

Macclesfield Town Council Annual Report 2016-17

Mayor's Annual Report

Cllr Alift Harewood-Jones MBE took the office of Town Mayor on 17th May 2016, to a crowded Council Chamber. In a first for Macclesfield, a Mayor's Cadet (Sgt Emily Storer from Air Training Corp. 201 Squadron) was invested during the Mayor Making Ceremony.

The Mayor has had an exceptionally busy year with a full Civic Diary of around 160 engagements. Invitations have ranged from opening Park Royal School's extension, to attending concerts, to presenting awards. Among the numerous community engagements, the Mayor has attended Civic and charity events across Cheshire East in support of her Mayoral cohorts.

Engaging with the community is a priority for the Mayor and she is very supportive of nurturing the younger and older generations. Her theme for the year was "bridging the gap"; her mantra for bringing people together in which harmony and unity are celebrated.

Raising funds for her charities has been a focus for the Mayor. The charities, Just Drop In and Live at Home support younger and older generations respectively, to lead independent and fulfilled lives. She led a number of fund raising events in her term, starting with a coffee morning and cake sale. The Charity Ball in February was well attended by many eminent guests and raised over £1700.

A highlight in the Mayor's calendar was the Civic Service in September, proceeded by a parade led by the Samba band from the Town Hall to the Methodist Church. It was the first such procession in some year and true to her character, Alift saw that it was literally and metaphorically colourful.

The Mayor's Cadet has accompanied the Mayor and Consort at key events, such as Remembrance Day, and several community engagements. She has been professional and courteous at all times, setting a high standard for the role.

In March, the Mayor presented Civic Awards to several deserving individuals and groups a ceremony that took place at the Town Hall following the Mayor's Thanksgiving Service at St Michael and All Angel's Church.

Alift would like to thank everyone who has supported her, particularly her Chaplain, Rev. Helen Byrne, Cadet, Emily Storer, Deputy, Cllr Dooley, and Consort, Peter Jones.

Community Engagement Annual Report

The Community Engagement Officer began working for Macclesfield Town Council in early October 2016. During the first two months, time was spent getting to know key local community groups and contacts.

One of the first tasks was to progress the 90 Trees for the Queen project. All schools across Macclesfield were approached and offered the opportunity to be given a Tree to plant to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday year.

15 trees were distributed across the town to participating schools, nursing homes and community groups.

Trees for the Queen

Early in 2017, The Community Engagement Officer worked with the On-site Gardener in South Park to come up with a plan for planting a range of sustainable trees across the park.

The result of the project was that 15 trees were planted in the park, 4 of these were fruit trees. The fruit trees have been used to create a mini orchard within the park. It is situated near to the children's nursery so park goers and young children alike will be able to enjoy the fruits of the trees throughout the year.

Strategic Partnerships

A key aspect of the Community Engagement role is to build relationships with strategic partners. Macclesfield Town Council is now represented at the Estate Based partnership meetings where key people from each area get together to discuss local estate focussed issues. Positive outcomes have resulted from attendance at these meetings including linking a local school with Astra Zeneca Apprentices working on a community project and helping an estate to develop a Community Choir.

Community Events

At the end of March 2017, Macclesfield Town Council's first Youth Summit was held. It was attended by students from 4 High Schools as well as Student Support Services

The Youth Summit was an opportunity for young people to have their say and to be given the opportunity to talk to some key decision makers about Town issues which matter to them.

The event highlighted several issues which going forward will be considered at a Council meeting. We will be working on proposals which reflect these issues, in the coming months.

An exciting calendar of events has been established for the Town Council. The groundwork has taken place for the events which will include a St George's Day celebration,

Cycle Saturday which will launch the Town Council's brand new cycle routes, the British Nerf Blaster Championships, a Welly Walk in West Park and a Pumpkin Path for Halloween.

Macclesfield Town Council are also supporting events organised by third parties which include Silkfest, Macclesfield's very own Film Festival and a Panda Bears Picnic which is being organised by Macclesfield Museums.

Local Service Delivery in Macclesfield

At the Annual Town Meeting in March we did discuss a list of activities and projects we have been working on and it emerged that it might be of use when considering "what does Macclesfield Council actually do?"

It's a fair question and also we are a small council and a young council, so our "impact" may not be readily felt yet. So, hopefully to help answer the above question, I have compiled a list of projects and activities we have delivered and are going to deliver in the near future. I hope you find it useful.

Reporting – we report and follow up issues with street cleansing, highways maintenance, street lighting, anti-social behaviour and drainage on a day-to-day basis

We are installing Defibrillators in the town centre

We work with community groups to help them access funding, services and build partnerships to punch above their weight – eg Age UK, CVSE

We work closely with allotment groups prior to transfer and will be investing in the allotments, empowering the allotment societies to more actively manage their sites.

We maintain a close partnership with the larger authority and its subsidiaries (ANSA, Orbitas etc)

We invest in public arts – displays at the Grosvenor and the touring ADP display and event

We invest time and money in local community groups to progress their individual aspects of community enrichment, such as Artspace and Barnaby

We have an ongoing discourse with Cheshire East Council with regard to local service delivery and the potential transfer of assets, services and responsibilities

There is a significant governance responsibility which leads to practical interventions, such as the recently adopted banner policy, seeking to reduce the number of commercial banners littering the highways

Regarding local planning issues, we are a second line of consultation, taking an active role in larger and more challenging planning issues, such as the Kings consultation, barracks Mill and the Local Plan

The council is taking a proactive stance supporting the regeneration of the town, specifically seeking to progress the feasibility of a BID for the town centre.

One of our early successes was the increase and focussed investment in the floral displays in the town, which continue to have a positive impact on the public realm.

We have delivered the very well received Brick Project I & II, which also won a Civic Award

We fund the larger third sector agencies in Macclesfield and continue to encourage their ongoing sustainability (eg CAB, Make it Macclesfield, DIB, Barnaby, Silk Heritage Trust, Macclesfield MAC, Live at Home)

We fund and take an active interest in the CCTV provision in Macclesfield

The Town Council has taken bold and positive moves when delivering and enhancing the town centre Christmas Lights provision and the very well attended switch on events

Our civic function has grown and developed to include a mayor's Cadet, taking a leading part in the acts of remembrance, provision of Civic events, the introduction of the Town Crier, the Civic Awards

We give numerous talks to community groups through the year as a means of engagement and the opportunity to identify new projects, sustainable solutions for community facilities and services and building partnerships.

The council has been able to directly influence conservation projects, particularly on Middlewood Way, along the Bollin and at Riverside Park

Concerns relating to local services have been progressed and represented at numerous local and national consultations, such as the removal of the Magistrates and County Courts, the re-categorising of the Children's centres, boundary commission consultation, Hospital services

We have recently taken a lead on providing a sustainable approach to the delivery of community events in Macclesfield, following the changes to the enforcement of temporary road closures for community events. These changes meant that the costs of road closures would prevent most events from taking place. We have invested in the community, training volunteers from the Rotary, Barnaby, Artspace and Macclesfield Council staff to be authorised to enact temporary road closures, therefore removing the vast majority of the cost restrictions on community events.

The council has also been able to react quickly to opportunities, such as the tour of Britain, for which we took a cost effective and low impact approach, aiming to make us visible from the air

We have taken on a community facility (Weston Community Centre) which was significantly underused and financially unsustainable and found worked in

partnership with the third sector to deliver a building that is being refurbished and will soon be in far greater use.

We are working on new projects for local infrastructure investment, such as car charging points on council car parks

We have invested in community equipment – gazebos, PA, generator and road closure signage

Taken a lead on the development and delivery of events – Cycle Saturday (July 2017), British NERF Championships (Sep 2017), Annual Pancake Race, ABF Pipe & Drum (June 2017), St George's Day (April 2017) as well as others.

We provide advice to community groups and the public, such as The Potato Riot, Macclesfield Garden Festival and third sector engagement projects

Each year we provide community grants, this year to 25 community groups and charities with a budget of £65,000

We work with town centre businesses, keeping them informed of the projects coming to the town centre, events being planned and building relationships with key town centre stakeholders (large retail, businesses and Grosvenor Centre)

We seek to promote tourism and have recently rejuvenated the Heritage Trail, printed and distributed 2000 copies and we are looking at other ways to enhance the suite of visitor information.

Recently we have resolved to find an innovative partnership approach to working with CEC visitor services to seek to ensure this service in the town centre for years to come.

There has been an ongoing and developing relationship and partnership with the local policing team, which will see us investing in and influencing local policing in Macclesfield

We planted trees for the Queen's 90th birthday and you also took part in the clean for the Queen initiative.

We have had an active engagement with schools and young people, giving talks, arranging tours of the Town hall and Mayoral visits

With regard to the Senior Citizens hall, we took an active part in discussions with CEC to link them with third sector groups who might be able to offer the facility a sustainable future

We maintain a very efficient operating model, for example maintaining low staffing numbers and meeting financial reporting requirements, IT and professional support (HR & H&S) through negotiated contractors with external service providers.

We are looking to invest in the towns parks and play areas, working in partnership with ANSA and augmenting the current provision

This year we will be investing in youth activities and summer schools as well as promoting active lifestyles, providing opportunities for activity and linking these to promoting Macclesfield

Councillors have organised and hosted surgeries at the Treacle Market

We seek to find a sustainable solution for the future provision of accessible toilets in the town centre

Provision of the new Town Entry Signs

Reviewing and potentially adopting the tree of light event

Maintaining and developing communications through traditional and social media as well as developing mailing lists

We are looking at improving the public realm/street furniture offer in Macclesfield and now have a project investment fund which members will be asked to consider how it will be used.

As well as this, on a day to day basis, we advise and direct multiple resident queries and complaints on much broader issues than we directly provide, we fulfil to the highest standards of audit and financial responsibilities, meet with the community, community groups and residents through the community engagement work and enhance and develop the civic function, pride and services

We welcome the input of the community in to our local service delivery and invite you to attend our meetings or contact the office with any suggestions, comments or queries.

The Council's Finances

The Finance Committee led the council through a detailed budget-setting process that began in September 2016, with the final budget for 2017/18 being approved in January 2017.

How Macclesfield Town Council will use your £38.60 council tax precept.

Payment of £38.60 based on a band D home per year.

1. Staffing
2. Administration
3. Allotments
4. CCTV
5. Public Conveniences
6. Christmas Lights
7. Projects and Events
8. Community Delivery
9. Floral Displays
10. Community Grants

11. Other Operational Costs

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

Annual Financial Return for 2016/17

The information in the table below is taken from the working details for the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2017. 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	£401,307	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the Council Financial Records
Annual precept	£575,640	£679,857	Total amount of Precept income received in the year
Total other receipts	£27,795	£2,536	Total income or receipts recorded in the cash book minus the Precept
Staff costs	£33,808	£87,202	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	£168,320	£266,662	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus employment costs and loan/interest expenditure/payments
Balances carried forward	£401,307	£729,836	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year
Total Cash and Investments	£376,965	£701,272	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash

Income/expenditure	Last Year	This Year	General notes for Guidance
			holdings and investments held as at 31 March
Total Fixed Assets	£4,742	£4,742	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

Cllr Martin Hardy

Central Ward

Cllr Beverley Dooley (Mayor)

Cllr Janet Jackson

East Ward

Cllr Philip Bolton

Hurdsfield Ward

Cllr Matthew Sharrocks

South Ward

Cllr Neil Puttick

Cllr Chris Andrew

Tytherington Ward

Cllr Ainsley Arnold

Cllr Gareth Jones

West & Ivy Ward

Cllr Alift Harewood

Cllr Adam Schofield (Deputy Mayor)

The 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

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We can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram