

Report Purpose:

To update members on community engagement work

Author:

Assistant Town Clerk

5.1 Community Engagement Update

From 1st April 2026 to 6th August 2026, our volunteers have contributed 75 hours to the work of the town council. At a minimum wage rate of £12.71 an hour, this equates to £953.25. We could not deliver our events without our wonderful team of volunteers.

The Assistant Town Clerk has been attending the monthly food network partnership meeting. The demand for surplus food has increased and the groups are looking at ways to work together to meet this need. The 'Feed the 500' event which took place on the same day as the 1261 festival was a great success which meant families could ride the free bus into the town, take part in the free activities and feed their family for free.

The Assistant Town Clerk met with Pinc College who provide pathways into employment for neurodivergent 16-24 year olds. They work across the northwest and have a base in The Heritage Centre and are keen to work with local organisations on any upcoming art or marketing projects.

We had two work experience students joining us for one week each in June and July.

In April, we held our very first 'Community Grants information day'. Local groups could book 30 minute appointments to discuss their ideas for grants as well as discussing eligibility and potential other sources of funding. CVS joined us for the day to help advise groups. 7 local charities and community groups attended and 6 of them have never received a grant from us before.

As it went so well, we will look at holding another one.

The Assistant Town Clerk attended the Macclesfield Partnership meeting in July where priorities for the area were discussed. One of the priorities is addressing the cost of living so as part of this topic, we were able to explain about the Do Something Summer activities being free with additional free bus travel to the events.

We were also invited to attend a meeting about community growing for wellbeing and some interesting discussions have begun around a possible new community garden.

5.2 CVS Update

Annual report and interim update attached.