

Macclesfield Town Council Annual Report 2015-16

Mayor's Annual Report

On 21st May 2015, Cllr Liz Durham was elected as Macclesfield Town Council's first Mayor with the official title of "The Worshipful the Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Liz Durham."

Cllr Durham was swiftly inaugurated into the role with engagements in her first week as Mayor; attending the Eye Society's Celebratory Event where many local organisations were represented and opening Butters John Bee on Mill Street with the Town Crier in attendance.

The summer months are resplendent with Civic Services across Cheshire East. These are formal occasions to honour the new Town Mayor. The Mayor of Macclesfield's Civic Service was held in July at St Michael and All Angel's Church. The Mace Bearer led the Civic Party procession from the Town Hall to the Church. The service reflected the Mayor's theme of "a celebration of life, young and old".

Macclesfield held a commemorative weekend 15th-16th August dedicated to remembering those from the Macclesfield area and the 7th Cheshire Regiment who participated in the Gallipoli landings in 1915. The Mayor went to several of the lectures and laid a wreath at the War Memorial following the special Sunday Service.

One of the special roles of the Mayor is to attend official openings, present prizes or awards, or be present to mark a celebratory or commemorative event. There have been many such engagements in 2015 and 2016, for example; attending the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Prince's Trust Graduation, speaking at a Macclesfield Pioneering Women's lunch, presenting awards at Angel's Rescue Horse Show, meeting German Exchange Students at Kings School, laying a wreath on Remembrance Day, and greeting children at Santa's Grotto. These are just a few of the many varied engagements the Mayor has been delighted to attend, of which there have been over one hundred.

A highlight of the Mayor's official engagements was Macclesfield's Christmas Lights Switch On. Dancing groups, bands, singers and entertainers braved the weather to deliver professional performances. The Mayor, Father Christmas and David Rutley MP had the honour of switching on the lights.

The Charity Ball was a personal highlight in the Mayor's calendar. Dignitaries and representatives from local organisations were among the guests. Following a sumptuous 3 course meal, there was a raffle and auction. The night finished with dancing to a local band. £1829 was raised for the Mayor's Charities, Park Lane Special School and Alzheimer's Society.

Eight groups of people were presented with the Mayor's Civic Awards in April for their voluntary services to the town. Residents were invited to nominate people from the local community and winners were chosen by a judging panel led by the Mayor.

The award presentation took place at the Town Hall following the Mayor's Thanksgiving Service at St Michael and All Angel's Church.

As Cllr Liz Durham's term as Macclesfield Town Council's first Mayor comes to an end, this is time to reflect on all the extraordinary people she has met who dedicate their time to helping others and who strive to make Macclesfield a great place to live. Cllr Liz Durham wishes to thank everyone who has supported and welcomed her.

Local Service Delivery in Macclesfield

In this first year of operation of Macclesfield Town Council, there has been a concerted focus on the very necessary governance and infrastructure of the council.

This means the development of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and policies covering the full range of the council's work, from freedom of and access to information to safeguarding and health and safety. Members have had to develop, consider and approve around 500 pages of detailed policy information and attend numerous meetings to develop the council's constitution.

The council has developed a scheme of delegation through its committees:

Finance Committee - Overseeing the council's spend and budgeting

Services Committee - Managing the council's strategic approach to local service delivery

Planning Committee - Considering local planning applications and issues and responding on behalf of the council

Personnel Committee responsible for staffing the council's human resources

These committees take a focussed view on their specific areas of responsibility and enable the council to make decisions efficiently and responsibly.

As well as the governance work, the council took forward some early responsibilities, which included the town's floral displays and the Christmas Lights.

The council also led on the delivery of their first Christmas Lights Switch On, which took place on Saturday November 28th. The big stage event did not benefit from the very seasonal weather, but the community of Macclesfield braved the rain and wind to see displays of dancing, live music and pantomime. The town hall hosted a large craft fair and the Market Place was home to a Christmas Market with entertainers and children's activities.

Eventually the weather cleared just in time for the switch on by Father Christmas and the fireworks display, which was enjoyed by a packed square of people enjoying the festivities.

The Council has also granted over £45,000 to community groups in Macclesfield for projects that serve the community, provide activities for all age ranges and promote the town through events and publications. The grants scheme is open to any

community group in Macclesfield for activities that benefit Macclesfield, its communities and residents.

