



# **Poynton with Worth Town Council Annual Report for 2016/17**

**April 2017**

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## **Town Mayor's Report**

Becoming Mayor of Poynton for the second time was a great privilege and allowed me again to represent Poynton when meeting other Mayors in and around Cheshire East.

Starting in May 2016, the visits came flooding in from places I'd never been to before such as Leek, Sandbach and Winsford. All very enjoyable though.

There were plenty of local visits to choirs, bands and of course Poynton Show, Christmas Festival, plus some of our care homes where I was invited to a lady's 100 year birthday party.

The civic services we went to have been interesting, from a small hut like church (Adlington) to one that was extremely pretty (High Legh) and to one that looked like Chester Cathedral (St Mary Without-the-Walls, Handbridge).

From Mayor making ceremonies, family fun days, Golden Hog Roast, the list is endless, all of which have been hard work but most enjoyable.

I have learnt many things this year and met Mayors who have had trouble with their Councils and are finding it hard to cope. We have had many praises for our Shared Space and for our colourful display of plants as you enter Poynton. Poynton is indeed a village of which we are proud.

Cllr Mrs Sandra Horsman  
Poynton Town Mayor

# Town Council Standing Committee reports

## Community, Order and Public Safety Committee

**Chairman:** Cllr Mrs Jos Saunders

**Vice Chairman:** Cllr Geoff King

### Highlights

#### 1. Communities Co-ordinator

We have appointed a new Communities Co-ordinator, Sharon Duke. Sharon's achievements include continuing to support:

- 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 extremely successful and it is now expanded to two sessions a week.
- b. Time Out Café. This takes place at the Civic Hall every Friday afternoon and has proved a popular place to meet up for refreshments and a chat. From smaller numbers, it now regularly has 25 attendees.
- c. Health and Wellbeing Fayre. This will be 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. This year's event will be organised in partnership with the joint Patient Participation Groups.
- d. Poynton Easy Access Scheme (PEAS). Launched in 2015, this is being utilised more and more by residents with mobility issues.
- e. Poynton minibus. Usage of this has now increased and the focus for this year is to increase the marketing of the service further.

Sharon has:

- f. Launched the Wednesday Lunch Club. This is a really successful social group for our older residents which also provides a respite service for carers.
- g. Launched the Singalong in partnership with Poynton Area Community Partnership and Carers Trust 4all on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017: 23 people attended.
- h. Launched Dementia Friendly Poynton.
- i. Supported all the youth co-ordinators.
- j. Supported local residents hoping to hold a disco for young people at the community centre.
- k. Promoted the nominated neighbour scheme.

### **3. 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. The Poynton 10K successfully “ran” for a third year. The organisers of the event have donated money towards improving the Inclines.

### **4. 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. Driver engagement days
- e. Speed Watch
- f. Deployment of the Speed Indicator Device (SID)
- g. Shop Watch
- h. Sharon Duke has assisted in Operation Shield.
- i. The Police have launched the Working Together initiative.

The Police are assisting Sharon in her dementia work. A joint initiative between the Police and Sharon is the Herbert Protocol pilot.

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 Tweets and put information on popular websites about areas of concern in the village, 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.

### **5. Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)**

The Poynton CAB outreach service continues to operate on a 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.

### **6. The Community Centre**

This Committee recognises the contribution that the Community Centre makes to our village and signposts people to Men in Sheds and Golden Memories.

## 7. Conclusion

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

Cllr Mrs Jos Saunders, Chairman.

## **Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED) Committee**

**Chairman:** Cllr Howard Murray

**Vice Chairman:** Cllr Mrs Jo Sewart

### 1. Remit of the FIED Committee

The Committee's remit is 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. One of the ways that this can be achieved is through working with Cheshire East Council (CE) on issues such as highway maintenance, street lighting, gritting and tree maintenance. Poynton Town Council (PTC) has no direct responsibility for the majority of these services.

On economic development, the Committee is charged with promoting Poynton and the visitor economy, which includes liaising and promoting where possible with local businesses.

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.

### 2. Summary of activities and events

- **Operations Manager.** Phil Cunningham took up the new post of Operations Manager in May 2016 and works a 20 hour week. He is focused primarily with infrastructure and assets issues, and their related projects.
- **Poynton In Business.** This has now become a self-administered organisation aimed at promoting and enabling businesses in Poynton.
- **Shared Space.** There continues to be a regular list of maintenance issues: lighting, localised flooding, uneven setts and curbs and repairs by utility works. The responsibility for these repairs rests with either the Highway Authority (CEC) or the property owners. In addition, there has been a request made by a member of the public for a pedestrian crossing at the Poynton Green junction. The Committee have reviewed the original plans for this part of the

Revitalisation which included a gateway treatment and crossing at this point. The Committee will be attempting to put together a financial package to bring this and other missing elements into being but recognise the difficulty of doing so in an era of austerity and the limitations of having to work exclusively through CEC.

- **Civic Hall.** The Main Hall has been repainted and new blinds installed, and the small bar has been refurbished. We are welcoming more hirers to our rooms both for regular meetings and one off events and parties.
- **Parks and Play areas.** The Council owns and maintains Brecon play area and Hockley Park. We have recently installed improved drainage and new play equipment in Hockley Park, with a grant from WREN and a donation from Poynton Round Table.
- **Woodland management.** We aim to ensure that our historic Inclines are well-maintained and this remains a key responsibility of the Committee. In line with the Management Plan, work has been carried out on part of Lady's Incline.
- **Street light replacement.** Many areas of Poynton have seen the replacement of street lights with new columns and LED heads by CEC. We are updating the PTC owned lights, as and when they need maintenance.
- **The Village Ranger.** The Ranger is a very visible member of the team, enhancing the local environment in a variety of ways. For example, by emptying bins, cutting back hedges, reporting graffiti, repainting road signs and keeping the nine village notice boards updated.

In conclusion, the Committee has made steady progress on a number of issues throughout the year. However, most plans and ambitions for improvements are being stymied by a number of factors external to PTC. For example, the building of the new A6 Manchester Airport Relief Road, the proposed increase in housing estates and housing unit numbers in Poynton, the impending start of building for the Poynton Relief Road that will provide a strategic link to Macclesfield and of course the need to work with and through Cheshire East Council (CEC) on all but the smallest of projects.

The predicted future demands on Poynton's infrastructure is always to the fore in the Committees deliberations. However, the fact that several big changes are happening or are imminent and that their consequence can only be predicted means that there needs to be a prudent caution exercised before committing public monies, regardless of their source, to schemes other than maintenance.

The Committee and the Council do however remain optimistic that because of the diligence and care that is exercised by PTC and Poynton's CEC Councillors the community of Poynton is in due course well placed to take advantage of opportunities and improvements that will arise because of these changes.

Cllr Howard Murray, Chairman.

## **Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee**

**Chairman:** Cllr Charles Gorst

**Vice Chairman:** Cllr Mike Beanland

This Committee's main remit is to recommend to full council the amount of annual precept to be levied in order that the council has sufficient funds to discharge the variety of services and facilities it provides locally.

The Committee reviewed all items of expenditure and savings were made wherever possible. However, the Council has been faced with an unexpected increase in the business rates payable in respect of the Civic Hall amounting to in excess of £15,000 following a revaluation. We are currently appealing against this revaluation. Also, Cheshire East Council has cut a grant which they paid to reduce the precept – last year this was almost £6,000.

The Town Council currently part funds five Police Community Support Officers. As mentioned last year the nature of neighbourhood policing is changing, probably from April 2018, and the Town Council is looking into other community policing options. We have added £30,000 to the budget so we are ready for these changes and can ensure Poynton remains a safe place to live.

The effect of the above is that the Town Council's precept for 2017/18 is £429,313, an increase of £31,161 (7.83%). For a Band D home, the annual precept is £74.15 a year, or £1.43 per week – an increase of less than 11 pence a 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:

- Hockley and Brecon Close play areas
- The majority of Lady's and Prince's Inclines
- CCTV monitoring – five cameras in the centre of Poynton
- Graffiti removal
- Coppice Road allotments
- Five PCSOs (part funded with Cheshire Police)
- The Town Council owns and maintains the Civic Hall, home to many local voluntary organisations and clubs
- We support the Time-Out café which provides social contact and the Wednesday Lunch Club for older people who are frail and/or have memory problems. The Town Council took over the Lunch Club from Age UK when they moved to Macclesfield
- Many local organisations and community events receive funding from the Council including Poynton in Bloom, Higher Poynton Summerfest and the Christmas Fest
- The Town Council acts as Poynton's voice on many issues, including the Cheshire East Local Plan, defending the Green Belt and protecting the environment.

