



# Annual Report

2021-2022

**Macclesfield Town Council**





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## Macclesfield Town Council, Councillors, Officers and Meeting Information

**Councillors representing Macclesfield during the period of this annual report, 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022**

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake  
Hurdsfield Ward



Cllr Neil Puttick  
South Ward



Cllr David Edwardes  
Tytherington Ward



Cllr Lloyd Roberts  
Tytherington Ward



Cllr Alift Harewood-Jones MBE  
West and Ivy Ward



Cllr Mick Warren  
East Ward



Cllr Mike Hutchison  
West and Ivy Ward



Cllr Chris Wilcock  
Broken Cross and Upton Ward



Cllr Janet Jackson MBE  
Central Ward



Cllr Fiona Wilson  
South Ward



Cllr Sandy Livingston  
Central Ward



Cllr Fin Shenton, Broken Cross and Upton Ward, until Feb 2022. Position vacant at time of writing

### Officers for the period of this Annual Report

Laura Smith - Town Clerk

Harriet Worrell - Admin & Governance Manager, until 28th Feb 2022

Helena Gowler - Events and Communities Manager

Gillian Ainley - Project Officer, until 4th Feb 2022

Abigail Sherratt - Events & Communications Officer (Town Centre Manager)

**Did you know?**

All of the Town  
Councillors  
are  
volunteers

### Council Meetings for the period of this Annual Report

A full list of all council meetings for the period of this Annual Report can be found on the council website <https://www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/previous-meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>



## The Town Council's Strategy and Vision

To act as a focus and catalyst for community empowerment, driving Macclesfield forward and promoting it as a centre for commerce, retail, administration and tourism, providing and supporting inclusive and sustainable services and constantly working towards continuing improvement for residents, businesses and visitors to Macclesfield. Taking account of the climate emergency and in all considerations, services and actions seeking to make Macclesfield a greener and more sustainable town.

The Town Council's strategic objectives form part of a living document that is revisited and revised on a regular basis and can be found on the council website [www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/your-council/governance-documents/macclesfield-town-council-strategy-2019-2023/](http://www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/your-council/governance-documents/macclesfield-town-council-strategy-2019-2023/)



## The Mayor's Annual Report

Cllr David Edwardes was elected as Mayor of Macclesfield on 17th May 2021. His theme for the year was 'My town, Your town, Our town' in which he conveys his own sense of pride in Macclesfield as well as encouraging everyone to take pride in their community.



As is traditional, Cllr Edwardes selected two charities to champion in his term; the Windyway Trust and the Macclesfield Round Table. Cllr Edwardes has a long-standing connection with the Windyway Trust having volunteered at the shops for many years. The Macclesfield Round Table supports many local causes. Both charities have been exceptionally dedicated and proactive in the planning and delivery of a number of fundraising events from sell-out quizzes to a duck race to an online auction with Adam Partridge. Not to mention the Round Table Santa Sleigh where our very own Mayor stood in for Father Christmas when the main man needed a rest!

Following the success of former Mayor Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake's online auction, Cllr Edwardes was thrilled to be able to hold his own and raised an impressive £1,960 for his chosen charities with the help of Adam Partridge Auctioneers and Valuers.



The Mayor has attended a number of tree plantings in Macclesfield – some poignant as the trees are in memory of those who lost their lives to COVID-19 and some celebratory as they mark The Queen’s Jubilee year. Macclesfield Town Council and the Mayor are pleased to have led on this project and thank schools and the community for their participation.



One aspect of the role of Mayor is attending local events and meeting people. During his year in office, Cllr Edwardes has been pleased to visit a number of schools and community groups, attend the launch of new local businesses/enterprises, award prizes, attend special church services and mark special occasions such as Armistice and Remembrance Sunday.



*Finally, the Mayor would like to thank the Deputy Mayor, Councillors, Mayoress and Town Council Officers for all their support during his term in office.*



## Community Engagement and Events

### Events

2021 was another interestingly unique year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With the third National lockdown starting on 6th January, the Council started the year uncertain as to whether any live events would be able to go ahead.

As restrictions eased from March onwards, although with social distancing, hand sanitisers and face masks still required, the Council began to make plans to bring live events back to the people of Macclesfield, albeit with virtual or scaled down back up plans.

#### ***Year round – Park Fit***

Park Fit, the councils weekly keep fit session continued in it's new on-line home with personal trainer Matthew Rigby doing Facebook live videos, twice a week. Even though people were allowed to return to gyms in the spring, the Park Fit videos remain popular and Matt has now done over 145 live sessions, all of which can be found on his facebook page for people to re-do at their leisure. Park Fit hopes to return to South Park in Summer 2022.



#### ***15th May 2021 - Eco Summit***

Delivered on-line via Zoom, the Council's first ever Eco Summit attracted an audience of over 70 people and provided the Town Council and fellow organiser Macctastic with healthy to do list. After identifying a list of 16 visible and achievable shorter term easy wins, a lot has been achieved including;

- The supply of more litter picking equipment and the mapping of activity on [www.macclitter.org](http://www.macclitter.org)
- The start of the Repair Café which opened in September 2021
- The creation of an ECO Group as part of the Town Centre Recovery Working Group



#### ***9th October 2021 - Welly Walk***

The biggest and best Welly Walk and Nature Needs You event yet! A lovely dry autumnal day attracted approximately 1000 people to the town's West Park where children could participate in Forest School activities, take part in RSPB workshops building birdhouses and bird feeders and listen to the storyteller weave her tales of nature. This event was included as part of the town's Tunnicliffe 120 celebrations.

In 2022, the Well Walk and Nature Needs You event will be held on the 8th October and will be complimented by the Eco-Summit.







### 3-4th December 2021 - Magic Lanterns

Postponed from 2020, Magic Lanterns was a trail of eight beautiful mini-projections hidden in the nooks and crannies of the town centre. Created for LIT by Fabric Lenny, and commissioned by the Town Council, free tickets allowed the public to discover the projections and watch the dancing animals play in their magical winter habitats alongside a specially-composed soundtrack via people's phones.



### 9th December 2021 - Tree of Light

The Tree of Light service was able to take place this year, and was led by Helen Byrne who is the Macclesfield Hospital Chaplain. The short service is a chance for people who have lost loved ones to come and reflect away from the Christmas rush. St Albans and All Hallows Catholic College led traditional hymns, along side a moving rendition of 'Wind Beneath My Wings' and readings. The tree was also decorated with over 600 stars, adorned with messages of love from members of the public, local schools and the hospital.



### 29th January 2022 - Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year celebrations had to change shape due to increases in COVID-19 levels in the local area. Whilst we had to cancel the food tasting, dancing and parade aspects, we were able to go ahead with singing from Tytherington High School Mandarin Choir. Local artist Jacqui Clark created another fantastic Augmented Reality Trail which local children were asked to contribute drawings for, and she also conducted art workshops with local groups such as Belong. Working with The Grosvenor Centre we were able to source an empty shopping unit, where we could display all of the Chinese animals for the public to come and have a look at, at the same time as promoting local organisation Art Space. Members of the public were given luck red envelopes and red knots, to celebrate the Chinese New Year.



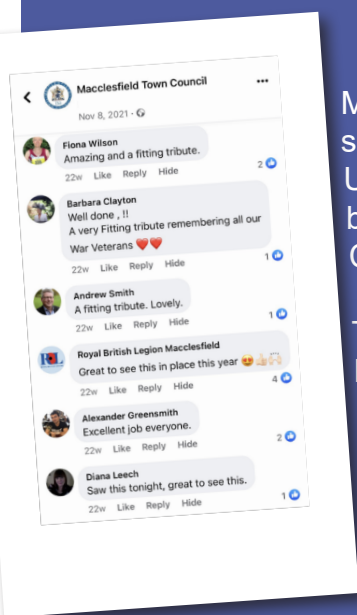
## Projections

One of the highlights of 2021 was a fantastic modern addition to the more traditional events programme and came about as a response to the scaled back series of events as we came out of COVID-19 measures.



Macclesfield Town Council wanted to do something to bring a little bit of joy to the town. Utilising a building across from the Town Hall and bringing in experts from Congleton based company Lightech, the Town Council lit up the Town Hall with poppies during remembrance.

The display covered the full front façade, and during dusk and evening hours, people could often be found stopping to view them and to take photos. The response on social media was phenomenal and positive comments and feedback was shared widely by all.



Following the well received poppy projections, the Town Council decided to extend the projection and with the agreement of the landlord who was housing the projection unit, the Town Hall became covered in snowflakes from the Step Into Christmas event through until the end of December.





## Our Communities

The Town Council recognises the value and importance of community groups and activities within the town. The Council is proud of its Community Grant scheme which helps to support events, workshops, festivals, teams and clubs and much more throughout Macclesfield to reach a wider audience and improve their offering.

In 2021/22, Macclesfield Town Council have supported a wealth of organisations in the town with community grants and a huge variety of deserving projects.

### Here is a list of the grants given out this financial year:

Macclesfield Scouts - £2,000 towards building refurbishment  
The Roenaissance project - £250 to pay for public liability insurance  
The Hope Centre - £1,581.97 to support a slow cooker project  
East Cheshire Hospice - £1,500 to support the Art Fair event due to take place this June.  
Macclesfield Pride - £1,500 towards re-imagined Pride events for 2021  
St Michael's Church - £2,000 towards virtual meeting equipment  
Tytherington Juniors Football Club - £2,000 to provide free football events for children  
Macclesfield Satellites swimming club - £2,000 for swimming lessons for talented swimmers of all ages  
CORE - £2,000 to purchase ambient food for the food bank  
Macclesfield In October - £880 for toilets for a local music event held in Christchurch  
Age UK Cheshire East - £1,968 - for a telephone befriending project  
Northern Chamber Orchestra - £1100 towards performances at St. Michaels Church  
Just Drop In - £1,468 – to fund their brand new volunteer room  
Macclesfield College - £2,000 – to fund a community garden project  
St Peter's Church - £625 - to fund a wildflower planting project  
Disability Information Bureau - £1618.89 - to purchase a shop mobility electric wheelchair  
Macclesfield Eye Society - £250 to fund a sensory planter for the town centre  
The Fermain Club - £2,000 towards a feasibility study about youth zone activities for young people  
Friends For Leisure - £1,380 to fund social outings for service users  
Hurdsfield Phoenix FC - £1,000 to purchase team football kits  
Macclesfield Library - £733 to fund a history of wardrobe interactive event  
SUSO (Speaking Up, Speaking Out) - £1,500 for room renovations  
Macclesfield Town Ladies Football Club - £2,000 towards kit replacement  
Macclesfield Princes Trust team - £250 for the group community project  
Macclesfield Harriers - £2000 for sports equipment  
Cheshire Wildlife Trust - £2,000 to fund nature events



### We now have three levels of grant.

- Micro grants are up to £100 and are for small start up ideas for one off projects or for the start of a longer term idea. These can be applied for at any time.
- Small grants are up to £250 and large grants up to £2,000 and these applications will be considered at the next appropriate Finance Committee



## ***CVS partnership with Macclesfield Town Council***

CVS Cheshire East has been participating in a year-long project to help Macclesfield Town Council to facilitate support to the Voluntary, Community, Faith Sector (VCFS), develop a VCFS network for Macclesfield and encourage and enable volunteering in Macclesfield.

The partnership has involved:

- Supporting Macclesfield groups with their development
- Governance Support
- Funding Support

CVS have supported many Macclesfield groups to source funding streams and supported them in writing their bids, and although many of them have not have an outcome yet, several have been successful:

- Hope Centre's Slow Cooker Project - £1,581
- Pearls of Cheshire building rent - £7,000
- Reach Out And Recover's Raven's Nook project - £38,984
- East Cheshire Mental Health Forum room hire - £750
- Macclesfield Community Artspace sewing project - £900

A full report can be found on our website [www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/community/cvs-partnership/](http://www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/community/cvs-partnership/)



## Local Service Delivery

Macclesfield Town Council is one of 11 town councils in Cheshire East. The Town Council was founded in 2015 and provides the most local tier of government for Macclesfield working within the legal framework set out for Town and Parish Councils, to enhance and supplement services and to recognise and promote local initiatives. The Town Council also has a role in voicing the views and concerns of residents, and making sure these are heard.



### ***Town Centre Recovery***

Following on from the challenges that COVID-19 brought, the Town Council has continued to build on the solid foundations that were created as part of the Town Centre Recovery Working Group. The relationships with other members; Cheshire East Council, Peaks and Plains Housing Trust, Community and Voluntary Services Cheshire East, Make It Macclesfield and Macclesfield Museums have gone from strength to strength. The great work by the group has ensured that a number of objectives have been achieved, and that there is an on-going agenda of desires for the Town Centre and people to achieve them. The most current minutes from the group and updated version of the recovery plan can be found on the Town Council website [www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/your-council/town-centre-recovery/](http://www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/your-council/town-centre-recovery/)

### ***Signage***

As part of the ongoing regeneration of the town, the Council have committed £20k towards new and improved signage around the town. An issue that became apparent is that visitors to the town by train, cannot clearly see how to get to the town centre. New signage giving an easier route that is more accessible than Church Street is to be included in the plans, as well as signage and directories for the Indoor Market and some clear markers to show the Castle Quarter.



## **South Park Pavillion**

The Town Council has spent a lot of time and effort over the last year pulling together work on the South Park Pavillion. The Town Council is in the process of asset transferring the Pavillion from Cheshire East Council, and the plan is to deliver a brand new pavillion for the people of Macclesfield.

The park has had a pavillion overlooking its band stand for a number of years, with the current pavillion building replacing the original following a devastating fire in 1970s.

The current pavillion is deemed not fit for purpose and is part-condemned due to its lack of accessibility to the first floor. It is also in a very poor state of repair. The ground floor layout is not flexible for multiple user groups and the building's construction method means it is reaching the end of its lifespan and unfortunately cannot be modernised.

The Town Council has listened to the residents and is looking to re-build a structure that meets the needs, expectations and ambitions of the community and the park services, as well as encouraging visitors. The building needs to be truly flexible in regards to it's usage and sustainable whilst being uniquely 'Macclesfield'.

Because the pavillion needs to meet the needs of a diverse community it will hopefully include the following;

- Café/F&B/take away with outdoor eating facilities and alcohol license
- Accessible Changing Places toilet
- Community rooms for hire/free availability for schools, groups, exhibitions
- Space for Town Council Rangers, gardeners, rest space for PCSOs
- Shared workspace area
- Location for Events – wedding/civil service venue
- Store for sports equipment to loan to visitors
- An information/booking point for the park
- Quiet/rest area for park users indoor & outdoor (not just café users)
- 

This building will be truly accessible and it is planned to include the following;

- Fully accessible throughout
- Environmentally friendly build/power
- Balcony on 2nd floor/lift to the 2nd floor (if 2 storey design is chosen)
- A hatch to serve drinks/ice creams to park goers
- CCTV location/security features/ventilation and future proof in light of COVID-19
- Public WIFI throughout
- External power point access for events
- Consider a few smaller rooms or clever partitioning for smaller meetings/functions
- Dementia/neurodevelopmental friendly design
  - colour schemes, signage, acoustics, adjustable lighting
- Café facilities

A South Park Pavillion Working Party has been set up to help oversee the new design and build. It includes Councillors, SPARK, residents, ANSA and CVSCE.

## Play Equipment

As well as the pavilion, the Town Council has also made improvements to the play equipment in South Park.



At the first Full Council of 2021/2022 local mum Fiona Walton made an impassioned speech asking for accessible play equipment that could be used by her son Charlie who is reliant on a wheelchair. South Park itself is managed by ANSA Environmental Services (part of Cheshire East Council) so the Town Council began to work with them to explore the possibility of including equipment which going forward should be standard in all parks. The Town Council committed £25,000 to fund an accessible see-saw and an accessible roundabout, and the team at ANSA took delivery and fitted the equipment in the section next to the tennis courts. Representatives from the Town Council and ANSA were honoured to be there to see Fiona and Charlie, as well as other members of Charlie's class at Park Lane School try out the equipment.

The new Weston Park equipment has also been paid for by the Town Council, after a consultation with residents. A zip wire and a swing are going to be installed as well as some 'street artwork' in the park.

Finally, the Town Council have committed £25,000 towards the BMX track at Windmill Park, working with ANSA and the community to upgrade the existing track.

## Tree Planting

The Town Council is well aware that large areas of trees are being cut down all the time, across the country, and it endeavours to do all it can to replace many of those being cut down in our town. This year the Town Council and it's fantastic Ranger team have been hard at work with a variety of tree planting projects.



As well as the trees planted in Tytherington as part of the Councillor Edwardes ward budget, we also had 2 more tree planting projects.

- The Town Council has wanted to find a way to show it's condolences to all who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, and felt that planting a tree in each ward of the town with a commemorative plaque would be a lovely way to show our respect. Lead Ranger Andy selected specific trees for each location, including a Sorbus Acuparia (Mountain Ash) with an extra special plaque made by local business For Me and For You, which is located at Macclesfield Hospital next to the duck pond

- The Town Council contacted all the primary schools in the town and offered a tree as part of the Queens Green Canopy project, aka Plant a Tree for the Jubilee. In total 11 schools responded, and the Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr David Edwardes, along with Lead Ranger Andy McKeith visited each of the schools and got the children involved with the planting of the tree, and gave them some of the background on the specific tree chosen.

All the trees planted by the Town Council will be pinned to a virtual map of the Queens Green Canopy for anyone to view [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)



## ***Britain in Bloom***

The Town Council is preparing for the Macclesfield entry into Britain in Bloom. The committee has been meeting regularly to discuss and plan the route for the judges who will visit in July or August. Key elements will include the floral takeover of the two adopted phone boxes in-front of the Town Hall, a community allotment, a riot of colour in the town centre and a long awaited display board in Heritage Walk which was previously identified by the judges as something that could be improved. There is also involvement from the many wonderful community groups of Macclesfield who work hard to make the town look so beautiful.

Lead Ranger Andy is keen to go for GOLD this year!



## ***Ward Budgets***

This year we introduced ward budgets as ward Councillors are much more familiar with the issues and needs of residents living in their wards. There are many diverse projects, showing how unique each ward can be. The following are the various projects with a couple still in progress;

Central Ward – to restore the red phone boxes outside of the Town Hall

South Ward – to build a tree house for Ash Grove Park

Broken Cross and Upton – holding a Christmas Fayre at CORE and funding towards free cookery classes

East Ward – funding towards the BMX track and funding for a 'knit and natter' group

Tytherington Ward – 14 trees planted on the ward

West and Ivy – 2 community gardens including Portland Walk and a new bench

Hurdsfield – a defibrillator at the Hurdsfield shops

## Character Assessment

Keen to preserve the uniqueness of the Town, Macclesfield Town Council commissioned Lambert Smith Hampton and Donald Insall Associates to prepare a Character Assessment documenting the character and local environment for each ward.

This document is intended to be used by:

- Property developers and architects to guide them towards the type of design that is sympathetic to the local area and contributes positively to the local environment.
- Any other person or organisation involved in the development process or who is interested in local character.

The overall aim of this Character Assessment is to:

- Promote the existing distinctive character of local areas including the built environment, green spaces and views.
- Encourage the design of new development to be of a good standard, retaining and enhancing the distinctiveness of the local area.
- Guide the design of all development within Macclesfield that reflects, harmonises with, and reinforces the best aspects of the local character of its buildings, green spaces and settings, such that it makes a positive contribution to the town.

Ultimately, Macclesfield Town Council's aim is to preserve Macclesfield's distinctive character and, aided by good design, for the town to be an attractive place to live with a vibrant town centre, strong community spirit and flourishing civic pride.

Macclesfield Town Council thanks all residents, workers and school pupils who participated in the consultation, asking:

What do you think is special about Macclesfield?

What in your local area is distinctive (e.g. interesting local history, buildings/features)?

How would you like to see Macclesfield look in 20 years' time?



## Priorities for 2022/2023

Key Priorities	
Aim	Objective
To consider the asset transfer of the Visitor Information Centre currently run by CEC	To ensure the continuation of this much needed asset for the people of and visitors to Macclesfield.
To build a Pavilion in South Park	To provide a community building for residents and visitors to use and enjoy, enhancing their visits to the park and encouraging visitors to Macclesfield.
To improve Community Enforcement in the Town	For many residents' community enforcement has been a key issue, around fly tipping, littering and dog mess.
Improve signage in and around the town	To aid residents and visitors to Macclesfield to get around the town easily, increasing footfall and to aid promotion of local businesses aiding recovery.
Winter Gritting	To pursue a review of the CEC Policy and Well Managed Highways in order to get significant roads out on the CEC winter gritting schedule.
Middlewood Way Lights	To light up part of the Middlewood Way with environmentally friendly lights.
Improve facilities in town centre	Public Toilets to be provided including fully accessible changing places toilets.
Celebrate the Jubilee	To ensure the town and community has the opportunity to come together safely and mark the Jubilee.
Ongoing Priorities	
Aim	Objective
A clean, attractive and tidy town	To ensure the town is clean and tidy predominantly by way of the Town Rangers but also with opportunities for the community to get involved.
	Facilitate residents with litter picking equipment and collection of rubbish.
Art and Culture in the Town	Facilitate, support and aid the development of Art and Culture in the Town through grants and work commissioned.

To provide excellent and safe community events	To ensure residents and visitors can enjoy the town and events, creating a sense of community and making Macclesfield a good place to live and increasing footfall to the town centre.
A vibrant and prosperous town centre	To continue to support the recovery of the town centre for the good of businesses and the residents and visitors.
Planning and development to be in keeping with the character of the town and meets residents' aspirations	To complete the Conservation Area review of the town centre, the character assessment of Macclesfield and consider further Conservation area reviews in the town.
Excellent and appropriate communications across the town	To ensure the residents have access to information about the Town Council's work and other issues that may affect them.
Ensure residents and visitors have excellent Parks and Play Areas	To upgrade equipment and the facilities in parks and play areas.
A resilient and adaptable Voluntary sector who are valued	Many residents rely on the services provided by the voluntary sector and the Town Council aims to ensure that they have all the support they need for delivery of services.
Climate Emergency	Commitment to Tree Planting across the town
	Eco Summit to be held to share information and encourage change of behaviour.
	Promote Active Travel.
	Facilitate residents with litter picking equipment and collection of rubbish.
Britain in Bloom	To create a fantastic campaign to showcase the town, the work of the Rangers and the community and bring footfall into the town.
Continue to Improve Awareness of the Town Council	To ensure residents, have access to information that helps them understand the role of the Town Council and the work it completes.
Provide Free Sports and Activities for Residents	Encourage residents to get involved with free activities designed to improve their health and wellbeing
To Encourage and Facilitate Safe Playing Out	To create playing out sessions where children can play out safely in Macclesfield.



## 4. Council Finances

### 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.

### How much has it gone up?



The precept for 2022/23 has increased from £50.93 for a band D household, to £52.06.

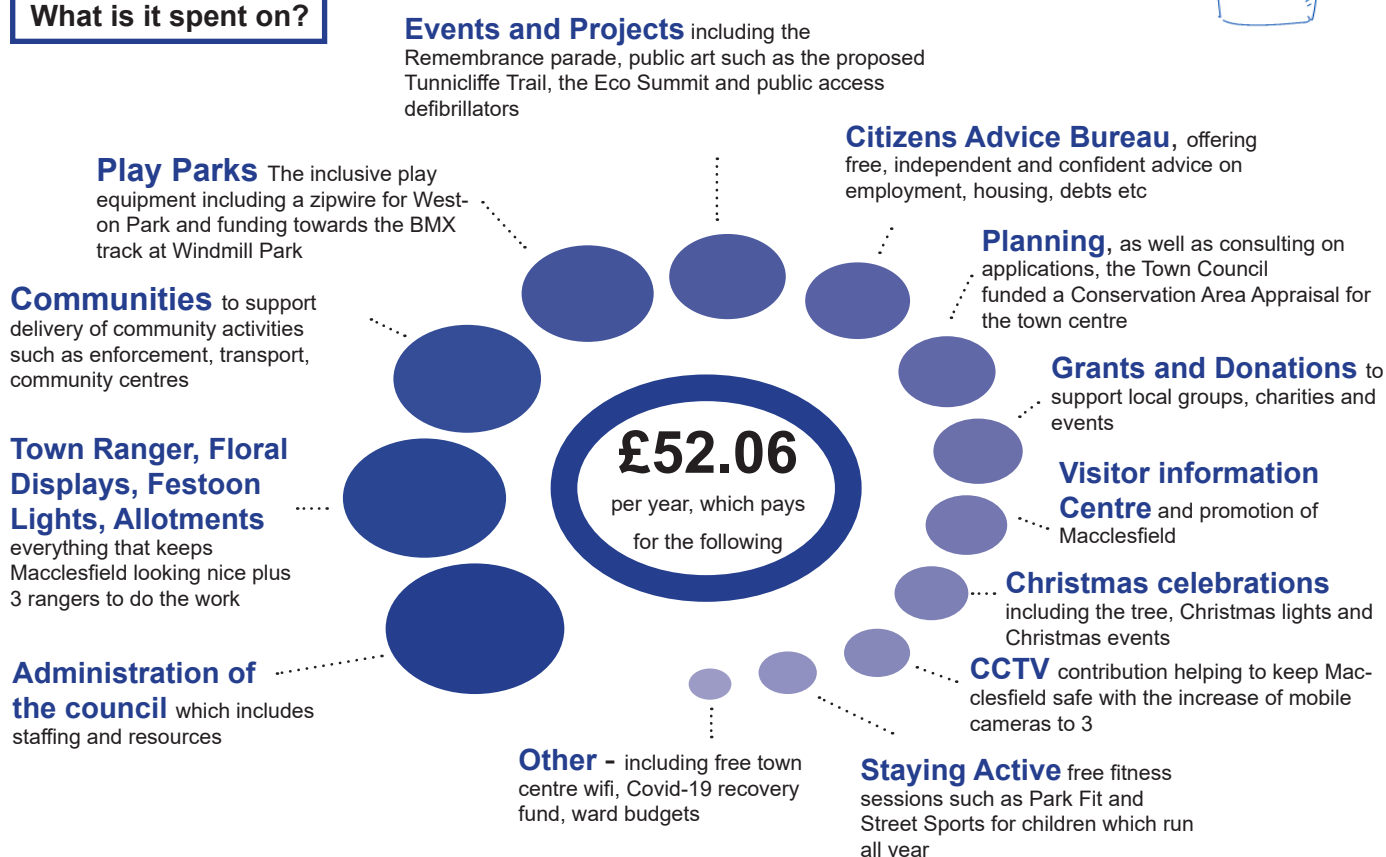
This is an increase of £1.13 on last year which equates to less than an extra 10p month.

Each household is now paying £4.34 per month (for a band D household).

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



### What is it spent on?



Macclesfield Town Council's ambitious strategy for the town shows key areas for investment. The annual budget for Macclesfield Town Council for 2022/23 is £1,152,483.00 and full details on the council's income and expenditure for 2022/2023 can be found on the council's website [www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/budget-2022-23/](http://www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/budget-2022-23/)