The town council has responsibility for funding the CCTV provision in the town and works closely with the control room and emergency services. We are going through a review of CCTV provision for 2017/18 to ensure the current capacity meets the needs of the town.

Through the Planning Committee, the town council has hosted several consultation and public events to understand the views of residents when responding to issues such as the Cheshire East Local Plan. These community engagement events have helped inform our response to a number of issues in the town and give residents another opportunity for their opinions to be taken in to consideration.

In this, our first year, we have enjoyed the opportunity to play our part in celebrating HM The Queen's 90th birthday. In March councillors and residents took part in the national Clean for the Queen project in the town centre. In April, to mark the Queen's birthday, the first of 90 trees to be planted for the Queen in Macclesfield was planted and dedicated in St Michael's churchyard.

Looking forward, we are working very closely with Cheshire East Council with regard to the transfer of assets and services within the town to the town council to meet the aims of greater local service delivery. It is expected that in the coming weeks allotments and community centres will be negotiated for transfer and looking further in to the future we will continue to work with partners to identify other appropriate facilities and services in the town that might benefit from greater local focus.

The Council's Finances

The Finance Committee led the council through a detailed budget-setting process that began in September 2015, with the final budget for 2016/17 being approved in January 2016.

How Macclesfield Town Council will use your £38.25 council tax precept.

Payment of £38.25 based on a band D home per year.

1. Staffing
2. Administration
3. Weston Community Centre and Allotments
4. Public Conveniences
5. Town Centre and Economy
6. Christmas Lights
7. CCTV
8. Projects and Events

- 9. Community Delivery
- 10. Neighbourhood Development Plan
- 11. Community Grants
- 12. Other Operational Costs

Please note that Macclesfield Town Councillors do not cost any money, it is a voluntary role.

Annual Financial Return for 2015/16

The information in the table below is taken from the working details for the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2016. For a breakdown of year-end figures, please contact clerk@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk or call 01625 374142.

Table 1 Annual return income and expenditure

Income/expenditure	Last Year	This Year	General notes for Guidance
Balances brought forward	£0	£0	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the Council Financial Records
Annual precept	£0	£575,640	Total amount of Precept income received in the year
Total other receipts	£0	£27,795	Total income or receipts recorded in the cash book minus the Precept
Staff costs	£0	£33,808	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and expenses
Loan interest/Capital repayments	£0	£0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the Council borrowings
Total other payments	£0	£168,320	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus employment costs and loan/interest expenditure/payments

Income/expenditure	Last Year	This Year	General notes for Guidance
Balances carried forward	£0	£401,307	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year
Total Cash and Investments	£0	£376,965	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held as at 31 March
Total Fixed Assets	£0	£451,340	The recorded current book value at 31 March of all tangible fixed assets owned by the Council as recorded in the asset register
Total borrowings	£0	£0	The outstanding capital balances as at 31 March of all loans from third parties

The Council

Broken Cross Ward

Cllr Liz Durham (Mayor)

Cllr Martin Hardy

Central Ward

Cllr Beverley Dooley

Cllr Janet Jackson

East Ward

Cllr Philip Bolton

Hurdsfield Ward

Cllr Matthew Sharrocks

South Ward

Cllr Chris Andrew

Cllr Neil Puttick

Tytherington Ward

Cllr Ainsley Arnold

Cllr Gareth Jones

West & Ivy Ward

Cllr Alift Harewood (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Adam Schofield

The 2015/16 Committees

Finance Committee

Cllr Andrew (Chairman)

Cllr Schofield (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Durham

Cllr Jones

Cllr Dooley

Cllr Hardy

Cllr Harewood

Services Committee

Cllr Hardy (Chairman)

Cllr Bolton (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Dooley

Cllr Jackson

Cllr Puttick

Cllr Jones

Cllr Arnold

Planning Committee

Cllr Jones (Chairman)

Cllr Bolton (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Harewood

Cllr Dooley

Cllr Durham

Personnel Committee

Cllr Arnold (Chairman)

Cllr Schofield (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Jackson

Cllr Jones

Cllr Durham

Cllr Sharrocks

Cllr Puttick

The Offices

Macclesfield Town Hall

Market Place

Macclesfield

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www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

We can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram