

Macclesfield Town Council Annual Report 2018-19

The Mayor of Macclesfield

Cllr Adam Schofield was invested as Mayor of Macclesfield on 14th May 2018 with Mrs Heather Schofield as his Mayoress. He appointed Revd Martin Stephens from St Michael and All Angel's Church as his Chaplain, and Julia Domanska from ATC 201 Sqn as Mayor's Cadet. The Mayor's theme "Remembrance and Respect" was reflected in his choice of charities: Cheshire Streetwise CIC which provides counselling services, supports people experiencing hardship in many areas of their life, runs a skills cafe and operates a furniture reuse project, and the Macclesfield Branch of the Royal British Legion which supports veterans and their families, organises Remembrance events and the local Poppy Appeal. Over £4000 was raised by the Mayor's charity events during the course of the year.

Mayor's Events:

Sunday 8th July Civic Service

Saturday 8th September Charity Quiz Night

Friday 9th November Remembrance Dinner

Sunday 25th November Charity Sunday Lunch

Sunday 3rd February Mayor's Big Thank You

Saturday 23rd February Mayor's Charity Ball

Saturday 16th March Charity Quiz Night

Sunday 7th April Thanksgiving Service & Civic Award

Sunday 14th April St George's Day Parade & Service

Highlights of the year include a Remembrance Dinner in honour of servicemen and women past and present in the WW1 Commemorative Centenary Year, and the Big Thank You where the Mayor thanked a hundred volunteers for their services to the town.

The Mayor has attended over 120 civic engagements during his Mayoral term from concerts to school plays to a grass-track meet to art exhibitions. He has also attended many fundraising events organised by neighbouring Town Mayors.

The Mayor would like to thank the Councillors for their support during his term in office.

Community Engagement & Events

St George's Day Sunday 22nd April 2018

Despite the wet weather, hundreds of families turned out to celebrate St George's Day. Popular features were back from last year including the birds of prey, Morris Dancing and of course St George and the dragon. A visiting jester provided juggling entertainment as well as an opportunity for children to take part in a training school to become a Knight for the day. New for this year's event were table football and cricket games which proved popular with families. St George defeated the dragon with the help of the newly trained Knights and the sun came out in time for the parade of scouts into church to renew their promises.

Launch of Macclesfield Parkrun Saturday 28th April 2018

Saturday 28th April saw the launch of Macclesfield's very own weekly 5km parkrun, taking place in South Park. In November 2017, Macclesfield Town Council called potential volunteers to a meeting to discuss how the idea of a parkrun for the town could become a reality. Following this meeting, a dedicated core event team was created, and the finer event details were completed. With Macclesfield parkrun now averaging around 200 people each week and new people joining in each time, it has been a real success for the town. A resident contacted Macclesfield Town Council to say that she is 54 and up until a few months ago, had never been for a run. She attended the first parkrun to watch and has gradually gone from walking to running parts of it and now to running it all. In the 10 weeks she has been taking part, she said it has changed her life. The volunteers she has met, the encouragement she gets from strangers and the social side of the event have all contributed to her feeling much more positive. This is one example of the positive impact the event has had on the area.

Star Wars Day Friday 4th May 2018

On Friday May the Fourth, Macclesfield Town Centre was being visited by some well-known Star Wars characters to join in with the international Star Wars Day celebrations! Visitors to the Town Centre enjoyed meeting some of their favourite Star Wars friends (and enemies) and having their photograph taken with them. Visits were paid to many local businesses providing a great spectacle for customers and visitors to the town centre. The characters proved to be popular, especially on social media with many people sharing photographs of their encounters with the dark side.

Older Person's Day Afternoon Tea Monday 1st October 2018

Older Person's Day takes place annually on 1st October and Macclesfield Town Council hosted a complimentary afternoon tea from 12-2pm at Belong Care Village, for people aged 65 and over to celebrate. In partnership with Belong, Age UK Cheshire East and Live at Home Macclesfield, the aim was to encourage older residents to come along who would benefit from an afternoon of good food, company and entertainment.

After looking at the events provided by Macclesfield Town Council, it was clear that although a lot is offered for families, there is an opportunity to do more for the older people in Macclesfield. The event was used as a chance to find out what other activities people would like to see taking place. The attendees said they would like to see more opportunities to get together to meet new people.

Older Person's Christmas party Friday 7th December 2018

Responding to the feedback from the event held on Older Person's Day, a Christmas party at CORE (Church of the Resurrection), Upton Priory, was delivered in partnership with the Macclesfield Princes Trust Team. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of food, bingo, games and music provided by the Upton Priory School choir. One gentleman provided some feedback that he had not been out of his house or spoken to anyone for 2 weeks. He said that the party had enabled him to feel Christmassy for the first time in a long time. Another lady who attended said it was the first time she had laughed properly since her Husband had died.

Macclesfield Food Festival Saturday 30th June 2018

Macclesfield's Food Festival took place on Saturday 30th June, with thousands of people flocking to the Town Centre to enjoy the event in the glorious day long sunshine. The inaugural event welcomed stalls selling a variety of world foods as well as the well-loved classics such as bread coffee, biscuits and cakes. Visitors to the Town were able to peruse the stalls before going on to Market Place to enjoy some drinks and live music while relaxing in the seating area. The combination of fantastic food on offer, wall to wall sunshine and good music created a wonderful atmosphere in the town centre and the event will be back for 2019.

Welly Walk and Nature Needs You Saturday 13th October 2018

On Saturday 13th October, West Park saw lots of families come together to embrace outdoor play and nature activities. Macclesfield Town Council hosted the event in partnership with Macclesfield RSPB Wildlife Explorers. After seeing the success of the first event in 2017, the group decided they would like to work in partnership with the town council to make it their main annual event. Despite the rain and wind storm, around 1,000 people pulled on their wellies and waterproofs to enjoy the activities on offer. This year saw the introduction of a 'Storytelling tepee' which provided a cosy retreat away from the weather, with the sound of self-penned stories from local

actress Emily Anslow, including the Witches of West Park and the Trolls of Teggs Nose. The Mayor of Macclesfield. Cllr Adam Schofield, also hosted Storytime and read The Gruffalo. Macclesfield RSPB Wildlife Explorers provided activities including the making of bird boxes, lavender bag making, bird feeders, seed planting and lots more. Other activities on offer were the welly trail, face painting, a host of creepy crawlies to meet and hold, marshmallow toasting, soft archery, birds of prey and bush craft.

Christmas Light Switch On Saturday 1st December 2018

Macclesfield welcomed Christmas to town on Saturday 1st December with the Big Christmas light switch on event. The day began with the opening of the Christmas market, complete with mulled wine, roast chestnuts and fairground rides. At midday, Macclesfield Junior Brass Band played well known carols to provide a festive start to the event. Stage entertainment was hosted by Cllr Gareth Jones and featured singer Leah Goodhind, as well as local bands Klazomaniacs, Cosmo Calling and Dandelion Rose.

This year, there were some new features for the event. Victorian Carol Singers wandered the town centre bringing some traditional Christmas cheer with them and children were able to visit Father Christmas in his Town Hall grotto. The Naughty Christmas Tree was back for this year and as popular as ever. Father Christmas paraded through the town centre on his sleigh before taking to the stage to switch on Macclesfield's Christmas lights. When the lights came on, spectators were able to enjoy a firework display along with some more festive live music.

Tree of Light Thursday 6th December 2018

On Thursday 6th December, around 600 people gathered together around the Market Place Christmas Tree in memory of loved ones, to sing carols and reflect on their memories at what can be a challenging time of year. During the lead up to the event, people were invited to write a message on a star. These were hung on the tree before the get together. The event was delivered in partnership with St Michael's Church and hosted by Rev Karen Brady. Choirs from All Hallows Catholic College, Christ the King School and St Alban's Primary School led the carols and mince pies as well as tea lights were offered to all who attended.

Chinese New Year celebrations Saturday 2nd February 2019

On Saturday 2nd February, Macclesfield families came to town in their hundreds to celebrate Chinese New Year. To welcome the Year of the Pig, Macclesfield Town Council organised a dragon parade to set off from Market Place followed by a free event at the United Reformed Church. The dragon was followed by children shaking percussion instruments kindly loaned out by Macclesfield Music Centre, to scare away the evil spirits from the last year. The parade made its way to the United Reformed Church at Park Green where people were welcomed with a chance to

taste some authentic food, Chinese inspired crafts including lantern making and pig printing, as well as a chance to view art installations 'A Whisper of Moths' and 'Great Wall of Friendship'.

Macclesfield Town Council commissioned Macclesfield Community Artspace to work with local primary schools to create pieces of artwork focussing on the silk links between the town and China. Artspace also created the Chinese dragon and the very popular 'Silky' the pig. Whisper of Moths consisted of moths made by local schoolchildren being suspended from the ceiling in a display which incorporated both light and The Great Wall of Friendship joined printed messages from Macclesfield schools together to create a giant visual symbol of solidarity. Due to the popularity of this event, it will become an annual feature in the town calendar.

Youth Summit Council of Councils Thursday 14th March 2019

On Thursday 14th March, Macclesfield Town Council held their third annual Youth Summit at the Town Hall. 40 students from All Hallows, Fallibrome Academy, Tytherington School, Kings School and Just Drop In came along to discuss topics including crime and antisocial behaviour, conservation and opportunities for young people. At this year's event, the students were mixed into different groups so that they were working with young people from different areas of the town. While enjoying pizza, they were then given the opportunity to discuss the topics with input from community volunteers representing Macclesfield Police, Rotary Club of Macclesfield Castle, Macc-tastic, Less plastic, RSPB Wildlife Explorers, Macclesfield Police and the Princes Trust. The Youth Summit has generated a bank of ideas which will be explored over the next year. These ideas include; how we might deal with litter, increasing evening activities for young people age 14-17, pop up stalls in schools on drug and alcohol education, planting more trees, and an event to bring young and older people together.

Community Engagement Round Up

The Community Engagement Officer has been working on:

- Supporting community groups to deliver their own events throughout the year
- Working with Utopia to plan the first Macclesfield Pride and the next event which will take place in July 2019
- Working with Just Drop In and Allgood Cycling to plan the Macclesfield Bikeathon for May 2019
- Attending and contributing to partnership meetings across the Town
- Encouraging community groups to apply for Town Council grants
- Ongoing work with the Macclesfield parkrun and Victoria junior parkrun teams
- Projects with Age UK Cheshire East for providing more services to local older people

- Working with the WW1 commemorations group to plan and deliver a series of events and projects
- Delivering the opening events for play areas in High St, Central ward and Hall Grove, Tytherington
- Taking part in the Macc-tastic, Less Plastic 2 week reduction challenge
- Working with Macclesfield Princes Trust to support their community projects and

Local Service Delivery

Since being established in 2015, the council has built on the local service agenda, seeking opportunities to add value to the communities in Macclesfield. This year the established approach to local service delivery was continued.

The floral displays were entered in to the annual Britain In Bloom awards and Cllrs Janet Jackson and Philip Bolton attended the awards event in Southport and collected the council's Silver Medal award from the judges.

In March 2019, the council accepted transfer of 3 of the town's allotment sites; Birtles Road, Laburnum Road and Springfield Road have now been inspected and a scheme of works will be developed to address any issues.

The council's Planning Committee continues to have a busy schedule of meetings, with growing local interest in meetings and planning issues. Consideration and advice has been taken on the potential for the council to have greater influence over local planning policy, with the council looking to progress a decision in the near future.

Car parks remain an ongoing concern for the council, which has again expressed its clear ambition to have direct control of local parking provision. This would enable a more locally-focused approach to car parking and any surplus income generated to be concentrated on investment in Macclesfield.

The council has progressed many local investment projects, with the decorative town centre lighting receiving a positive response. As well as this, the council continues to seek and deliver improvements to pocket parks and public realm furniture.

Macclesfield now has a town centre free wifi service delivered by this council. It is well used and much appreciated by users of the town centre as well as local businesses. The service also delivers some detailed footfall information which provides live information on current numbers and flow in the town centre as well as building a database of patterns to assist with economic development and regeneration in the town.

The council acts as an enabler through its work to empower and facilitate the community groups and service providers to build and develop local services. For example we have been able to build and support the services of the Local Policing Unit, funding additional resources to enhance the unit's community policing, such as schools engagement resources, TruCam speed camera and police cycles.

As well as this, the council has supported groups such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau by providing additional and assured funding to help secure the service's future in the town. We have funded a new funding officer for the Disability Information Bureau, who, now in post, has already made the post more than self-sustaining, adding value to the organisation. We have provided for the future of the Green in the Corner community cafe facility in Hurdsfield and Live Home Macclesfield, a service for older residents in the town.

This has been the first full year of our new Support Officer, who works part time to help with the administration of the council as well as progressing projects we are seeking to deliver. Here are some examples of the additionality the role has brought us:

Tunnicliffe Art Trail

Work has commenced on creation of the "Tunnicliffe Art Trail" around Macclesfield. This trail is based on the work of the late Charles Tunnicliffe who was born in Sutton and attended the Macclesfield College of Art (now the Silk Museum). The images have been selected and a route for the trail identified. Owners of suitable buildings have been approached for permission to install images on. So far permission has been received for several locations and work is ongoing to secure the rest.

Sluice Gate

The 17th century sluice gate on Pickford Street is in desperate need of repair and sources of funding are being considered. It is part of Macclesfield's cultural heritage and is located on an area of diverted river which runs through the center of Macclesfield and was used to divert water from the river Bollin to a tannery and silk mill. The idea to renovate the gate is supported by Macclesfield Historical Society and Macclesfield Civic Society. An application for funding made to the Heritage Lottery Fund has unfortunately been unsuccessful and alternative sources of funding are now being investigated.

Sparrow Park Interpretation

Sparrow Park has had several trees removed which has opened up the view of the surrounding hills. To complement this, an interpretation board of the view is now complete and it is planned to install this in the next few weeks.

Benches At South Park

Four new benches have been installed around the lake at South Park. They are located around the southern side of the lake and are a welcome addition for park visitors.

John Askey Presentation

The Council presented John Askey with an Honorary Freeman of Macclesfield Award. He has received the award in recognition of his long and dedicated contribution to the football club and town. John masterminded Macclesfield Town Football Club's return to League Two for the first time since 2012 by winning the National League by 10 points. John's association with Macclesfield Town dates back to 1984 and over the last three decades he has been a player, a coach and a

manager. The presentation took place at the Town Hall and was attended by Macclesfield Town Councillors along with John's family and friends.

Operation Shield

The Council funded a local police initiative to deter and prevent domestic burglaries. "Operation Shield" involved providing households at risk with a kit containing smart liquid with which occupants mark their valuables. The liquid dries invisible to the naked eye and contains a unique code that is registered to that address. Should the household be unfortunate enough to be a victim of burglary, then any recovered property can easily be identified and returned and the police can secure strong evidence to prosecute the offender. Studies have shown that in areas where the kits are installed there is a significant reduction in burglaries. Nearly 1000 kits were given out by local police officers, along with Councillors, across each of the seven communities the Town Council are responsible for.

Water Bottles

With funding from Macclesfield Town Council, Park Run was successfully set up in South Park in April 2018. This has proved hugely successful and regularly has over 250 runners taking part each week. To coincide with this, we provided sustainable water bottles which were distributed at the first event.

Your Local Councils

Macclesfield Town Council - What we do

We are the parish council for the town of Macclesfield

- Community Grants
- Floral Displays
- Christmas Lights
- Street Sports
- CCTV
- Local Promotion
- Community Events
- Mayor of Macclesfield
- Parkrun (South Park)
- Funding for Parks & Play Areas
- Remembrance Events
- Economic Development

Call on 01625 374241

Cheshire East Council – What they do

They are the principle authority for all of Cheshire East, including what was Macclesfield Borough

- Schools

- Highways
- Waste collections
- Council Tax
- Benefits
- Licensing
- Social Services
- Planning and Building Regs
- Public Health
- Crematorium
- Car Parks
- Road gritting
- Regeneration

Call on 0300 123 5500

These lists are not exhaustive but hopefully helpful.

The Council's Finances

Annual Financial Return

How Macclesfield Town Council will use your £40.76 council tax precept.

Payment of £40.76 based on a band D home per year.

1. Projects and Events (29%)
2. Staffing (20%)
3. Administration (7.5%)
4. Christmas Lights (7.5%)
5. Community Delivery (7%)
6. Floral Displays (6%)
7. Community Investment Projects (5%)
8. Community Grants (5%)
9. Town Ranger Service (5%)
10. CCTV (5%)
11. Community Enforcement (1%)
12. Local Planning (1%)
13. Public Conveniences (1%)

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

Supporting Reserves Reconciliation for Annual Return 1 March 2019

The information in the table below is taken from the working details for the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2019. For a breakdown of year-end figures, please contact clerk@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk or call 01625 374142.

Table 1 Supporting Reserves Reconciliation for Annual Return 1 March 2019

Description	Last Year	This Year
Total Reserves	£854,680.70	£893,446.96
Less Total Debtors	£51,534.73	£75,533.92
Plus Total Creditors	£804,811.97	£819,658.04
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	£819,416.54	£819,658.04

The Offices

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www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk