

Report Purpose:

To update committee on progress and work associated with the street scene.

Author:

Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Town Centre Manager and Town Ranger team

8.1 Public Realm

Town Centre Floral Displays

The weather has been exceptionally hot during this period, and the Town Rangers have worked extremely hard to maintain the town's floral displays through an intensive watering programme. The prolonged hot weather has made this particularly challenging, and keeping up with the watering demands has required considerable time and effort from the Rangers. Unfortunately, some of the wildflower patches have been affected by the conditions.

The barrier plants and hanging baskets are supplied by Northwich Town Council and are looking fabulous. Their team has also worked hard to ensure the plants are kept watered during the hot weather.

The newer, larger Corten planters installed by Cheshire East Council throughout the town have also been watered, however they require much more water than anticipated and so looking to the future we are going to try different plant varieties that better suit the conditions.

Britain in Bloom

The judges visited Macclesfield in June as part of the Britain in Bloom judging process, and the visit went very well.

Macclesfield's entries were:

- Town/ City Centre
- Small City
- Pocket Park
- Parks Large- Victoria Park

We expect to find out the results at approximately October 2026.

The Britain in Bloom Committee is also beginning to look ahead to next year's entry and would like to hear from community groups, shops, businesses and individuals who help to keep parts of Macclesfield looking attractive. Anyone who would like to get involved is encouraged to get in touch with the Committee.

Public Murals

The issue with the long term lease on the side of the O2 building has now been resolved and they have confirmed they are happy for it to go ahead. The landlord has also confirmed they are in favour. Both the landlord and O2 would like to be involved with the decision of the mural design. The next step is to check what permissions are required before proceeding to finalise the mural brief.

Update – We have been speaking to the Planning and Enforcement Manager from CEC to understand what type of mural will be permitted without planning permission.

They have requested a bit more information which will provide before we put out a brief for the project.

Further update July 2026 – Measurements and photographs of different options of mural sizes have been sent to the landlord and O2 to ask which option they are happy with.

Macc on Foot

The Macc on Foot project has not yet been formally handed over to Macclesfield Town Council and therefore remains the responsibility of Cheshire East Council at this time.

Traditional Fingerposts Signage

We have also recently been informed that the traditional fingerposts signage around the town will no longer be maintained by Cheshire East Council unless Macclesfield Town Council agrees to fund their ongoing maintenance. The Clerk will consider this in the upcoming budget.

8.2 Town Ranger

Full Council have approved a ranger policy which is clear on the work the rangers will carry out and what they are able support with, within the capacity of 3 rangers. This policy was approved at Full Council on 18th May 2026.

Below is the breakdown of tasks completed between 1st April 2026 and 27th July 2026.

Category of task	Total
Allotment tasks	7
Community Engagement/Britain in Bloom	93
Grounds maintenance	78
Litter picks	122
Office/events support	36
Repairs and infrastructure	33
Grand total	369

The Rangers also empty the bins in Sparrow Park, a service they have traditionally undertaken on behalf of Cheshire East Council for many years. In addition, the Rangers work to keep the town centre as weed-free and presentable as possible. This helps maintain the appearance of the town for residents, visitors and businesses, as well as supporting the attractiveness of Macclesfield to prospective businesses and investors.

8.3 01625 Gallery

Please see report attached.