



Poynton Update and News, 8th February 2021

Poynton Town Council precept for 2021/2022

The Town Council sets an annual precept as part of the Council Tax to help pay for the many local services we provide. This has been a particularly challenging year for the Town Council with a significant loss of income following the closure of the Civic Hall in March due to Covid restrictions. Although the Civic Hall opened to some hirers between August and December, many were unable to return because of the restrictions imposed by government.

The Council has worked hard in difficult circumstances to keep the precept low and made savings wherever possible. The Town Council's precept for 2021/22 is £491,795, an increase over the current year of £2,531, a decrease of 0.73% for a Band D home. The annual precept for a Band D home is £82.60 for the year, or £1.59 per week. We believe that this represents good value for money when measured against all the additional services in Poynton which are provided by the Town Council. These include:

- Support for the community during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Christmas tree and Christmas lights
- Hockley and Brecon Close play areas
- The majority of Lady's and Prince's Inclines
- CCTV monitoring – 5 cameras in the centre of Poynton
- Graffiti removal
- Coppice Road allotments
- The Civic Hall, owned and maintained by the Town Council, is home to an increasing number of local voluntary organisations and clubs and needs maintenance and improvements. It is currently being used as a vaccine centre
- Funding for the Citizens Advice service
- Financial support for community events including Higher Poynton Summerfest and the Christmas Fest if they take place this year
- Supporting voluntary and community organisations including Poynton in Bloom, Friday Morning Shoppers and Time out Café
- The Town Council acts as Poynton's voice on many issues, including defending the Green Belt and protecting the environment
- The Town Council employs three Community Support Officers who are a visible uniformed presence in Poynton. They provide an 'eyes and ears' service aimed at reducing the fear of crime for residents and improving their quality of life. Their remit includes dealing with environmental crime issues, such as littering, fly tipping and dog fouling and reducing incidents of low level crime and antisocial behaviour.
- The Communities Co-ordinator promotes health and well-being initiatives for both older and younger people, working with voluntary groups and service providers to ensure Poynton is a strong and resilient community. Poynton is officially a dementia friendly town and it became the first Town Council in Cheshire to achieve the bronze NHS Self Care Award. Other work includes supporting the Poynton Area Community Partnership and the scheme to lend out mobility scooters and wheelchairs.
- The Operations Manager and Village Ranger have a key role working with Cheshire East, pushing for road and footpath repairs, drain clearance and lighting improvements; dealing with residents' enquiries and litter problems; supporting the Pick and Tidy group; emptying bins and similar jobs maintaining Poynton's infrastructure.

Town Councillors receive no form of salary, attendance or other allowances and give freely of their time. Poynton Town Council's website is www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk.



Poynton Town Council supporting Middlewood Partnership

Poynton Town Council are proud to be supporting Middlewood Partnership with the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination clinics at the Civic Hall by co-ordinating volunteers to manage patient parking at the Civic Centre Car Park and ensuring patient experience into the clinic is as smooth as possible.



More information about how the community is working together can be read in the recent blog from Middlewood Partnership website: <https://bit.ly/35U4IIC>

Additionally to this staff are still working during lockdown serving our community. The Council Community Support Team continue their reassuring patrols and responding to resident enquiries regarding the current lockdown rules and other community issues.

As a team we are working closely again with key organisations to respond to vulnerable residents who need support.

For Middlewood Partnership COVID Vaccination updates please visit their website: <https://middlewoodpartnership.co.uk/blog/>



Local business survey

Following the business survey conducted in the autumn. Local business owners, the Mayor and Town Council staff met on Tuesday 12th January to discuss what support local businesses need.

If you are in business, no matter how big or small, we would like to hear from you. We are keen to hear your views on what you would want from a business network, what other support would be useful, how easy is it to find up to date, trustworthy and relevant information, would you be interested in supporting a business network through your skills and experience – what are you able to offer.

Please complete the short survey <https://bit.ly/3a6OcWU> or send your views to the Town Clerk at haf.barlow@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk

Road Closure: Woodford Rd – 23rd Feb 2021

Cheshire East has informed the Town Council that they will temporarily prohibit traffic in the following length of road: Woodford Road, Poynton West and Adlington Ward, for its full extent.

They anticipate that the closure, to enable Cheshire East Highways to carry out lining works, will take place on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

Location Map - <https://one.network/?tm=117824815>

Pedestrian access to any premises situated within the temporary closure will be maintained at all times and cyclists will be required to dismount. Vehicular access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and residents where possible.

If you have any enquiries relating to the works please contact Cheshire East Highways, not the Town Council, on 0300 123 5020.

Obituary Notice

The Town Council regrets to announce the death of former councillor David Bowers. David was Chairman of the Parish Council for two years in 1968 and 1969. He also served on the (pre-1974) Macclesfield Rural District, and on Macclesfield Borough Council, finally leaving in 1988. He was Deputy Leader of MBC. He will be sadly missed.



Census Day is coming!

CENSUS 2021

Households across Cheshire East will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will also be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

Census Day will be on Sunday 21 March, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said: "A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed.

"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk or contact the local census engagement manager Mike Cash directly at michael.cash74@field.census.gov.uk

Macclesfield railway maintenance - March 2021

Network Rail have informed us about a new investment programme to maintain railway tracks in the Hope Green area. The work involves renewing the stone (ballast) beneath the railway tracks and will help to keep trains running safely and reliably for passengers. They have written to residents who live near the worksite as overnight work will take place in March this year. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

The photos adjacent show a 'High Output Ballast Cleaner' which is a specialist train used to maintain the railway.



Cheshire East lifts time restrictions on bus pass users

Cheshire East Council has lifted timing restrictions on travel for holders of concessionary bus passes. The move is to help support the Covid-19 vaccine roll out for elderly people and disabled residents. From 21 January, all English national travel concessionary bus pass holders are allowed to travel free of charge before 9.30am each day. All bus operators have been told about the change and asked to inform their staff.

In line with government guidance, all residents need to reduce non-essential travel as much as possible to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and save lives. If you do travel by public transport, it is a legal requirement to wear a face covering. Think: hands, face, space.

For bus service details visit Cheshire East Council's website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public-transport/bus/bus-service-timetables.aspx

New Year's Honours

Congratulations to Poynton resident, Julie Cawthorne, Assistant Chief Nurse for Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) who has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for her outstanding contribution to patient safety over a 40-year career in nursing, as well as her vital role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more details of this wonderful achievement, please click [here](#).



Poynton Relief Road

The latest project newsletter for the Poynton Relief Road has been released and can be found [here](#).

Council Community Support Team News

Scam awareness

The Council Community Support Team has been visiting residential facilities in Poynton providing older people with vital updates on current scams that are operating in our area. The scams awareness poster has been produced in conjunction with [Age UK Cheshire East](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/AgeUKCheshireEast/photos/pcb.3752715441476716/3752713934810200/>

Dog Fouling - Hazelbadge Road

The CCST has received several reports of dog fouling on pavements in the area of Hazelbadge Road in Poynton. The team have been out delivering leaflets to local residents in the area appealing for witnesses to these incidents.

The CCST say, "Any information leading to the identity of the offending owner(s) will be treated in strict confidence. It is an offence to allow your dog to foul a public highway for which you may receive an on the spot fine of £100".

Domestic abuse awareness

It has been identified there is a need to raise awareness for carers / those living with Dementia and domestic abuse. There is strong evidence that Domestic Abuse occurs within this group, especially with carers who are supporting their loved ones living with dementia, but it can often go unrecognised.

If you are worried about yourself or someone else, please do not ignore it. Listen carefully and make a note. Find more details on the poster [here](#) or telephone Cheshire East Council on:

- **0300 123 5010** (8:30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30 am to 4:30pm Friday)
- **0300 123 5022** (at all other times including bank holidays)

Let's Do This!

Now more so than ever, it's important for us to look after our health and well-being, and there's support out there to help. There are lots of small steps we can take to improve our mental wellbeing like staying connected with our friends and family. To learn more ways to look after your mental wellbeing get a free NHS Mind Plan from Every Mind Matters by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/> and find out ways to help yourself.

Whether it's a little or a lot, getting active is also great for your physical and mental health. See the link for more information on how you can get active including videos for exercising at home, Couch to 5k and simple tips to move more. <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/get-active/>

Cheshire Fire Service

Cheshire Fire Service have released a video entitled '2020 Year Review' where you can see some of the things they get up to. Watch it here. <https://youtu.be/ZCng40M1-LI>



Poynton Library news

**Order and Collect service - Monday -Friday 9.30-1 and 2-4.30,
Saturday 9-12.30**



Poynton Library is offering an Order and Collect Service. Please email or phone the library to let staff know what genre, author or subject you would like, and give your library card details and a contact number or email address.

Staff will choose up to 8 books and issue them to your library card, please note the selection will be limited to what is on the shelves. Specific book requests and reservations cannot be made at this time. Staff will give you a time to collect your items in a covid secure way. You can also return books when you collect. Please wear a face covering.

Please do not come to the library without an appointment. poynton.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk
01625 374818

Haf Barlow, Town Clerk

www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk
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Poynton Town Council

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