

Knutsford Town Council

Annual Report
2016/17

Knutsford Town Council
www.knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

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LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD



Introduction from your Mayor

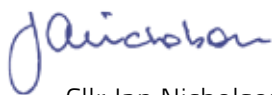
It has been an honour to serve as Mayor of Knutsford over the past year. This annual report highlights some of what the Town Council has achieved over the past twelve months and looks forward to the next year.

Firstly thanks must go to my fellow councillors for all their work over the past year. Thanks also to our dedicated team of officers, led by our Town Clerk.

In February, Yvonne Bancroft stood down from the council after four dedicated years of service. On behalf of my colleagues on the council I would like to thank her for all her work on the numerous committees and working groups on which she served.

I would also like to express my thanks to everyone who has supported the numerous fundraising events held this year for my chosen charities; Knutsford GROW, Knutsford District Scouts and the Knutsford Lions.

Serving as Mayor is a humbling experience and it has been delightful to witness the strength of our community in the events I have attended.



CLlr Jan Nicholson
Town Mayor 2016/17



Finances

The 2017/18 precept for the Town Council was set at £286,080; a Band D amount of £49.84 per year. The total budget expenditure for the year is £516,034.

The budget includes funds towards the development of our Neighbourhood Plan, speed indicator devices, supporting the Pumpkin Path, a new Music Festival and the transfer of the Town Council Offices.

The Council provides funding to a number of community organisation through its grants scheme as well as supporting the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Quality Gold Award

The Town Council joined an 'exclusive club' in July, by being one of the first twenty town and parish councils in the country to be awarded Quality Gold Status in the Local Council Award Scheme.

The scheme, operated by NALC, the success of the very best local councils and Knutsford is the only Town Council in Cheshire to receive the award to date.

The award was presented to the Town Council by Mayor of Cheshire East, Cllr



Olivia Hunter, and Chairman of ChALC, Philip Jackson, as part of the Mayor's Announcements at a meeting of Cheshire East Council.

The award panel in particular commended the Town Council on its website and the level of detail provided on the council's activities and finances.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Council is leading the community in developing a Neighbourhood Plan and great progress has been made over the past twelve months.

A community survey was undertaken in late summer which has helped identify the key issues the plan will focus on. Our working groups have been increasingly busy beginning to look at the policy areas the plan explore.

Urban Imprint have been appointed as project managers and consultants to help guide us through the process.

Over the next few months we will be



setting out the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan and the key policy areas.

If you would like to help with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan you can consider joining one of the working groups; Heritage, Housing and Employment, Getting Around, Environment and Open Spaces, Sports and Leisure, Education and Community, Town Centre or Health.

Tour of Britain

A highlight of the past twelve months was the Tour of Britain cycling race passing through Knutsford TWICE. This was made possible through the Town Council sponsoring the event with Cheshire East Council.

The Town Council worked with a number of partners to ensure the race coming through Knutsford was celebrated; supporting the CycleFest event on Knutsford Heath organised by



Tatton Estate Management and Knutsford One's installation of orange bikes across the town.

The Town Council is now working on a number of legacy projects.

Blue Plaques

In December, five new blue plaques were installed as part of the Council's Blue Plaque scheme.

The first plaque was installed at Brae Cottage on Legh Road, home of Henry Royce.

Three plaques were installed in the Town Centre for key buildings; the Sessions House, Gaskell Memorial Tower and Royal George Hotel.

The final plaque, on the Freemasons Arms, highlighted Silk Mill Street as home to Royal Academy founder Edward Penny.

The Town Council hopes in the future to be able to install a plaque on the Old



Town Hall, now Lost and Found, noting its eminent architect and original use. The aim of the scheme is to help residents and visitors identify with the history of Knutsford and aims to promote recognition and awareness of people, places and events which have been of lasting significance in the life of Knutsford or more widely.

Members of the public are invited to nominate sites for future Blue Plaques on the Town Council website.

War Memorial Cottage Hospital

An important issue for Knutsford has been the sale of the Town's War Memorial, the Cottage Hospital on Northwich Road, owned by the British Red Cross.

The Town Council established a working group tasked with the aim of protecting the building and seeking a suitable outcome for the community.

The Town Council first sought to have the building registered as an Asset of Community Value; but this was rejected by Cheshire East Council for not meeting strict statutory criteria.

An attempt was then made to have the building listed as a building of Architectural or Historical Interest; again this was rejected on the grounds

it was not of sufficient interest in a national context.

The Town Council has been successful in arranging an Article IV Direction from Cheshire East Council which protects the building from demolition without full planning permission.

Attempts have been made to get a share of the proceeds of the sale from both British Red Cross and Crown Estates to invest in community facilities or health and well-being. This was rejected by both parties.

