



Poynton with Worth Town Council's Annual Report for 2014/15

APRIL 2015

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TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

It is only right that I start my report by paying tribute to serving Cheshire East and Poynton Town Councillor Phil Hoyland, whose sudden death last month was a shock to us all. Phil had boundless energy, and showed huge commitment to his role, with close personal involvement in many key issues affecting both Poynton and Cheshire East. Our thoughts remain with his widow Jane, other members of his family and his close friends – he is greatly missed.

Having been elected the sixth Mayor of Poynton I have had a very enjoyable and memorable year. This has included the centenary commemorations of the First World War, starting with the remembrance of the start of the war at Tatton Park in early August last year, and the lighting of the flame. Poynton's involvement in the commemorations included excellent and moving outdoor performances of 'Over By Christmas', staged at both the Community Centre and Poynton railway station in September, and the production of 'Silent Night', performed to sell-out audiences at Poynton High School over two nights in November.

During my mayoral year I have been especially struck by the breadth and diversity of Poynton's musical talent, as exemplified by our music festival in September last year, 'Springboard Poynton – Music for All', involving a multitude of performers at venues across Poynton. In the course of my duties residents and visitors alike have spoken to me about this huge wealth of home grown talent, and it should be a source of pride to us all.

Shared space has also been a favourite talking point, with many other councils wanting to follow suit and introduce similar schemes. We have regularly hosted a number of council and other delegations, who wanted to come to Poynton to see our scheme for themselves, and to learn from our experience.

Poynton looks so much better and more inviting to visitors who pass through and stop to shop. Let us all work hard to keep it that way, and to make them feel welcome. Free parking is also a considerable incentive, and this encourages visitors to keep coming. We also have our own community minibuses for those of our residents who need help with their travel needs, be that to shop or to participate in social events. They can also be hired by our voluntary organisations and community groups.

I have felt proud to promote and represent our village throughout Cheshire East, and I thank you, our Poynton residents, for your support and encouragement throughout my year, and for your generous contributions to my chosen charity, the National Eczema Society.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your ambassador for Poynton as your Town Mayor, and very much hope I will be afforded the honour of being so again in the years to come.

TOWN COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community, Order and Public Safety Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Jos Saunders

Vice Chairman: Cllr. Joan Sewart

Highlights

1. Appointment of a Community Transport Coordinator

This was secured as a result of Community Transport Grant Funding from Cheshire East Council and has enabled us to launch the “Easy Access Scheme”, with mobility scooters and wheelchairs for hire, as well as the provision of 2 minibuses used for community transport.

2. Adult Health and Wellbeing Coordinator

Trish Hill continues to work on projects which focus on our older residents. These include:

- a. Men in Sheds, an initiative which enables men to come together to work on various projects. Based in the Community Centre, this has been launched with the assistance of grant funding.
- b. Time Out Cafe. This takes place at the Civic Hall every Friday afternoon and has proved a popular place to meet up for refreshments and a chat.
- c. Older Persons Day. This is now a regular fixture in the calendar. Over 350 people attended the last event. Its purpose is to promote local services, organisations and groups that enable older people to maintain their independence, whilst recognising the positive contribution that they make to the community.
- d. Winter Warmth event. A yearly event which focuses on mitigating the effects of cold weather on older people.
- e. Poynton Home Services Scheme. This scheme continues to grow in popularity. Reputable local contractors who have signed up to the Scheme provide services that include, painting and decorating, gardening, plumbing, joinery and computer skills.

3. Securing the future of the P1 Bus Service

This Committee supported the successful efforts of the Cheshire East Councillors who secured our new P1 service.

4. Community Events

This Committee continues to support both the Higher Poynton Summerfest and Christmas Fest events. Both have proved to be extremely successful and are now an integral part of the Poynton social calendar.

5. Youth Coordinator

We have always recognised the importance of activities for our younger residents and past events include the Poynton Family Sports Festival, numerous sporting activities and the Youth Safety Project. We are currently recruiting for this position.

6. The Police

Our support for the local Police Community Action Team continues. Our residents need to feel that Poynton is a safe, vibrant community and our partnership with the Police undoubtedly helps to achieve this.

Our Committee has always recognised the importance of engaging with the young people of Poynton. It has been recognised that such engagement can achieve a tangible and measured reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). We have been pleased and proud to support the police in the following engagement activities and strongly believe that this has contributed to the continued reduction in ASB in our village.

The projects include:

- a. The Youth Safety Project.
- b. The bike marking scheme
- c. Community links
- d. Fishing competitions
- e. Operation Unlink
- f. Driver engagement days
- g. Speed Watch

- h. Deployment of the Speed Indicator Device
- i. Shop Watch
- j. Police surgeries.

The above list is of course not exhaustive. Our Policing team continue to exploit all methods of communication with the public. Therefore, as well as being visible, on foot, or on bikes, they aim to post a minimum of three Tweets a day, which help to keep our residents informed promptly about their activities around the village. This commitment to engagement and communication undoubtedly contributes to reducing crime in our area.

7. Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

The Poynton CAB outreach service continues to operate on twice weekly basis from the Civic Hall, and last year it helped around 300 clients with a range of sometimes complex issues. The Town Council is determined to sustain this valued service, and is very grateful to Peak and Plains, Poynton and District Rotary Club and Poynton Round Table for their generous sponsorship. Other offers of sponsorship would be most welcome.

8. Conclusion

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member of this Committee who have all worked tirelessly to ensure that Poynton remains a safe, pleasant and vibrant place to live.

Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED) Committee

Chairman: Cllr Alex Smith

Vice Chairman: Cllr Geoff King

1. Highlights

- Operations Manager: our most effective tool in the day to day management of Cheshire East Highways.
- Poynton In Business: promoting over 200 businesses in Poynton.
- Shared Space remedial work: CEC and contractors seem to have finally resolved most of the snagging issues from Shared Space implementation

although ongoing lighting issues, localised flooding and the quality of pedestrian surface on London Road still cause much frustration to all concerned.

- Library and Civic Hall integration: Proceeding to plan and budget to provide better facilities for Poynton residents and to safeguard library and information services in Poynton.
- Parks and play areas: Safe play equipment for our well-used play areas.
- Woodland management: Ensuring our historic Inclines are well-maintained.
- Superfast Broadband (SfB): Much of Poynton now has, and more will get by the end of the year.

2. Remit of the FIED Committee

The Committee's remit includes working with Cheshire East Council (CE) on issues such as highway maintenance, street lighting, gritting, and tree maintenance. It is worth remembering that Poynton Town Council (PTC) has no direct responsibility for any of these services: what we try to do is work with CE to ensure our infrastructure and services are safe, fit for purpose and are regularly maintained to a high standard and with minimum inconvenience to residents. On economic development, the Committee is charged with promoting Poynton and the visitor economy, which includes liaising with all businesses located in the village.

FIED also considers issues such as maintenance of the Civic Hall, the security and maintenance of the two parks owned by the Council, allotments (see separate report), enforcing the byelaws that govern the use of Poynton's parks and open spaces, the provision of benches and notice boards, dealing with Poynton In Bloom, and maintenance of Prince's and Lady's Inclines, both owned in most part by the Town Council.

3. Operations Manager

Richard Holland, the Town Council's full time Operations Manager, reports to FIED. He is our main interface with CE Highways and the utility companies who still seem to have a habit of digging up our roads with absolutely no advance warning whatsoever.

Richard is also our main interface with Poynton's business community and attends the regular Poynton In Business breakfasts and evening sessions, and facilitates the Poynton Business Awards, a Town Council initiative.

Richard produces for the Committee a monthly report and log that ably demonstrates the myriad of day to day operational issues affecting Poynton. Ranging from highways and lighting issues to tree maintenance and to meetings of Poynton In Business, his reports cover too much to be included in this summary. If interested, readers are encouraged to read his reports, which can be made available at the Civic Hall.

Richard has also been instrumental in ensuring we have more litter bins and Town Council noticeboards that are used to both promote Council and community information and to promote the village to residents and visitors alike. Improving Poynton's Christmas lights, maintaining and improving the inclines and footpaths, and trying to educate the very few thoughtless residents who break the law by not collecting their dog's mess are ongoing projects that are regularly reported on to the Town Council.

4. Shared Space

Shared Space remedial work was carried out during last summer. The disruption was regrettable but was tightly managed by CE Highways and the work did finish on time. They are pleased with the work done and ongoing discussions continue to resolve outstanding lighting, pavement surface and flooding issues. The scheme continues to work well, and outside of the morning rush hour, queues are significantly less than the days of traffic lights. The scheme was never intended to fix all traffic congestion and we continue to press for a bypass which, with the start of the SEMMMS link road, will become even more essential. The scheme's main objectives of revitalising our village and improving safety to all, are being achieved with higher footfall and less serious accidents than before.

5. Clifford Road

CE Highways, with representation from PTC, will be working with affected residents to introduce permanent traffic calming measures that best meet traffic and resident requirements. Whilst PTC supported leaving the current temporary measures in place until after the Shared Space remedial work was completed, we are somewhat bemused why a temporary measure from 2012 is still in place. A permanent solution to this rat-run is going to be even more important given the forthcoming Aldi development on London Road South.

6. Civic Centre and Library Complex

The Civic Hall roof was totally refurbished and insulated in 2014. Work is currently underway to merge the Civic Hall with the library to improve services and facilities for all users. This is a joint CE PTC initiative and is proceeding as planned. The complex is a vital asset to our community and when the work is finished by early summer, Poynton will have a facility it can be proud of.

7. Parks and Play Areas

Play equipment is well used in Poynton's parks but does have a limited life. FIED continues to ensure equipment is safe and is looking to develop new facilities in the west of Poynton.

8. Superfast Broadband

Many residents now enjoy Superfast Broadband and most of Poynton should have the capability to experience what is becoming an essential service by the end of 2015. The Committee continues to do whatever is possible to ensure the remaining small minority in Poynton is not forgotten. Some of the internet speeds experienced in peripheral areas are woeful. Our target is for all Poynton residents to have access to SfB but this may take some time.....

9. Conclusion

As usual, this has been a very busy year for members of FIED. I would like to thank all members of the Committee and Working Groups for their continued enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

As Councillors, besides hopefully giving some direction, most of us do very little actual work to achieve the remit of this Committee. This is left to our excellent staff.

A large part of the successful effort to keep Poynton a safe, vibrant and pleasant place to live is due to the efforts of Malcolm Adams the Town Clerk, Richard Holland, the Operations and Events Manager, Gordon Letij, the Village Handyman and the rest of the staff at the Civic Hall. It is very easy to take such unsung heroes for granted, and the Council and residents are hugely fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and capable team that help to make Poynton such a fantastic place to live, work, shop and play. Their workload continues to increase and the Committee thanks them for their good work.

Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee

Chairman: Cllr Charles Gorst

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mike Beanland

1. Annual Precept

The Members of this Committee include the Chairmen of the Town Council's other three spending Committees. Its main role is to ensure that the Town Council has sufficient funds in order to deliver the services to Poynton residents which they would not otherwise receive, and which are not provided by Cheshire East Council. These funds are raised by way of a precept levied on residents and included in their annual Council Tax bill.

These services include the maintenance of two play areas and the two inclines as well as managing the Coppice Road Allotment site. The Town Council also

funds Poynton's CCTV network and graffiti removal. In addition, the Town Council owns and maintains the Civic Hall, given its important role as a community hub and home to such organisations as the CAB, You and Yours counselling service, U3A, AA, Rugby Tots, Rhythm Time, local bridge and badminton clubs as well as providing a regular venue for the weekly "Time Out" cafe and for the NHS Blood Unit.

In addition, the Town Council employs a full time Clerk and Operations Manager, as well as a part time Finance and Hirings Manager, Caretaker, Youth Co-ordinator, Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, a Village Handyman and Community Transport Administrator. It also part-funds five PCSO's who provide excellent community support.

The precept also provides funding to sponsor community events including the Higher Poynton Summerfest, the Christmas Fest on Park Lane, the Poynton Springboard music festival and the Poynton Awards for Customer Excellence, amongst others. It is also the principle funder of Poynton in Bloom.

The amount of precept requested from residents to pay for this wide range of additional services equates to about £63 for the year for a typical Band D household. This represents an increase of around 6% when compared to that for 2014/15, the lowest increase in three years. This extra funding is required for the following reasons:

- Cheshire East Council reduced our Precept Support Grant for 2015/16 by 24%;
- The need for the Town Council to pay for the Air Quality Monitor at the top of Clifford Road (previously paid for and maintained by Cheshire East);
- To implement a national salary award for 2014-2016 (two years) of 2.2%;
- The need to start rebuilding the Town Council's Reserves which were used to finance the refurbishment of the Civic Hall roof in late 2014 and which will be further depleted in 2015 to reconfigure the Civic Hall internally and to contribute towards a new entrance to serve both the Civic Hall and the Library;
- To establish a Planning Management Reserve Fund for the Poynton Neighbourhood Plan and to challenge any inappropriate developments in Poynton.

2. Reserves

The Committee regularly reviews the Town Council's reserves to ensure sufficient funds are available, not only for emergencies, but for major Capital Projects.

As mentioned above, one of these major projects was the refurbishment of the Civic Hall roof which was satisfactorily completed during the year. Also, work is currently underway on another major project with Cheshire East Council. This will see the merger of the Civic Hall with the Library in order to provide a modernisation of the library service and provide an attractive entrance and reception area and public toilets. The Town Council will also take the opportunity to reconfigure the Civic Hall in order to modernise it and provide additional accommodation for hirers, The cost of these major works will be found from reserves which have been built up over a number of years.

3. Middlewood Rail Station

The Middlewood Station Working Group also reported to this Committee and the Group continues in its efforts to increase usage of the station by looking at ways to improve access and seek improvements to the timetable. This has recently borne fruit in that Cheshire East Council is shortly to commence work to provide lighting along the access path to the station and to resurface the access path which will include a ramp for the disabled. The scheme will also include provision of a small number of car parking spaces close to the station.

4. Concluding Remarks

Finally, I would once again like to thank all members of the Committee, together with the Town Clerk, in ensuring that the Town Council's financial affairs are kept in good order; that the services provided by the Town Council not only represent good value but contribute to making Poynton such a desirable place to live and bring up families; and that the facilities in the Village for both young and older people are enhanced.

Management and Establishment (M&E) Committee

Chairman Vacant

Vice Chairman Cllr Alex Smith

Cllr Phil Hoyland chaired this Committee until he sadly passed away in March this year. Our Town Mayor has paid a fulsome tribute to Phil in her report, but Members would also wish to place on record their deep appreciation for Phil's dedication and the clear leadership and direction he gave to this Committee, among his many other Council commitments.

The Management and Establishment Committee is responsible for matters relating to the staff employed by the Town Council, including the regular monitoring of workload, the Town Council's annual Civic Awards, and ensuring that all the Council's policies, procedures and Standing Orders are reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and at least annually.

Since last year's report Erica Adkins, our Youth Coordinator, left to take up other career opportunities, and we were very sorry to lose her. Erica's replacement chose to leave during his probation period. We have since advertised the post again, and will be interviewing candidates later this month. Last autumn the Town Council also recruited a part-time Community Transport Coordinator, John Laverick.

We also retain the services of Wirehouse, an employment law and human resources company. They have helped us update and implement a complete range of staff related policies and procedures.

This Committee has the task of managing the annual Civic Awards scheme too, on behalf of the Town Council. Inviting and reviewing the nominations we receive is one of the highlights of the year for Members of the Committee. Any member of the public is welcome to nominate an individual or group who they feel deserves to be recognised for their contribution to our Community. The Awards are presented by the Town Mayor in July each year.

Planning & Environment Committee

Chairman: Cllr Laurence Clarke

Vice-Chairman: Cllr Roger West

1. The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee met 14 times in the year to April 2015 (more than any other Town Council Committee). Three of these were special meetings, which were necessary due the limited time that Cheshire East Council allows the Town Council to consider planning applications.
2. Town Councillors review all planning applications from Poynton, and made a recommendation in each case to Cheshire East Council. The vast majority of planning applications are decided by Planning Officers at CEC using "delegated powers", so this is the only formal review of planning applications by elected representatives.

3. Formal responses were also made to licensing applications, planning appeals and similar matters.
4. Several important planning issues are currently progressing. These include:

- a. The Cheshire East Local Plan

The Cheshire East Local Plan will be in force until 2030, and should decide where new houses, offices, shops and roads will be built across the county. Cheshire East submitted their Local Plan Strategy to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in May 2014 and it is currently undergoing an independent examination.

When the Local Plan process started in 2010, developers proposed building 2,800 new houses, plus some industrial sites, on Green Belt land around the village.

The Town Council has maintained our long standing policy of opposing inappropriate development, protecting the village environment and keeping the existing Green Belt around Poynton. We support a “brown field” first policy for development, with development directed towards land previously built on.

The response to earlier consultations suggests that a large majority of local people agree with our support for the existing Green Belt boundaries and oppose any major developments around Poynton.

The Local Plan is being reviewed at a public examination by an independent Planning Inspector, who will consider all representations on the draft proposals. The Inspector, a Mr Pratt, has asked Cheshire East for further information on a range of areas, including the assessment of housing need and Green Belt boundaries. This work is currently in progress and the public examination is expected to resume later this year.

- b. Former Woodford Aerodrome Site

Stockport Council has now approved a planning application for around 950 houses, plus a primary school and some industrial buildings, on the part of the site in their area.

Demolition of the old hangars, offices and other structures is now in progress. The Town Council are monitoring and will pursue any issues such as excessive noise, dust and construction traffic.

- c. A555 SEMMMS Road

Construction began in February this year on the new road from the A6 to Manchester Airport (known as the SEMMMS Road, A555 and the A6MARR).

d. Poynton Relief Road

Cheshire East have committed to building a Poynton Relief Road from Chester Road (A5149) to London Road (A523) by the former Little Chef. They aim to start construction in 2017.

5. The Town Council remains concerned at the existence of significant air pollution in some areas near London Road South, although the main pollutant, oxides of nitrogen, is currently below the legal limit. We are taking over funding of the air monitoring device on Clifford Road from Cheshire East. This will be an additional cost for Poynton's Council Tax payers, but we believe it is important to have accurate information on air pollution levels. Possible changes during the construction of the SEMMMS road will be monitored closely.
6. We will continue to review any new versions of Cheshire East's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), and will continue to oppose any attempts to designate sites in the Green Belt as "developable".

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Council initiated the development of a Neighbourhood Plan to allow local control of development in more detail than is provided for in the Local Plan. It allows local residents more control over where development takes place and aims to influence the type and quality of new development as well as ensuring that it meets local objectives and needs.

A team of volunteers has been working for several months to develop the Plan, and a detailed Survey was circulated earlier this year. Around 1,500 Neighbourhood Plan Surveys were returned (both paper and on-line). This represents almost twenty five per cent of households in Poynton, and is an excellent response rate – most such surveys do not get above ten per cent.

The Town Council would like to thank everyone who replied and gave their views on house building, traffic, the Green Belt and other important issues. The evidence of public support will strengthen the Neighbourhood Plan against possible challenges by developers.

Under the Localism Act, a Neighbourhood Plan gives local people a vote through a local referendum on the plan and if it receives a majority vote in support from those who respond it becomes a full statutory plan. Developers will have to follow the Neighbourhood Plan when submitting planning applications and consult the community in meaningful ways.

REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Coppice Road Allotments

Town Council representative: Cllr. Alex Smith

The Town Council took on the management of this allotment site last year from Cheshire East Council on a 125 year lease. Since then it has:

- Refreshed the wait list, resulting in a reduction in the number of people waiting for a plot from 70 to 40;
- Signed up tenants for all but one of the vacant sites;
- Collected the rents outstanding from the allotment year 2013/14;
- Increased the plot rental to 32p per square metre to ensure the future sustainability of the site while remaining competitively priced and good value;
- Collected the rents for the allotment year 2015/16;
- Collected membership fees on behalf of the Coppice Road Allotment Association;
- Arranged and paid for some tree felling on site;
- Conducted a site inspection.

The Town Council is very grateful to the Coppice Road Allotment Association, and in particular to its Chairman, Phil Swift, for their kind support and guidance, resulting in a successful and pragmatic working partnership with the Town Council to date.

Poynton In Bloom

Town Council representatives: Cllrs. Mrs S Horsman and Mrs R Horsman-Johnson

Chairman - Mr David Hetherington
Secretary - Mrs Liz Hetherington
Treasurer – Mrs Nicola Butterworth

Poynton in Bloom is a group of very active hard-working members whose aim is to enhance the village, making it a colourful, cheerful place in which to live and shop. They have been busy planting bulbs, planters, baskets, tubs and of course the Victoria Fountain, with the most exciting range of plants.

Last year Poynton in Bloom's planting gave the village an air of the First World War with their themed planting of red and white flowers. Poppy seeds were planted but unfortunately these never grew.

This year's theme is to be very colourful and in keeping with the commemoration of the First World War.

More bulbs and plants will be put in around the village, with colourful displays making visitors welcome. Due to a lack of private gardens being put forward the traditional annual Garden Safari will not take place this year.

In addition to planting, maintaining and watering is a full time job which this group also undertakes, and they deserve a big 'thank you' from our community, as this can be a very time-consuming task.

As always, if there is anyone wishing to help the group in any way then Poynton in Bloom would be delighted to hear from them.

Poynton – with – Worth Almshouse Trust

Town Council representative: Cllr Charles Gorst

The six Poynton Almshouses were erected next to St George's Church in 1854, originally for the occupation of aged and deserving colliers and other workmen on the Vernon Estate. In 1958 they were transferred into a newly created Poynton Almshouse Trust.

The Trust has five Trustees who manage the day to day running of the charity, together with the ongoing maintenance of the properties.

In accordance with the provisions of the Trust, the residents should be poor persons who are inhabitants of the Parish of Poynton-with-Worth and who contribute a weekly sum towards the cost of maintaining the almshouses and essential services. This weekly sum is reviewed annually.

During the year, one of the almshouses became vacant. The opportunity was taken to modernise the house before it was offered for re-occupation. The Trust is in a financially strong position and has built up adequate reserves to carry out major repairs, cyclical repairs and maintenance.

Projects 4 Poynton
(formerly known as the Parish Plan Group)

Town Council representative: Cllr Mr M J Beanland

The Projects 4 Poynton comprises Susan Warrington (Chairman), Malcolm Adams, Dave Dyball (Secretary) - Poynton Baptist Church, Mike Beanland (Treasurer), Cath Roper - Community Development Officer, Poynton High School, Diane Smith - Cheshire East Town Centres Manager, Mandy Chipchase and Jean Egerton, local residents.

Parish Plan Reorganisation

Last year the group decided to revise its image and change its name to Projects 4 Poynton. We wish to support more community projects, and feel that a name more indicative of what we wish to achieve is more appropriate.

Christmas Fest

Poynton held its eighth Christmas Fest in early December 2014. As principal sponsor to date, the Town Council has requested that alternative sources of funding for the event be sought where possible, including from Poynton businesses. The high attendance proves the event is a firm favourite in the community calendar. The Fest was opened by the "Great British Bake Off" star and local resident Luis Troyano. We had street musicians and performers keen to return to such a friendly, community event who acknowledged the conviviality and friendliness to be found in Poynton. We had a children's roundabout (thanks to the Farmers Arms for their support), carol singing led by St George's and the MAPS choirs and a superb firework display held with assistance from United Utilities. Poynton High School students showed off their musical talent on the Tarantella forecourt. Many of the businesses on Park Lane supported the event, and generally enjoyed a profitable evening. In future we may consider asking them to make a financial contribution towards the event, but are always supportive of local charities who wish to promote their causes by having a stall at the event. This year we supported the Mayor's chosen charity, the Eczema Society.

Family Fun Day

The Team supported the event held in late June 2014. It was another successful day which took place at the Leisure Centre. The Legacy Fund, which supports worthwhile sporting causes in the village, is building up, and further contributions towards it are always welcome.

Higher Poynton Summerfest

The small band of local volunteers who make up the Friends of Higher Poynton Summerfest team worked hard to deliver a brilliant event in mid-July 2014. Make sure you note the date in your diaries for this year's event, on Sunday 12th July, for an even bigger and better event.

Drug Proof Your Kids (DPKY)

Created from an early initiative of the Parish Plan Group, this continues to be a successful course supported by Poynton Town Council. The DPYK course is implemented by Churches Together in Poynton and is usually run twice a year for 6 weeks (one 2 hour session per week), for the benefit of the whole community. DPYK is a course for parents/guardians of mainly teenage children, providing them with parenting skills as well as drug awareness. The course has run since September 2006.

Poynton in Bloom

Volunteers are always welcome to support the group and details can be obtained through the Civic Hall Information Desk. The Town Council have given financial support whilst Cheshire East has withdrawn funding for the provision of hanging baskets. There were many baskets placed throughout the village with a floral theme that acknowledged the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

Financial

The group's accounts detailing monies received through grants etc. and expenditure are available from the Treasurer, Mike Beanland, through the Town Clerk. Last year we applied successfully for £2,000 of funding from Cheshire East Council towards the revitalisation of the Brecon Park play area.

Conclusion

Projects 4 Poynton would like to hear from any Poynton resident with ideas about promoting community wellbeing and events in the village. Please contact any of the Civic Hall team via reception.

Twining Association of Poynton (TAP)

Town Council representative: Vacant

The Association's Committee has continued to meet regularly, and we were delighted that four members of the Erd community visited Poynton in September last year, to join in the inaugural Springboard Music Festival. One of the party is a musician and shared a recital in the Library with a Poynton percussionist.

We have enjoyed several social occasions. Such as a concert at the Bridgewater Hall for a programme that included Hungarian music and a play by a Hungarian playwright (fortunately translated into English!). Two other notable occasions were a well-attended coffee morning and the AGM, held this year at the British Legion. Both events raised funds for the TAP.

During the summer last year we received a suggestion from a Poynton resident that we might wish to consider a French twinning partner and, after some exploration of ideas and contacts, three members of TAP paid a visit to Herbignac, a very pleasant small town on the border between Brittany and the Loire Maritime. Negotiations are ongoing, and if a positive response is received we will of course bring it to the Town Council.

(Report submitted by the Chairman of TAP)

POYNTON UPDATE AND NEWS

Keep up to date with this **free** regular e-mail newsletter featuring all the latest news, developments and events in and around Poynton.

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