

Macclesfield Town Council Annual Report 2019-20

Mayor's Annual Report

In May 2019 there was a significant change on Macclesfield Town Council with 9 out of the 12 Council seats having new incumbents. Fresh ideas and a new energy was apparent which led to the development of a Council Strategy that identified the Council's aims and ambitions for the coming years, with a number of work and service areas previously not delivered by Council.

There has been great commitment shown by the Town Council Team who consistently deliver well above expectations, while maintaining an excellent morale and working relationship with Councillors and outside organisations.

Our Town Ranger Adrian has continued to be a major asset to the Council. The Ranger Service has proved so popular that we have now doubled the delivery by employing a second Ranger.

The floral displays around Macclesfield have received much positive feedback from our residents. On this, the second year of entering Britain in Bloom we were awarded Silver Gilt in our category, and much credit must go to all those working hard to maintain the flower tubs and baskets.

The Council continues to support and help run many events in the Town which contributes to a positive sense of Community. There are many ongoing projects to focus on, not least the possibility of a new pavilion in South Park to commemorate the Centenary of South Park in December 2022.

Community Engagement and Events annual report 2019/20

Foodie Friday - The first Friday's in April, May, June, July and August

We introduced Foodie Friday on the first Friday of each month to attract an increase of visitors to the town and provide a great start to the weekend. Foodie Friday events would run through lunchtime and into the evening.

The April, May and June events were well attended. The July and August events were hit by a lack of stallholders. This event was popular with local residents and town centre employees. The decision was made to pause the event through the winter and resume in 2020. A new events management company was appointed to lead Foodie Friday and the Macclesfield Food Festival in 2020.

St George's Day – Sunday 14th April 2019

Once again, the event was hit by poor weather. Bitterly cold high winds were present throughout the day. Lots of families did turn up to enjoy the entertainment but the

numbers were down on previous years. Popular features returned including the birds of prey, the jester and of course St George and the dragon.

A really popular attraction at this year's event were the table football, cricket games and the England quiz.

The wonderful dragon and St George provided by Macclesfield Community Artspace provided entertainment throughout the day before the Scouts paraded into St Michael's church to renew their promises.

Town Crier Competition - Sunday 28th April 2019.

Macclesfield's first very own Town Crier Championships took place at the April Treacle Market. Town Crier's visiting from all across the country provided a visual (and audial) spectacle for all visiting the town that day.

Town Crier's competed in categories such as best content of cry and best dressed, judged by members of the local community.

Star Wars Day – Friday 4th May 2019

Star Wars Day proved to be so popular in 2018 that it made a return for 2019 with even more characters! On Friday May the Fourth, Macclesfield Town Centre was full of all of the well known faces from the classic films.

Visitors to the town on the day enjoyed having selfies and sharing their photographs online.

Town Centre businesses also enjoyed visits from the Star Wars friends (and enemies).

The characters proved to be popular, especially on social media with many people sharing photographs of their encounters with the dark side.

Macclesfield Bikeathon - Saturday 11th May

After many years, working with Allgood Cycling and Just Drop In, we brought the Bikeathon back to Macclesfield.

There were three levels of route available, a family ride, a moderate ride and a more advanced offer.

With almost 200 people taking part, it was a fantastic day and will become a regular fixture in the event calendar to help promote fun ways to access physical activity.

Park Fit and Pram Fit - Weekly events throughout the year

As a way to promote physical activity in a fun and accessible way, Macclesfield Town Council worked with local personal trainer Matthew Rigby to develop two different weekly sessions.

Park Fit is suitable for everyone over the age of 18 and is held in South Park in the spring and summer then indoors at All Hallows Catholic College through the colder months. It has proven to be so popular and trialling different times of day, it has been concluded that evening sessions at 6pm are the most accessible for people.

Pram Fit is aimed at new parents to help guide them back to fitness in a supportive way. Held in South Park in the warmer months and indoor venues through the colder months, Pram Fit is also a way for new parents to talk to people in the same situation as themselves. This has also proved to be popular and has been promoted in children's centres and by Health Visitors.

Macclesfield Food Festival – Saturday 8th June 2019

Macclesfield's Food Festival returned for a second time to the town. Although the weather was not as kind as the first year, thousands of people visited to try out the world foods on offer.

There was also live music in Market Place performed by local bands.

The Food Festival is a popular addition to the events calendar and will return in 2020.

Macc-POW! - Saturday 6th July 2019

Macc-POW is a comic art festival organised by local artist Marc Jackson. This event attracts visitors from all over the world so it was fantastic for us to collaborate with Marc to deliver this event.

The event was held in Macclesfield Town Hall with visiting artists delivering workshops aimed at all ages and encouraging an interest in comic art.

Over 1,000 people visited the event throughout the day from near and far.

Macclesfield Pride - Saturday 6th July

From way back when this was an idea raised at the Macclesfield Town Council Youth Summit, we have worked together with the Macc Pride team to plan and deliver this event.

In 2019, a parade was introduced and the town saw thousands of people turn out for the celebration of diversity. There were stage performances, stalls and childrens entertainment throughout the day.

Macc Pride is now a regular fixture in the annual events calendar and we are proud to work alongside organisers to deliver the celebration.

Older Person's Day afternoon Tea – Tuesday 1st October 2019

Older Person's Day takes place annually on 1st October and in 2019, for the second time, Macclesfield Town Council hosted a complimentary afternoon for local residents aged 65 and over to celebrate.

The 2019 event was held in partnership with Live at Home Macclesfield and held at Macclesfield Methodist Church. The aim of the event is to encourage those who don't usually get out, to join in with an afternoon of food and good company. It is also an opportunity to share with people the services and groups on offer in the town for the over 65's.

Over 150 people attended and were served a meal cooked by volunteers as well as being treated to a quiz and music entertainment.

After attendees of the Youth Summit expressed a wish to spend more time with the older generation of our town, we developed a project for local High School councils to be involved with this event in serving meals, delivering a quiz about Macclesfield and supporting attendees on the day.

Welly Walk and Nature Needs You – Saturday 12th October 2019

This was the third year that Macclesfield Town Council have hosted the event in partnership with Macclesfield RSPB Wildlife Explorers.

Thousands of families pulled on their wellies and came along to West Park to enjoy storytime in the cosy tepee, complete with fairy lights and floor cushions, forest school, den building, flint fire lighting, birds of prey, lavender bag making, bird box creating, creepy crawlies and lots more!

This year, we further weather proofed the event by hiring an open sided tepee structure for all of the RSPB based activities. The Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Janet Jackson MBE also hosted Storytime and read childrens classic 'Six Dinner Sid'.

For the first time, West Park Museum were involved with the event and hosted free tote bag screen printing with an autumnal theme.

This event is our most popular after the Christmas light switch on celebrations and we hope to grow it year after year.

Christmas Light Switch on event – Saturday 30th November 2019

Once again, Macclesfield welcomed the festive season to the town with a huge celebration. As has now become tradition, at midday, Macclesfield Junior Brass Band played well known carols to provide a festive start to the event. Stage

entertainment was hosted by Silk FM and featured of host of local bands, singers and performers.

The Victorian Carol Singers brought some traditional Christmas cheer to areas outside of Market Place and children were once again able to visit Father Christmas in his Town Hall grotto.

The day was seasonally cold but revellers were able to keep warm with a glass of mulled wine and a slice of hot pizza.

Father Christmas paraded through the town centre on his sleigh before taking to the stage to switch on Macclesfield's Christmas lights. The very popular fireworks display brought a close to the event.

Tree of Light – Thursday 5th December

On Thursday 5th December, around 1000 people gathered once again at this annual opportunity to share memories of loved ones around the Market Place Christmas Tree. All Hallows Catholic College choir and St Alban's Primary School choir led the reflective carols at what can be a challenging time of year for those who have lost a loved one.

On 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 and in 2019, we recieved almost 1,500 stars.

The event was delivered in partnership with St Michael's Church and hosted by Rev Karen Brady.

Mince pies were offered to all who attended.

Chinese New Year celebrations – Saturday

Macclesfield families came to town in their hundreds to celebrate Chinese New Year for the second time.

As it is the year of the Rat, a wonderful dragon parade, led by the Chinese dragon, Ruby the Rat and Silky the Pig who returned from 2018, led crowds from Market Place to the celebrations at the United Reformed Church, Park Green.

Here people were welcomed to taste authentic Chinese food, take a fortune cookie, have a go at Chinese calligraphy and try their hand at crafts.

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. These installations were centred around the art of shadow puppetry. For this year, we were keen to span both the younger and older generations of the town.

Belong care home residents were supported by Artspace to create a wonderful piece of shadow puppet art which was played in video format, on a loop throughout the event.

Youth Summit – Council of Councils'

Back in March, Macclesfield Town Council held their third annual Youth Summit at the Town Hall.

40 students from local High Schools came along to discuss topics including the environment, transport and health and wellbeing for young people.

The students were mixed into different groups so that they were working with young people from different areas of the town.

Group facilitators included the Town Ranger as well as representatives from Macclesfield in Bloom, Macclesfield College, Just Drop In and Live at Home. Everyone enjoyed the pizza buffet while the ideas were flowing.

Lots of ideas were generated from the Youth Summit which will be worked on over the coming year. One particular idea is a young people focussed environment summit. This exciting project will be worked on by the local High Schools in conjunction with local groups and Macclesfield Town Council.

Community Engagement round up

Throughout the past year, the Community Engagement Officer has been working on:

- Supporting community groups to deliver their own events throughout the year.
- Working with Macclesfield Pride to plan the Macc Pride events which take place annually.
- Working with Just Drop In and Allgood Cycling to plan the Macclesfield Bikeathon.
- Attending and contributing to partnership meetings across the Town.
- Encouraging community groups to apply for Town Council grants.
- Ongoing liaison 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 their final projects.
- Working with Macclesfield Princes Trust to support their community projects and events.
- Working with Macclesfield Royal British Legion and the Veterans Breakfast Club to plan the VE Day celebrations for 2020.
- Ongoing work with SPARK - Friends of South Park.

- Being a part of the Friends of West Park group.
- Working with local High Schools to support them to be a part of the Older Person's Day celebrations.
- Working with Treacle Market organisers to plan and secure road closures necessary for the event to take place.
- Supporting Cre8 to deliver their annual Older Person's and Carers Christmas party.

The Council's Finances

Annual Financial Return for 2019/20

The information in the table below is taken from the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2020. 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	£869,285	£893,447	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the Financial Records
Annual precept	£724,793	£749,548	Total amount of Precept income received in the year
Total other receipts	£9,324	£10,959	Total income or receipts recorded in the cash book minus the Precept
Staff costs	£137,229	£144,631	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 borrowings
Total other payments	£572,726	£574,520	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus employment costs and

Income/expenditure	Last Year	This Year	General notes for Guidance
			loan/interest expenditure/payments
Balances carried forward	£893,447	£934,793	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year
Total Cash and Investments	£819,658	£876,171	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held as at 31 March
Total Fixed Assets	£139,527	£198,026	The recorded current book value at 31 March of all tangible fixed assets 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 Fin Shenton

Cllr Chris Wilcock

Central Ward

Cllr Liz Braithwaite (resigned March 2020)

Cllr Janet Jackson MBE

East Ward

Cllr Mick Warren

Hurdsfield Ward

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake

South Ward

Cllr Neil Puttick

Cllr Fiona Wilson

Tytherington Ward

Cllr David Edwardes

Cllr Lloyd Roberts

West & Ivy Ward

Cllr Alift Harewood MBE

Cllr Dom Sexton (resigned March 2020)

The Offices

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Market Place

Macclesfield

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01625 374142

www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

We can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram