

## **MaccUpdate July 2021 Volume 13**

### Macclesfield Town Council's Community Newsletter

Read on to find out about: New Councillor for Central Ward, Macclesfield's newest mural, and how the Town Council are helping to regenerate Macclesfield.

### **Macclesfield Town Council Covid-19 Support**

It has been 9 months since our last update, and the pandemic is still very much in evidence in all aspects of our lives in Macclesfield.

What is great to see, is that although it has been a difficult time for everyone, the residents and businesses of Macclesfield have really pulled together.

Macclesfield Town Council followed up on the emergency grants it gave in the first few days of the pandemic, with further financial support for local groups coming throughout the year.

The Town Centre Recovery Working Group, co-chaired by Town Councillor Janet Jackson MBE, has been focused on setting out objectives and actions to help the sustainable and safe recovery of Macclesfield Town Centre.

The Town Council has supported the work of the group by awarding grants to help facilitate outdoor hospitality in a sector that was heavily impacted by the pandemic restrictions, doing a lot of social media work to promote the local independent businesses in the town, and by commissioning 40 hand sanitiser stations for town centre businesses in a bid to ensure that shoppers feel safe as and when they return to the high street.

### **Meet your new Mayor**

On 17th May 2021, at the Macclesfield Town Council Annual General Meeting, Cllr David Edwardes was unanimously elected by his fellow Councillors as Mayor of Macclesfield. David is supported in his role as Mayor by his wife, Natalia Belinskaya, Mayoress of Macclesfield. Pastor Parsons from the Tytherington Family Worship Church is the Mayor's Chaplin for 2021/22.

Each year the Mayor chooses two charities to support, and this year the Mayor has chosen the Windyway Trust and the Macclesfield Round Table. Cllr Edwardes has a longstanding connection with the Windyway Trust having volunteered at the shops for many years. The Macclesfield Round Table supports local causes and has recently provided five defibrillators in and around Macclesfield, toys for a family centre and funds for the Upton Priory Scout Group and Macclesfield Boxing Club.

David is the Town Councillor for the Tytherington Ward alongside Cllr Lloyd Roberts,

and is the Vice-Chair of the Macclesfield Town Council Planning Committee. He is also a Cheshire East Councillor, where he's Chair of Licencing and a member of the Children and Families committee.

David moved to Macclesfield in 1973 and owned an interior design shop on Chestergate. Today, the building, still retains features from when it was Bill Plants vegetable, fish and poultry. David has 2 sons, a stepdaughter and a stepson. In his spare time, he umpires cricket matches for the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire League. David has been known to fill in for Santa in the lead up to Christmas when the real Santa has other events to attend!

The Mayor's theme for his term of office is 'My town, Your town, Our town', and he encourages everyone to take pride in their community.

### Meet your new Deputy Mayor

Another appointment on the 17th May was that of Deputy Mayor. Nominated by outgoing Mayor Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake and voted for unanimously by her fellow Councillors, Cllr Fiona Wilson was elected as Deputy Mayor for 2021/22.

Cllr Wilson has been Councillor for South Ward in Macclesfield since 2019 following a long career at a high street bank including as a Union Representative, and then moving on to USDAW when she was ultimately appointed Head of Research and Economics.

Cllr Wilson is passionate about about working and campaigning for the benefit of others, and she currently works part time for two local charitable trusts, also sitting on all Council Committees and the Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Working Group, and is Chair of the outdoor hospitality sub-group.

Cllr Wilson will be supported by her husband Brian Puddicombe in his role as consort.

### New Town Councillor for Central Ward

Due to a vacancy, one area of Macclesfield went to the polls on the 6th May 2021 and Macclesfield Town Council are proud to announce Cllr Sandy Livingstone as the new Councillor for Macclesfield Central Ward.

Sandy, originally from Hamilton, moved to Macclesfield in 2017. He has a full time job as a Director of Property for a local Housing Association and was inspired to stand as a Councillor after seeing the work the Town Council was doing, working on behalf of residents and making a difference.

Cllr Livingstone said, "I am honoured to be elected as the Central Ward Councillor. I look forward to working with my fellow councillors to listen to and deliver on behalf of the residents of Macclesfield. Our town is a great place to live, working together we can make it even better."

## Grant Programme

Macclesfield Town Council is extremely proud of its well established grants programme. In 2020 almost £40,000 was awarded to a variety of different groups, for a number of different projects including defibrillators for Tytherington Juniors FC, a virtual performance by Macclesfield Music Club, planting projects for residents around the town, and money towards promotion and safeguarding for Macclesfield Seals. A full list can be found on the Town Council website.

At the start of 2021 the Town Council reviewed its grants programme and re-launched with three tiers of grants. Micro Grants of up to £100 for small start up ideas or for one off projects that fit with the Macclesfield Town Council themes, Small Grants up to £250 and Large Grants up to £2000 and exceptional circumstance grants over £2000.

The Town Council Communities and Events Manager is working closely with Community & Voluntary Services Cheshire East, to promote the grants programme more widely, inform community groups of what the grants can be used for and how to apply, and also how the community groups can make themselves more financially sustainable in the future.

Visit the council's [community grants](#) page for more information.

## Going Green!

### Eco Summit

Macclesfield Town Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019, which now directs an ongoing commitment to consider environmental impact (positive and negative) in all decisions it takes.

To bolster this commitment the Council teamed up with local community action group Macctastic, to host an Eco Summit in May 2021. The day consisted of a full day of zoom presentations on subjects such as green business, information hubs, climate change, council action, active travel and eating our environment, followed by breakout sessions where people could discuss further, ask questions and come up with ideas.

Around 70 members of the public attended the event and presentations and breakouts were all facilitated by Macclesfield residents with a specific interest in their field such as Cllr Suzi Akers Smith cycling champion for Cheshire East Council, Matt Todd Manager at Scoop and Scales, and Kate Ellis who runs the local Terracycle collection.

Macctastic and Macclesfield Town Council have been meeting since the event to pull together a list of actions to take forward, and these will be circulated to attendees and interested parties with a view to getting people involved.

Visit [www.macctastic.org](http://www.macctastic.org) for more information.

## Green Deliveries

Macclesfield Town Council has fully embraced sustainability this year, in keeping with its commitment to the environment. Early in the year, the Council teamed up with Macclesfield based e-cargo bike delivery service ELOV, in the first instance to deliver copies of council papers to Councillors. But as the relationship has evolved, ELOV have done deliveries for Random Act of Kindness day and NHS Day on behalf of the Town Council, have delivered 700 party packs to different hubs around Macclesfield, and have helped out putting up banners and signage. By using either an e-cargo bike or an electric milk float to replace journeys that would have otherwise been done by a diesel or petrol car, the Town Council are actively reducing their emissions thanks to this great local initiative.

## Free Street Sports

Supervised activities with qualified sports coaches working to government guidelines.

Open to all 7 to 16 year olds.

Summer locations from 29<sup>th</sup> March:

Tuesdays 5:30pm to 7.30pm Jasmine Park MUGA, Broken Cross

Wednesdays 5.30pm to 7.30pm Banbury Close Playing Fields

Thursdays 6pm to 8pm South Park Multi-Sports Area

This is an informal service, children can come and go as they please and remain the responsibility of parents and guardians, not the responsibility of the sports coaches or council.

You choose the sports:

The sports coaches come equipped with loads of sports equipment so you have a huge choice of sports and games on the night, such as tennis, basketball, rounders, netball, cricket and much more.

### **Professional Sports Coaches:**

Working in partnership with Peak Active Sport, the coaches are all qualified and professional and provide support and encouragement for the children taking part.

### **Active Kids:**

Physical activity benefits us all in terms of our physical health and our mental health. It increases our opportunities to socialise and improve our skills.

For more information contact Macclesfield Council on 01625 374142.

## Substation Mural Completed

Macclesfield Town Council has worked with Becca Smith before, and had complete faith in her ability to deliver an ambitious project to artistically camouflage a substation in a Macclesfield town centre car park in a mural.

The project that started in February 2020, was only meant to take a couple of months but was unfortunately put on hold by the pandemic, and instead spanned three lockdowns. But with the easing of restrictions and the arrival of some good weather, Becca was able to steadily work on the mural whilst also looking after her newborn baby.

Becca was given a brief by the Town Council to work with local residents, to create designs and images which would help camouflage the substation, but which would also highlight the heritage of the local area.

The finished mural, which from one angle blends seamlessly into the streetscape, includes nods to the Macclesfield countryside, the town's silk heritage and also features a hidden reference to a Joy Division album.

## Outdoor Hospitality

One of the most visual elements so far to come out of the Town Centre Recovery Working Group, has been outdoor hospitality. A group spearheaded by the Town Council, Cheshire East Council, Treacle Market organisers and Macclesfield Hospitality Action (MHA), has seen events happen outside at Park Green in conjunction with Red Willow and Barnaby Festival.

But the initiative which has really caught the eye of Maxonians is the outdoor seating area in front of Five Clouds Tap & Bottle. A space shared by the local brewery along with Flour Water Salt, Plums Kitchen and R&Gs Beer Vault has become the place to grab a drink and some food whilst enjoying the sunshine.

The brainchild of Mark Sharples from Five Clouds, was fully supported by MHA who applied to Macclesfield Town Council for a grant for the requisite safety barriers around the space. In keeping with the Town Councils desire to make the town attractive, it was agreed to turn the barriers into planters, and the Town Ranger Service designed and planted them up.

The space is proving extremely popular, with people taking advantage of the shared space by ordering Poutine from Plums Kitchen on a Friday night to eat whilst having a beer from Five Clouds. The space is also available during the day, for those wanting a coffee or takeaway sandwich from Flour Water Salt.

Whilst some concern has been voiced for the temporary removal of the disabled parking spaces, this was actually done in consultation with the general public, the Disability Information Bureau and other organisations, and the spaces have merely been moved around the corner to King Edward Street rather than removed altogether.

The current licence arrangement is in place until early 2022; and discussions have started about trying to winterproof the space, and whether making it a permanent feature is the right thing for the town.

## Your Precept Explained

How does Macclesfield Town Council decide the precept?

Each year, Macclesfield Town Council undergoes a budgeting exercise to decide how much money is required to provide, manage and run the services that the Council delivers for the people of Macclesfield.

The amount of income that is estimated as part of the budget is deducted from the amount of projected expenditure. This sum is known as the precept, and is added as an additional amount to residents' council tax bills.

Why has it gone up so much?

The precept for 2021/22 has increased from £48.90 for a Band D household to £50.93.

This is an increase of £2.03 on last year which equates to 17p extra per month.

Each household is now paying £4.24 per month (for a Band D household).

That's less than the price of two takeaway coffees.

What is it spent on?

Events and Projects including the Remembrance Parade, public art such as the proposed Tunicliffe Trail, the Eco Summit and public access defibrillators.

Citizens Advice Bureau, offering free, independent and confident advice on employment, housing, debts etc.

Planning. As well as consulting on applications, the Town Council funded a Conservation Area Appraisal for the town centre.

Grants and Donations to support local groups, charities and events.

Visitor Information Centre and promotion of Macclesfield.

Christmas Celebrations including the tree and light switch on event.

CCTV contribution helping to keep Macclesfield safe with the increase of mobile cameras.

Staying Active. Free fitness sessions such as Park Fit, Pram Fit and Street Sports for children.

Other, including free town centre WiFi, Covid-19 recovery fund and ward budgets.

Administration of the council including 5 permanent members of staff plus the Mayor of Macclesfield.

Town Ranger, Floral Displays, Festoon Lights, Allotments. Everything keeps Macclesfield looking nice plus 3 rangers to do the work.

Communities to support the delivery of community activities such as enforcement, transport and community centres.

Play Parks in Macclesfield such as the revamp of Windmill Street park and funding for Lanark Walk and Banbury Park.

Macclesfield Town Council's ambitious strategy for the town shows key areas for investment. The annual budget for Macclesfield Town Council for 2021/22 is £1,188,618 and full details on the council's income and expenditure can be found on the council's website [budget](#) page.

## Macclesfield Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal

In January 2021, Macclesfield Town Council commissioned Donald Insall Associates to prepare a revised and updated Conservation Area Appraisal for Macclesfield Town Centre, it having last been reviewed in 2005. The commission included reviewing the boundaries of the conservation area, an assessment of the condition of the area and an audit of heritage assets.

During the review, Donald Insall and Macclesfield Town Council held consultation workshops with various stakeholders including Cheshire East Council, residents, heritage, local interest groups and school students.

Conservation areas are built-up areas with special architectural or historic character, which is desirable to preserve or enhance. By preserving distinctive local character, conservation areas can improve the local economy, encourage tourism, attract grants and investment, raise property values, prevent un-neighbourly alterations and encourage traditional building trades.

The Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and its Management Plan will assist planners, developers and the public on how best to actively manage the Macclesfield Town Centre Conservation Area and to develop proposals that protect the special character and appearance of the area whilst realising opportunities for business and community use.

Following the completion of the draft Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and its Management Plan, Cheshire East Council will conduct a formal consultation before adopting them.

## 2021 Forthcoming Events

### Community Events

18th September - Food Festival

9th October - Welly Walk/Nature Needs You

23rd October - Bikeathon

20th November - Christmas Light Switch On

1st December - Advent Window Trail

3/4th December - Light Projection Trail

9th December - Tree of Light ceremony

## Council Meetings

20th August - Planning Committee

6th September - Finance Committee

13th September - Services Committee

17th September - Planning Committee

20th September - Full Council

8th October - Planning Committee

11th October - Open Forum Town Meeting

## Councillor Contact Details

### Broken Cross Ward

Cllr Chris Wilcock [christopher.wilcock@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.wilcock@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

Cllr Fin Shenton [fin.shenton@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:fin.shenton@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

### Central Ward

Cllr Janet Jackson MBE [janet.jackson@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:janet.jackson@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

Cllr Sandy Livingstone [sandy.livingstone@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sandy.livingstone@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

### Macclesfield East Ward

Cllr Mick Warren [mick.warren@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mick.warren@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

### Hurdsfield Ward

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake [sarah.bennett@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bennett@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

### South Ward

Cllr Fiona Wilson [fiona.wilson@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.wilson@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)



Cllr Neil Puttick [neil.puttick@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:neil.puttick@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

### Tytherington Ward

Cllr David Edwardes [david.edwardes@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:david.edwardes@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

Cllr Lloyd Roberts [lloyd.roberts@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:lloyd.roberts@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

### West and Ivy Ward

Cllr Alift Harewood MBE - [alift.harewood@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:alift.harewood@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

Cllr Mike Hutchison - [mike.hutchison@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mike.hutchison@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

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