



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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	Thank You

YOUR Macclesfield Town Councillors

Councillors representing Macclesfield during the period of this Annual Report, 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023



Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake
Hurdsfield



Cllr David Edwardes
Tytherington



Cllr Alift Harewood-Jones MBE
West & Ivy



Cllr Mike Hutchison
West & Ivy



Cllr Janet Jackson
MBE
Central



Cllr Sandy Livingstone
Central



Cllr Neil Puttick
South



Cllr Dr Ruth Thompson
Broken Cross & Upton



Cllr Mick Warren
East



Cllr Chris Wilcock
Broken Cross & Upton



Cllr Fiona Wilson
South

Cllr Lloyd Roberts
Tytherington, until
November 2022.
Position vacant at time
of writing

Officers for the period of this Annual Report



Laura Smith
Town Clerk



Helena Gowler
Assistant Town Clerk



Nicola Mellor
Admin and Governance
Manager



Abigail Sherratt
Communications /
Town Centre
Manager



Rachael Higham
Events Officer

Macclesfield Town Rangers

Andrew McKeith - **Lead Ranger**
until September 2022

Lee Banks - **Lead Ranger**
from October 2022 until
December 2022



Shaun White

Damon Bayley

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

www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/previous-meeting-agendas-and-minutes/

Macclesfield Town Council Values

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 into account 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/yourcouncil/governance-documents/macclesfield-town-council-strategy-2019-2023/

Macclesfield Town Council Values

Sustainability

Efficiency

Innovation

Inclusion



The Mayor of Macclesfield's Annual Report

Cllr Fiona Wilson was elected as Mayor of Macclesfield on 16 May 2022. The Mayor's Consort was Brian Puddicombe.

Her Mayoral theme was 'Our Community, Stronger Together' to reflect the importance of community and the fantastic volunteers and organisations that work so hard and do so much for the people of Macclesfield.

Cllr Wilson selected Macclesfield Youth Brass Band (MYBB) and North West Air Ambulance Charity as her Mayoral Charities. MYBB was formed in September 2005 to provide facilities and training for young people, including those with special needs, to rehearse and perform brass band music. North West Air Ambulance Charity operates 365 days a year with crews delivering pre-hospital care to the most critically ill and injured, transporting them to the most appropriate hospital to achieve the best outcomes.

Fund raising events have included a quiz, a wreath making workshop and an online auction. Cllr Wilson has also promoted her charities and raised their profile at events including her Centenary Picnic in South Park, Civic Awards Ceremony and through her Christmas Card.

In addition to promoting Macclesfield, the Mayor has attended many events and engagements, business openings and prize givings. Visits to local businesses, schools, care homes, concerts and theatre performances have also been part of the Civic Diary.



Cllr Wilson also had the honour to Proclaim the Accession of our new King and to lead our Act of Remembrance and take the Salute at the Parade both of which were very well attended particularly by younger people and were a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives in the service of our country. Plans are also in place for the Mayor's Coronation Tea Party to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

Towards the end of her term of office, Cllr Wilson was delighted to welcome the players, staff and volunteers at Macclesfield FC to the Market Place and the Town Hall to celebrate their incredible success as back-to-back champions, a very successful Women's team and a town very proud of their achievements.

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

Cllr Fiona Wilson

Mayor of Macclesfield



Community Engagement and Events



MOVE MORE MACCLESFIELD

2022/23 has been a very active year for the Town Council.

Park Fit

Park Fit, the council's weekly keep fit session continued in it's new on-line home, with personal trainer Matthew Rigby doing Facebook live videos, twice a week until June 2022 when the decision was made to return to South Park.

This was well received by the public with regular numbers of 20-35 people attending the outdoor sessions.

At the end of September Park Fit moved indoors to the Sports Hall at All Hallows, which meant it could continue throughout the winter months, even if it was dark and snowing outside! Park Fit has now returned to South Park where it will run until Autumn.





Matthew Rigby PT
Overcome your Obstacles



PARK FIT

THURSDAYS 6PM - 6:45PM

FREE FITNESS SESSION in SOUTH PARK

Train as part of a friendly group at different fitness levels with qualified Personal Trainer Matthew Rigby in the glorious surrounds of Macclesfield's South Park.

Age 18+, meet at the bandstand, no special kit needed. Bring a drink!

For more information or to discuss any injuries prior to attending, contact **Matt** on **07769 211684**

Follow @MaccTownCouncil on facebook for more information



#ParkFit #MacclesfieldBetterTogether



Matthew Rigby PT
Overcome your Obstacles



Community Engagement and Events



MOVE MORE MACCLESFIELD

2022/23 has been a very active year for the Town Council.

Street Sports

Street sports has been running since 2017 and is delivered for us by Peak Active Sports at the following locations.



Becks Lane Field (Upton Priory) Tues 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Banbury Close Playing Fields (Hurdsfield) Wed 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Multi-Sports Area at South Park Thur 6pm-8pm

Children have the chance to get involved in all sorts of different sports such as tennis, basketball, rounders, netball, cricket, football and much more.

All the coaches from PAS are professionally qualified and have the appropriate checks and insurances. PAS run the sessions for us every week of the year, and have their own floodlights to ensure sessions can take place in the dark.

Macc Street Sports - you choose the game - it's not all football (but it is a bit)

FREE YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Open to all 7 to 16 year olds

Supervised activities with qualified sports coaches

Every week, all year round!!!

For more information contact Macclesfield Council on 01825 374142

Tuesdays - 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Becks Lane Field, Upton Priory

Wednesdays - 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Banbury Close Playing Fields, Hurdsfield

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

This is an informal service, children can come and go as they please and remain the responsibility of parents or 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 massive choice of sports and games on the night, such as tennis, basketball, rounders, netball, cricket and much more (including football!)

Professional Sports Coaches: 

Working in partnership with Peak Active Sport, our 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 as well as our mental health. It increases our opportunities to socialise as well as improve our skills

And don't forget... this is totally FREE

A service of Macclesfield Town Council

2022 was a fantastic year for events at Macclesfield Town Council. The employment of a dedicated Events Officer in May 2022, combined with a year without lockdown meant that our events programme was back up and running and better AND bigger than ever.



Eco Summit Update

The first post pandemic in-person event was the ECO Summit Update organised by the Town Council in May 2022. The small 2 hour long session featuring updates from Macctastic, Scoop & Scales, the Town Council, Elov and Macc Wild Network was attended by 25 people. Attendees were invited to give their feedback and ideas for the main summit in October at the end of the session.



Bikeathon

Taking place on the same day as the Eco Summit, and adding to the great atmosphere in the town centre was the 2022 Bikeathon. Run by Allgood Cycling, with profits raised going to Just Drop In, a local charity for young people, over 200 people signed up to take part in one of the three Cheshire based routes. Altogether £5,560 was raised for Just Drop In, and the Market Place was full of cyclists and their supporters who were able to get a well deserved cup of tea from the Angel at My Table Café at St Michaels church. The Town Council support the Bikeathon in various ways.



SUMMER events

Jubilee Parties

2022 will forever be remembered as the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the Town Council were keen to see the event celebrated throughout the town. With planning started earlier in the year, the Town Council gave £1000 grants to 8 community groups spread across the wards of the town, with the idea that they would host a party for their neighbours. With walkabout characters visiting St Michaels, a BBQ at St Pauls, giant games on the Upton, dancers at Cre8, bouncy castles at Calvary, vintage vehicles on Hurdsfield and Royal dressing up at Christ Church, the 4-5th June in Macclesfield was one for the history books.



Macc Pow

Macc Pow is an event the Town Council are proud to support. The brainchild of local comic artist Marc Jackson, Macc Pow has become a staple not only in the town's diary, but also on the international comic scene.

Macc Pow took place over two days and saw comic artists and sellers from all over, descend on the town to engage with comic fans, run and take part in drawing workshops, with comic films shown in the towns independent cinema and talks taking place in local businesses.



Macc Pride

Another organisation that the Town Council enjoy working with is MaccPride. An organisation that is about equality, inclusion, the right to 'be yourself' and putting on events that everyone is welcome to. With a parade, main stage and multiple smaller events such as cinema screenings, karaoke evenings and not forgetting the after party!

Mayor's Picnic

Cllr Fiona Wilson, Mayor of Macclesfield, is also a Run Director at Macclesfield Park Run which takes place in South Park. She also regularly runs and walks in and through the park herself, and so the largest green area in the town is extremely special to her. Cllr Wilson decided to host her first Mayoral event of her term in South Park to celebrate the 100th birthday of the space. Around 600 people were treated to a free afternoon tea box, a free coffee or ice cream all from local providers in Macclesfield and were serenaded by musicians from Macclesfield Music Centre whilst playing a selection of outdoor games or lounging on a handmade picnic blanket. Whilst the day was about celebrating the past 100 years of the park, it was also about looking to the future and the Town Council used the opportunity to display the 5 drawings prepared by architects Bower Matin for the new South Park Pavilion and to gather comments from members of the public.



South Park Engagement events

As well as the Mayor's Picnic, 3 other consultation events were held to gather feedback on the South Park pavilion plans. One was combined with a day organised by Youth Fed, which provided feedback from the younger population, one was combined with a day of food and music put on by Friends of South Park S:Park, and the final one was held during Treacle Market in the town centre. Over 750 people completed the feedback forms and the information has been essential to the architects and the Town Council to ensure that the final drawings for the building meet the public's expectations.

AUTUMN *events*

The Proclamation

The town spent June celebrating the Queens Jubilee, but by September, we were welcoming the new King following the death of Her Majesty. Hundreds of people gathered in Market Place to witness the Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Fiona Wilson, make the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III. Cllr Wilson attended the Cheshire East Proclamation at Westfields in Sandbach, and then returned to to make the Proclamation to the people of Macclesfield in accordance with centuries of tradition.

On this historic occasion, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Clare Hayward MBE, delivered a short speech and introduced the Mayor of Macclesfield, who then read the Proclamation. This was followed by the choir of St Michaels and All Angels leading the crowd in singing 'God Save the King' and then the Mayor led three cheers for the new King at the start of what is hoped to be a long and illustrious reign.

The Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Fiona Wilson said "Today it was my duty and honour to make the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III to the people of Macclesfield. Thank you to everyone who attended this incredibly historic occasion under such sad circumstances. God Save The King."



Nature Needs You

Following on from the success of 2021's return to the park for Nature Needs You, the event in 2022 was bigger and better! Involving more community groups such as One Project and Grow Macclesfield, as well as the Silk Museum and RSPB Wildlife Explorers, the day let children and families experience nature in ways they may not have before, such as building bird boxes, making prints with leaves, and handling some rather large creepy crawlies. With all activities including facepainting being offered for free, families were reminded that there is no such thing as bad weather, and that the event would go ahead even in the rain and to remember their wellies!

Eco Summit

Continuing the 'green theme' but focusing on a slightly different audience, on the same day as Nature Needs You, the ECO Summit was taking place on the other side of the town centre. A morning of presentations on topics such as retrofitting your home, how wildflower meadows can benefit us, security in place and how that fits in with idling cars adding to pollution levels, and a tree fostering programme developed by the local tree nursery as well as a welcome from the Mayor of Macclesfield and an update on the Town Council's green plans for the new South Park Pavillion. Attended by over 30 people and taking place at St Michaels church, the half day event was an opportunity for like minded people to come together and network.

Halloween

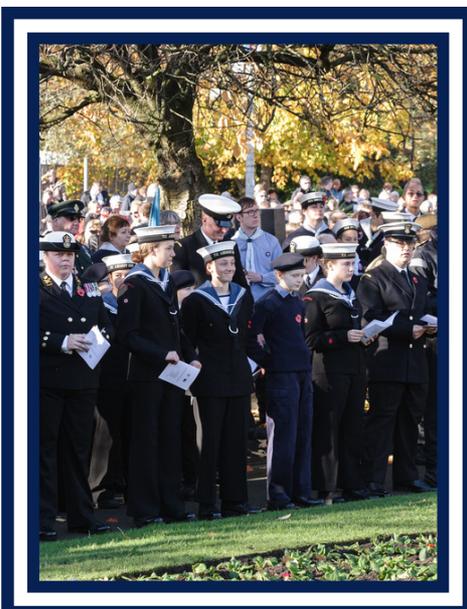
Put on hold over the pandemic, the town was thrilled to see the return of free Halloween events courtesy of the Town Council. With a full programme including a zombie brass band shambling it's way through the Grosvenor Centre to play in front of the Town Hall, spooky workshops making scary crafts, and a positively preposterous pumpkin trail around the town centre shops and businesses, it was no surprise when footfall figures showed an increase of 12% on the previous Saturday.



Remembrance & Armistice

Always somber events but well supported in the town, this year was no different. Armistice saw a dry but grey day for the short service outside the town hall, during which members of the public and staff from local businesses were able to observe the national 2 minute silence.

The Remembrance Sunday parade which was organised in conjunction with the Royal British Legion office in Macclesfield, saw record numbers turn out on an unseasonably warm November morning. Local groups and ex-service personnel, paraded through the centre of town to observe a beautiful service at the Cenotaph, followed by the taking of the salute at the Town Hall by The Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Fiona Wilson, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Clare Hayward MBE.



WINTER events

Step Into Christmas

The Town Council decided to stick with the same format used in 2021 for its 2022 Christmas event. The decision was made following careful consideration of footfall figures from previous years events, along with feedback from local traders. The idea is that the spreading out of the event, with activities and musical acts throughout the day rather than at one point in the afternoon, means the same amount of people attend the event, but for a longer time and taking in more of the event and the opportunity to visit town centre shops and cafes throughout the day. 2022's event saw usual elements such as the stage with local performers, children's rides, the opportunity to meet Santa in his grotto, the brass band and the ever popular Santa parade and walkabout acts, but was enhanced this year by a living window display in the Grosvenor centre, where groups worked on small crafts such as crocheting or origami ornaments which were then hung on a small Christmas tree that became more festive as the day progressed.



Advent Window Trail

Something that has become a firm favourite with the people of the town is the Advent Window Trail. Organised by Macclesfield Town Council with 31 businesses (up from 27 the year before) groups, shops and mini galleries taking part, participants decorated their windows with displays featuring a Christmas film – anything from Muppet Christmas Carol, to Die Hard, via the way of Gremlins, Home Alone and old traditional favourites such as Miracle on 34th Street. All of the shops were able to use their creativity to give their window a special twist – as long as people could work out the film, they were free to interpret it as they chose. A paper trail map was available from the Visitor Information Centre, who gave out over 250 in the weeks before Christmas.



Tree of Light

The most poignant part of the Town Council's Christmas programme is always the Tree of Light ceremony. A yearly occurrence, giving residents of the town a moment to reflect and remember loved ones who have passed. When temperatures on the day dropped below zero, St Michaels church kindly stepped in to the ceremony inside. This year more stars than ever were hung on the tree, decorated with memories of those who could not share the festive period.



Festive Thursday and Late Night Shopping

For the second time the Town Council and Macclesfield Hospitality Action brought late night shopping and entertainment to the Market Place. Over 20 town centre shops opened late despite the sub-zero temperature and took advantage of the increased numbers in town, past when the shops would have normally shut. The Market Place was filled with a fairy light lit marquee with cosy heaters, complete with a horsebox bar and an ex-West End performer serenading the crowds. With stalls in the Market Place from Franglais, Happy Place Pizza and Feastable, all providing warm tasty food, and hot mulled wine and cider available from Brew Box bar the evening was cold but enjoyable and numbers increased from last with all tables full and people milling around in social groups.



Chinese New Year

Another event which has sadly been postponed or scaled down during the last few years was able to go ahead in person this year. Celebrating the links between China's Silk Road and Macclesfield, Chinese New Year provides the perfect excuse to come together as a diverse community. Drummers from All Hallows helped to scare away the evil spirits in Market Place, helped by all those who had made noise makers with Art Space at the free workshops in the run up to the event. The dragon welcomed the large paper mache rabbit created by Macclesfield Community Art Space volunteers into the waiting crowds, followed by the previous years creations.

The parade danced it's way down Mill Street towards the URC, where the Town Council had worked with local groups, businesses and individuals to put on craft sessions making Chinese concertina dragons and shadow puppets, traditional Chinese music, Chinese food and a selection of Chinese artifacts including a wooden pillow to keep your money in, and items of Chinese clothing.



Lantern Parade

A new event to the MTC programme this year, the lantern parade is a feel good event, designed to help us banish those long dark nights and remember that spring is around the corner.

Free workshops were run by Macclesfield Community Artspace and the Silk Museum allowing people to create their own lanterns, to then carry in the parade on the 18th February. The parade started at Park Green outside the Silk Museum, and the trail of light flowed up Mill Street accompanied by two light up angels, to the Market Place where glow in the dark jugglers and a giant light up lobster helped to entertain the crowd alongside light projections and music.

The parade then continued it's journey down a beautifully lit Chestergate where businesses and shops had embraced the brief with fairy lights decorating their windows. The finish point for the parade was Christ Church, where volunteers were waiting to serve hot drinks.



All the Town Council run events and workshops are free to attend.

Projections

The projections of poppies for Remembrance and the snowflakes at Christmas in 2021 were so well received by the people of Macclesfield that the Town Council were keen to bring them back in 2022.

Unfortunately the building that was used to project from was no longer available and other buildings around Market Place did not have the right sight lines or window covering.

The Town Council decided to the only way to project would be from the Town Hall down onto Market Place.

With a bit of tweaking, and a quick check with Highways that projecting onto a road wouldn't cause any issues, the Market Place was once again lit up.



Community Grants

In 2022/23, Macclesfield Town Council have supported a wealth of organisations in the town with community grants and a huge variety of deserving projects. From providing youth club equipment or welcoming Ukrainian refugees to the town, the grants go to a multitude of worthy causes.

The Town Council have three levels of grants.

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.

Small grants are up to £250

Large grants are up to £2,000

Each group that applies for a grant is able to access a bespoke package of support from the Council's partner organisation CVSCE.

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

Organisation	Amount Awarded	What grant will be used for
Hurdsfield Phoenix	£2000	Football kits for expanding club
Friends of West Park	£250	Calendar of events in the park
Silklife Foodbank	£2000	Nappy/weaning packs for new parents
Elim Church	£1998.67	Equipment for their Youth Club
Macclesfield Civic Society	£250	Macclesfield Civic Society Awards
Scoop and Scales	£900	Eco Hub
Broken Cross Methodist Church	£350	Towards the running of their Dementia Cafe
Refugees Welcome	£240	Refugees Welcome Cafe
Holy Trinity Church, Hurdsfield	£1940	Community Engagement Project

Organisation	Amount Awarded	What grant will be used for
Barnaby	£2000	For event planning
Silk Heritage Trust	£1950	Heritage Open Day
S:PARK	£200	South Park Centenary event
ROAR	£1990	To put on an art exhibition
Macc Pride	£1995	Event Costs
Just Drop In	£1240	Targeted summer school programme
Cygnets	£2000	A new sound system for their new venue
Macclesfield Cricket Club	£2000	To develop a piece of land for use by new players
Macclesfield Boys Boxing Club	£1500	To take female boxers to a competition
SUSO	£1500	Room renovation
Macclesfield Library	£733	History of Wardrobe event
Macclesfield Town Ladies FC	£2000	Replacement Kits
Princes Trust	£250	Community Project
The Rossendale Trust	£1000	Jubilee Party
Circus Starr	£1000	Inclusive Circus Event

Organisation	Amount Awarded	What grant will be used for
Macclesfield Music Centre	£2000	Free music lessons for beginners
Macclesfield Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club	£1806.15	Jubilee Party
Macclesfield and Congleton District Scouts	£250	Jamboree attendance

Macclesfield Library

Please describe how your grant was used:

The grant was used to pay in full for History Wardrobe to perform 'Frocks on parade'

How many people benefited from your project/activity or attended if it was an event?

We had 60 people attend the event.

What was the outcome of your grant?

We definitely saw an uptake in people coming back to the library, previous borrowers who still follow us on social media, but who have 'fallen out of the habit' of using the library, so it was a fantastic impetus to get them back through the door and remind them what we offer, as well as getting some brand new customers from the event. We also believe they followed on making contributions to Cultural Economy via travel, restaurant visits etc.

What have you learned from this project?

That there is an appetite again for attending performance events, and we have more confidence to host these events in the knowledge that we will be able to recuperate our expenditure.



S:PARK (South Park CIC)

Please describe how your grant was used:

The grant was put towards the entertainment costs of a free community event celebrating the centenary of South Park, Macclesfield. A consultancy on future plans for the pavilion rebuild and masterplan for the park as a whole was held at the same time.

How many people benefited from your project/activity or attended if it was an event?

500+ attended the event, and lots of questionnaires were filled out regarding the pavilion rebuild and park masterplan.

What was the outcome of your grant?

Everyone attending the event really enjoyed the quality performers we were able to have play, without the grant we would not have been able to afford them. It also meant increased footfall to the pavilion consultation tent.

What have you learned from this project?

That it's well worth applying for a grant from MTC



Please describe how your grant was used:

The grant was used to support and enhance the Heritage Open Day celebrations in Macclesfield. The money allowed us to commission a postcard for the event and have it printed. It also was used to pay for a storyteller to visit and run sessions throughout the day. Further to this it paid for artist, Simon Woolham, to work with visitors to produce a large installation art work in the museum.

How many people benefited from your project/activity or attended if it was an event?

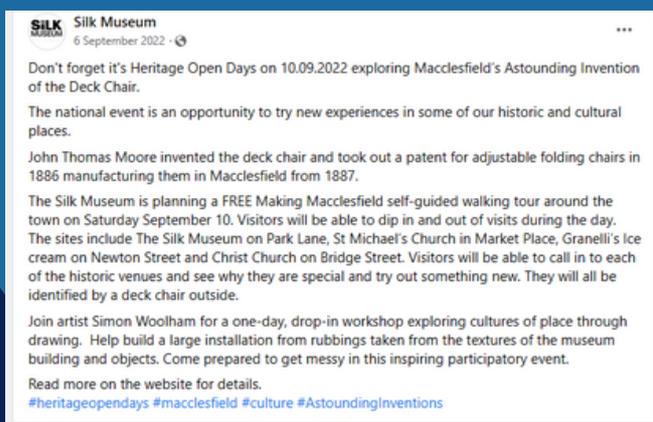
We had over 180 visitors into the Silk Museum on the day of the event, a similar number attended the activities being held at Christ Church and there were around 100 visitors to Granelli's. The walking tours were hugely popular. We ran 4 throughout the day and each one had about 20 people on it.

What was the outcome of your grant?

The museum was thrilled to make links with new local partners (Canals and Rivers Trust, Family History Society, Christ Church, Granelli's) as part of this event. A large number of visitors came and tried something new. I believe that it was a celebration of Macclesfield and gave those participating an opportunity to feel proud of their town. Our curatorial team recruited a number of people to our current oral history project. The artwork by Simon Woolham was really popular on the day and it was great to have a collaborative activity for our visitors to engage with and take ownership of.

What have you learned from this project?

Feedback from visitors was very positive about the event. Unfortunately it highlighted some of the deficiencies in our standard offer for families, particularly for families with young children. These conversations have kickstarted research within our team for potential funding to improve this moving forward.

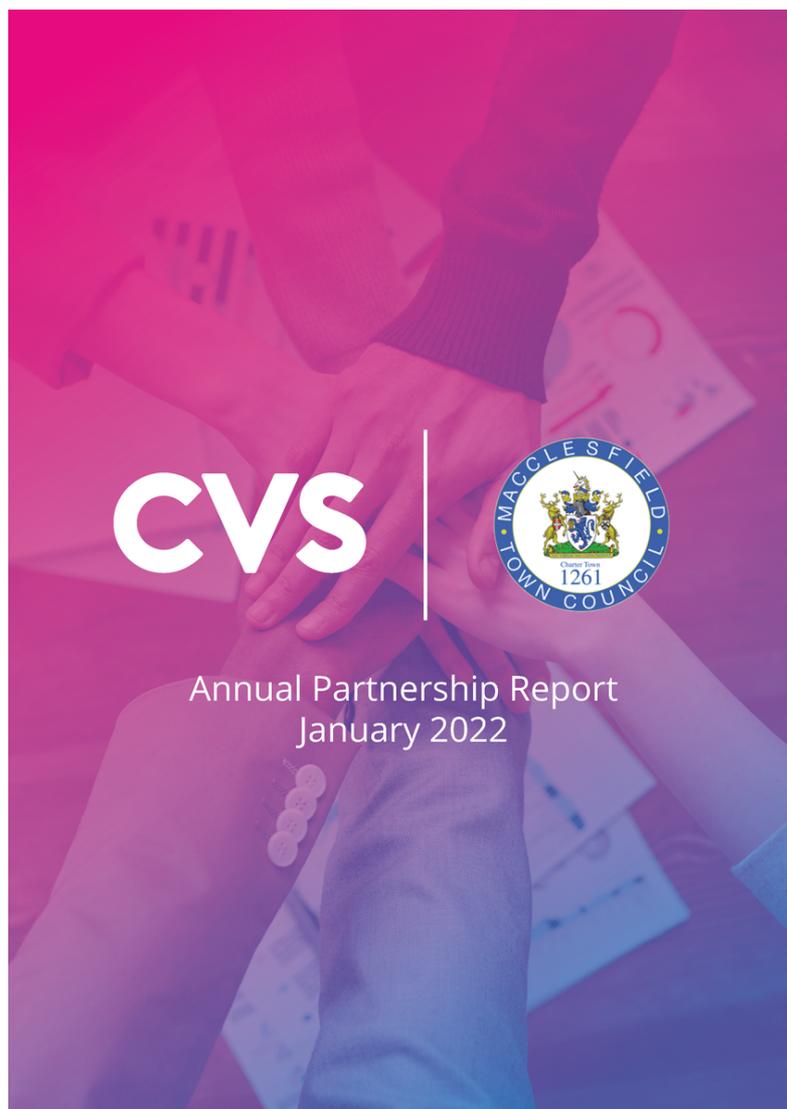


CVS

In 2021/22 CVS Cheshire East participated in a year-long project to facilitate and support Macclesfield Town Council in offering support to the Voluntary, Community, Faith Sector (VCFS), to develop a VCFS network for Macclesfield and encourage and enable volunteering in Macclesfield.

This partnership continued into 2022/23 and has seen CVS offer bespoke packages of support to each organisation that applies for a Town Council grant, as well as assisting the Town Council with formalising its volunteer programme, and offering governance and funding support.

A full report can be found here www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/community/cvs-partnership/



Volunteers

Events are a big part of what the Town Council does and delivers for the town.

Officers of the Town Council attend the events in a working capacity, but in order to keep things running smoothly, the Town Council also relies on a vital team of volunteers. Volunteering with the Council is not about replacing paid staff, but about complementing and adding value to the work we already do. Volunteers bring specialist knowledge and skills to their roles and the Council recognises that some of the work it does would not be possible were it not for volunteers.

In 2022/23 we have had volunteers taking on some of the following roles;

- Road Closure Stewards. Almost all the Town Council events require a road closure, so this is an extremely key role.
- Performer Liaison. Our Step Into Christmas event is one full of acts on our main stage. It's important to us that we have someone there to greet the performers, ensure they have somewhere to get changed, top up refreshments etc.
- Refreshments Coordinator. Armistice and Remembrance are very sombre but well attended events, and the Town Council provide refreshments to Members, the clergy, dignitaries and representatives from the Royal British Legion.
- Events Promotion. There are a lot of shops, businesses and organisations in town who are happy to display posters for Town Council events, and occasionally a volunteer is needed to get them out in a timely fashion.
- Ad-hoc jobs. Other roles which needed filling throughout the year include; stringing the stars for our Tree of Light ceremony, handing out copies of the Halloween trail map, and playing a key role in ensuring all the children had a great time seeing Santa in the Town Hall grotto.

In March 2023, the Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Fiona Wilson, held a thank you event for the volunteers. An lunchtime buffet was held at the Town Hall with a short ceremony where Cllr Wilson thanked the volunteers for all their time and effort and delivered a fun Macclesfield based quiz.

Cllr Wilson said "I am so proud of all the Town Council have achieved over the last 4 years and our events are second to none. We could not have realised this ambitious programme including the Lantern Parade and Chinese New Year, without our event volunteers, and I wish to extend my thanks to them all."

Of the Mayor's Volunteer Thank You event, one volunteer said

"The recognition and thanks is the most effective motivator for any volunteer."

The Town Council will continue it's volunteer drive for events throughout 2023, but will also look to expand and recruit volunteer Town Rangers.

The below feedback from our volunteers shows what a great experience the role can be.

"Volunteering for Council Events is always a pleasure. Not only do you get to meet many people but also have a great time. And you get to work to better the community of Macclesfield..."

"I love to support the Town Council and the Town Centre."

"I don't have a regular 9-5 job so it means I have spare time on my hands, and this is a great way to fill it."

"You get to meet lots of different, friendly people and it's so much fun."

"Being a volunteer is also a little bit selfish, you get a great feeling of achievement and a finish your shift with a smile on your face."



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

Whilst the pandemic can largely be considered over, the challenges it brought to the high street have not disappeared. For this reason the Town Centre Recovery Working Group felt it important to continue with the hard work that had originally been set out when the group formed in 2020.

The members of the group; Macclesfield Town Council, Cheshire East Council, Peaks and Plains Housing Trust, Community and Voluntary Services Cheshire East, Macclesfield Hospitality Action and Macclesfield Museums have maintained a close relationship which has resulted in the completion of a number of objectives

1. Art About Town. Macclesfield is becoming well known for its displays of fantastic murals and public art. As part of the Town Centre Recovery Working Group and Cultural Forum, Macclesfield Town Council have had significant input into the artwork popping up around the town centre.

2. Outside Hospitality. Following the support and grant from the Town Council for the area outside Five Clouds, R&G Beer Vault, Pizza Express and Plums Kitchen, the Town Centre Recovery Working Group were keen to explore other outside hospitality areas. This summer sees the return of the area outside Red Willow and The Fountain, effectively bookending the town with vibrant outside spaces.

3. Partnerships. One of the most important things to come out of the Recovery Working Group is the building and solidifying of relationships with other groups in Macclesfield. Without these important connections, projects like the new toilets for public use in the Indoor Market would not have happened.

The desire to focus on the town centre remains, and work is ongoing to introduce more retail representation into the group, and to continue actively seeking out projects which are achievable and which will benefit the town.

Toilets for public use

Listening to feedback from the people of Macclesfield, the Town Council committed £100k towards toilets for public use in the town. New and improved toilet facilities will soon be available for shoppers to use in Macclesfield town centre following a collaboration between Macclesfield Town Council and Cheshire East Council. The two councils are working together to upgrade the toilet facilities at Macclesfield indoor market, which are currently only available to traders, so that they can be made accessible to the public.

Works are currently expected to begin in early summer and will include making improvements to the existing toilets, as well as creating a unisex facility and a nappy changing facility.

Cllr Fiona Wilson, Mayor of Macclesfield, and Town Centre and Regeneration Champion, said “The Town Council has been listening to residents and local businesses and striving to provide toilets for public use in the town centre for many years. This has been largely hampered as the Town Council owns no land in the Town Centre. We are now very pleased to announce the Town Council have contributed £110,000 to this project and working closely with Cheshire East Council, have found a solution to provide toilets in the Indoor Market. These will be accessible to all and include baby changing facilities and a Changing Places fully accessible toilet. We are thrilled to have been able to be such an integral part of providing these facilities and bring fully accessible toilets to the town. We are doing all we can to support local businesses and encourage visitors to the Town Centre through the many free events we organise and are delighted that our long-term aim to provide toilets in the Town Centre has been realised.”

Once open, larger accessible toilets will also be available for those with disabilities, following a successful bid by Cheshire East Council to the government’s Changing Places Toilet Fund. Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) include equipment such as hoists, changing benches and privacy screens.

Through funding from the Town Council, the toilets at St Michael's Church, next to the Town Hall, have also been made available between 10am and 12 noon, Monday to Wednesday, and between 10am and 3pm, Thursday to Saturday, and Treacle Market Sunday.

South Park Pavillion

South Park straddles the border between South and Central wards, and has had a pavilion overlooking its bandstand for a number of years, with the current part-condemned pavilion building replacing the original following a devastating fire in 1970s.

Discussions to review the pavilion started in 2019 and 2022 saw a huge amount of progress made towards the redevelopment of this once much used building.

Early 2022 saw the establishment of a working party with representation from relevant Town Councillors responsible for South and Central wards, the town clerk and the friends of south park group SPark. At this point a basic design brief was produced which enabled the Town Council to go to tender for an architect to produce detailed drawings based on that brief.

The working party continued to meet throughout the spring and included ANSA and a representative from CVS. After receiving 17 responses to the architect tender, Bower Mattin were confirmed as the preferred supplier at the Full Council Meeting of Macclesfield Town Council in May 2022.

Bower Mattin went on to produce 5 designs which met the original brief including the essentials such as accessible toilets for public use, a café and space for hire as well as environmental considerations. The designs were shared with the general public over a series of consultation events in the park itself and in the town centre, and over 750 responses were received.

With the consultation work reviewed at the end of the summer, the autumn of 2022 brought the news that two designs had come out as the public's clear favourites.

Bower Mattin worked to combine the two designs into one. The final design is for a two storey eco sensitive pavilion designed to provide a wide range of flexible spaces suitable for multiple uses eg community groups, private individuals etc. It is intended that the new building will reuse the existing pavilion slab and foundations and will be super insulated and incorporate a turf/sedum roof to create a high thermal mass which will also assist water attenuation. Passive solar gain combined with a heat recovery and recirculation ventilation system, photo voltaic cells and air source heat pumps will be at the core of the renewable energy proposals. Local stone and timber will be used in construction which will feature green walls as a part of the target to control the carbon footprint.

This was approved at Full Council, and a planning application submitted to Cheshire East Council at the end of October 2022.

Whilst the Town Council have money set aside in reserved funds to put towards the build, other avenues of funding are also being pursued. A lottery bid has been submitted, and at the start of March 2023 the Town Council held an open evening for potential future investors. With presentations from the Mayor of Macclesfield, Cllr Fiona Wilson, Cllr Sandy Livingstone, who is leading the committee for the project, and Cllr Janet Jackson MBE on the reasons behind the Town Council taking on the project and what it has achieved so far, the guests were also able to hear from the local architect in charge of the plans, Bower Mattin.



Play Equipment

Each year Macclesfield Town Council dedicates part of its budget to the improvements of parks within the town. In the past this has included the introduction of accessible play equipment, the upgrading of old and damaged equipment, and improvements the park environment.

2022 was no different and saw Weston Park and Banbury Park benefit from new and ongoing works.

During a public consultation in September 2021, it was identified that people wanted to see play equipment for older children in Weston Park. That equipment was ordered in spring 2022 at the same time that MTC put out a tender for an artist to update the skate park with some bright and bold designs.

By August 2022 the new swing and zip line had been installed and was being enjoyed by the local children, and local artist Dick Vincent was selected as the artist to transform the skate ramps and some of the paving around it, with work due to start late spring 2023 when the weather should improve.

Banbury Park on Hurdsfield ward had some infrastructure work done in 2021, but with money left over from the allocated budget, work was done in September 2022 along with ANSA to improve a path from the canal bridge to the park, making it more accessible to everyone.



Ward Budgets

2022/23 was the second year of the newly introduced ward budgets.

Ward budgets this year were once again wide and varied 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;

Hurdsfield – a Free Slow cooker project and new wildflowered areas.

Central – the 01625 Gallery and gritting in the town centre.

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

Broken Cross and Upton – holding a Coronation Party and new wildflower areas.

East – a notice board on the ward.

Tytherington – tree planting in Bolingbrook and new notice boards.

West and Ivy – goals posts for Weston Park.

You Said, We Did

You said

It would be great to see Park Green being used more

Macclesfield Town Council are working closely with the Silk Museum, URC and others in the area to ensure that events are brought to the area and with Cheshire East Council on an upcoming art project

We did



You said

There should have been bunting at the Jubilee parties

We agree - and for the coronation parties taking place in May there will be bunting!

We did



You said

The Halloween event was great but we want to see more events in town

Macclesfield Town Council will be putting on 20 FREE events in 2023 (and supporting another 7+) which will appeal to everyone

We did



You said

There are no accessible public toilets in the town centre

Macclesfield Town Council put £110,000 towards new toilets for public use, including baby change facilities and a fully accessible Changing Places toilet

We did



You said

We don't shop in the Indoor Market because we don't know what is there.

Macclesfield Town Council has put up three extra large maps in the lift area and at the front and back of the Indoor Market showing all the businesses inside.

We did



Planning

Planning

Macclesfield Town Council Planning Committee are statutory consultees to any building planning applications. This means that Cheshire East Council must inform us of any applications and any comments we make add weight to the final decision. The Planning Committee meet every 3-4 weeks where they discuss every application they receive and where applicable, response to Cheshire East.

As well as discussing every application, the planning committee are trying to get Canal Bridge 36 of the Macclesfield Canal re-open and accessible. They have so far had an assessment report completed by the Canal and River Trust to ascertain whether it is safe to open and are currently having a plan and costings drawn up by the developers of the new King Parkl site, Barratt and David Wilson Homes. You can keep up to date of where they are up to with this plan by following the minutes of our Planning Committee meetings.



Green Achievements

Britain in Bloom

There were celebrations in Macclesfield at the end of October as the town was officially declared blooming marvellous. After only its third year of entering the competition, Macclesfield struck gold in the region's leading environmental competition, the North West Britain in Bloom Awards, having previously been awarded Silver and Silver Gilt in the Small City category. Bloom Committee Chair Cllr Janet Jackson MBE said: "We are absolutely thrilled to win gold in this prestigious competition. The success started with the hard work put in by the Macclesfield in Bloom committee, and we received fantastic support from volunteers, residents, businesses and organisations across the town centre and various wards of the town." Committee member John Williams said the award was "for the town of Macclesfield, not just the In Bloom volunteers".



Wildflower Meadow

In April 2022 a team of Councillors, Officers, Rangers and volunteers went out and sowed a 'Jubilee' wildflower mix at the top of Westminster Road.

The flowers grew to be around knee high and attracted and sustained a substantial number of wildlife species, including the much needed pollinators who are vital for our food crops.

The feedback on this pilot area was great, and will lead the Town Council to expand the scheme in 2023



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 2023/24 has NOT increased from last year.

This means for a band D household, the cost is still £52.06 per year. That equates to £4.34 per month or less than the price of two takeaway coffees.

What do I get for my £52.06 from the Town Council?

All of this, plus much more such as public art and access to toilets.



- Administration of the Council inc. staffing & resources
- Town Rangers, florals, festoons - things that keep the town looking nice
- The delivery of community activities such as enforcement
- New equipment & upkeep of the towns play parks
- Events such as the Lantern Parade & our upcoming summer programme
- Support the running of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Macclesfield
- Consultee on all planning applications
- Over £40k in grants & donations to support local charities & organisations
- Support the running of the Visitor Information Centre
- Christmas celebrations in town, inc the tree, lights & events
- Contribution to the running of CCTV to keep the town safe
- Keeping the town active with Street Sports for kids & Park Fit
- Free town centre wifi & ward budgets

How much does the Councillor for my ward get paid?

All 12 Councillor positions at Macclesfield Town Council are on a voluntary basis, meaning that Councillors do **not** get paid for the work they do for the town.

Thank You



Macclesfield Town Council would like to thank everyone who has put time and effort into making Macclesfield a great place to live, work, or visit.