Recently the Town Council has written to NHS England to ensure their share of proceeds is reinvested in Knutsford's health facilities. A response is awaited.

Tree for Vivien

A lasting memorial to one of Knutsford's former Town Mayors was dedicated on the Moor in March.

The English Oak tree was planted in memory of Vivien Davies, who passed away in 2015.

It was planted by Town Mayor, Cllr Jan Nicholson and Vivien's husband, John Davies.



The tree was dedicated to Vivien as former Mayor, Chairman of Friends of the Moor, a town and borough councillor and for her many years of commitment to the Moor and the community of Knutsford.

Looking Back

Heritage Open Days

The Town Council opened up the Cemetery Chapel and Council Chamber as part of the Knutsford Heritage Open Days.

Wallwood Bulb Planting

Bluebells were planted around the edge of Wallwood by councillors and local beavers and cubs.

Benches Installed

Two new benches were installed at the Cemetery, one dedicated to the fallen of the World Wars. A bench was installed at the Town Council Offices in memory of Cllr Clive Nicholson.

Cemetery Grave Works

The second programme of improvements to the Cemetery has been undertaken, with around 70 graves being repaired and re-stood to improve the aesthetic of the cemetery.

Cotton Shop Yard

A bollard was installed at the top of Cotton Shop Yard to prevent parking on this right of way. A new planter will be installed at the bottom.

Christmas Events

The council enjoyed its most successful Christmas Market to date followed by the third annual Lantern Parade.

Market Improvements

New lighting was installed at the Market Hall and, thanks to sponsorship from Silk 106 FM, a radio was installed too. The Council also commissioned NABMA to advise on a long-term plan for the Market .

Planning Applications

The Planning Committee has considered over 280 planning applications in the past year, passing comments to Cheshire East Council. We have also attended the Cheshire East Planning Committee to speak on three key applications.

Wilmslow Job Centre Consultation

The Town Council responded to the consultation on the closure of the job centre, urging services to be delivered more locally as part of the closures and expressing concerns about the impact on Knutsford residents.

Canute Millennial Celebrations

The Town Council supported the Heritage Centre's programme of commemorative events for the millennial of King Canute's crowing as king of England.

Church Walk Parking

The Environment Committee has been working with Cheshire East Council on a solution for the parking issues on Church Walk, with new double-yellow lines being installed later this year.

Looking Forward

Town Centre Manager

The Council will be recruiting a new Town Centre Manager to improve local business communications and work to support and promote the town centre, including looking at establishing a Business Improvement District.

2017/18 Town Guide

A new Town Guide will be launched in early May; featuring guides to local facilities and tourist attractions it will help promote the town for visitors and residents.

Centennial War Memorial

Planning permission has been granted and the Town Council aspires to have the new memorial in place ready for Remembrance Sunday 2017.

Knutsford Music Festival

The Events Committee is introducing a brand new event this year, with a range of events over the weekend.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Environment Committee will be looking to install two new SIDs on arterial roads in Knutsford to remind drivers to obey the speed limits.

Cemetery Chapel

The Cemetery working group will be investigating options for refurbishing of the cemetery chapel and promoting its use.



Allotment Improvements

The Assets Committee is looking to create new accessible plots at the Warren Avenue allotments and compostable toilets at Warren Avenue and Sparrow Lane.

Council Office Transfer

The Town Council has been in discussions with Cheshire East Council to take on the Town Council Offices and maximise its use for the community.

Booths Garden Improvements

The Environment Committee will be investigating improvements to the garden behind Booths, looking to establish a small community garden.

Open Space Improvements

A number of trees and shrubs will be planted on open spaces identified in the 2015 survey, with a new bench being installed on the open space at Highland Way.

Contact your 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
Christine Gray	8 Glebelands Road	01565 331 131
Simon Hutchence	23 Queen Street	01565 641 906

Nether Ward

Stewart Gardiner	23 Queen Street	01565641 906
Christopher Gray	8 Glebelands Road	01565 331 131
James Power	58 Stanley Road	07521 067 214

Nobury Booths Ward

Charlotte Greenstein	16 Oakleigh	01565 228 297
Jan Nicholson	39 Warren Avenue	01565 751 197
Hayley Wells-Bradshaw	35 Chelford Road	07841 417 832

Over Ward

Peter Coan	Merridale, Plumley Moor Road, Plumley	01565 632 159
Jonathan Farber	93 Manchester Road	01565 760 600
Neil Forbes	69 Westfield Drive	01565 633 465
Julian Goodrich	4 Lincoln Place, Macclesfield	07876 763 942
Andrew Malloy	29 Thorneyholme Drive	07751 231 444

Knutsford Town Council

looking to the past, **the present** and **the future**

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