westfield Drive	01565 633 465
Julian Goodrich	42 Heron Close	07876 763 942
Andrew Malloy	29 Thorneyholme Drive	07751 231 444

Cheshire East Councillors

- Councillor Stewart Gardiner - details above
- Councillor Olivia Hunter -11 Manor Park South - 07803 296803
- Councillor Peter Raynes - details above

Contact the Council

Knutsford Town Council
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Toft Road
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Monday to Friday
09:00 to 17:00

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