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. These include Men in Sheds, Age UK, the Police and medical centres. A key project being currently developed is to make Poynton a dementia friendly town.



The Operations Manager and Village Ranger have a key role working with Cheshire East, pushing for road and footpath repairs and lighting improvements; dealing with residents' enquiries, dog fouling and litter problems; repainting street signs; emptying bins in parks and similar jobs maintaining Poynton's infrastructure.

A sub-Committee was appointed to review the Council's room hire charges following the addition of several new rooms and refurbishment of the others as part of the merger with the library. Room hire rates were standardised to remove previous anomalies and meetings were held with each of the hirers to explain the charges. The meetings were successful and resulted in an increase in the income of the Council.

The Committee also has responsibility to ensure that a review of the effectiveness of its internal audit is conducted on an annual basis and to present its Annual Report and Accounts to external auditors for examination. The audit report was received without qualification.

Cllr Charles Gorst, Chairman

### **Management and Establishment (M & E) Committee**

**Chairman:** Cllr Ian Hollingworth

**Vice Chairman:** Cllr Mrs Nicky Wylie

The Management and Establishment Committee is responsible for all matters relating to staff employed by the Town Council, including contracts and the regular monitoring of workload. It has responsibility for ensuring that all the Council's policies, procedures and Standing Orders are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

This year, the Council is delighted to report that we have appointed the following personnel into post:

Haf Barlow	Deputy Clerk to the Council
Philip Cunningham	Operations Manager
Sharon Duke	Communities Coordinator
Lauren Schjelderup	Council Administration and Book-keeping

Already, all have made a significant, positive impact on Council operations.

Additionally, and on behalf of the Council, this Committee has the pleasant task of managing the annual Civic Award scheme. Inviting and reviewing nominations is one of the highlights of the year; any member of the public is welcome to nominate an individual or group that they feel deserves recognition for their contribution to our community.

The Civic Awards are presented by the Mayor in July of each year.

Cllr Ian Hollingworth, Chairman

## Planning & Environment (P&E) Committee

**Chairman:** Cllr Laurence Clarke

**Vice Chairman:** Cllr Lee Podmore

### Planning

1. The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee met 21 times in the year to April 2017 (more than any other Town Council Committee). Several of these were special meetings – these are required due to the very limited time that Cheshire East Council allows the Town Council to consider planning applications.
2. During the year, there were almost 150 planning applications from Poynton, plus four applications to grant or vary licenses for entertainment or supply of alcohol.
3. Town Councillors discussed all planning applications from Poynton, and for each one made considered recommendations to Cheshire East Council. The vast majority of applications are decided by Planning Officers at Cheshire East using “delegated powers”, but the Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee provides the only opportunity to review planning applications by elected representatives.

#### 4. Cheshire East Local Plan

The Cheshire East Local Plan has progressed slowly during the year. The Plan will be in force until 2030, and decides where new houses, offices, shops and roads will be built.

Poynton Town Council supported the original version of the Local Plan, which set a target of 200 new houses and 4 hectares of employment land. However, Cheshire East has since proposed a revised version, which requires at least 650 new houses and 10 hectares of employment land in Poynton and the northern part of Adlington. This will involve significant development in the Green Belt. Cheshire East also wants to remove the eastern part of the former Woodford Aerodrome site from the Green Belt and “safeguard” it for building after 2030.

Cheshire East did not consult properly with Poynton Town Council before making these recommendations. The draft Local Plan deals inadequately with infrastructure investment, including dealing with the increased traffic, pollution, pressure on public services and other consequences of major developments, or the need to invest in additional infrastructure. The proposed developments will increase traffic on roads that are already highly congested, both within Poynton and on the main routes into Manchester and Stockport.

Cheshire East has not followed a “brown field” first policy for development, where development is directed towards land previously built on.

Representatives of Poynton Town Council and David Rutley MP attended the public examination into the Local Plan last October and forcefully argued the above points. However, the deeply flawed procedures – there is no “right of reply” for members of the public or local council members to contest dubious statements by Cheshire East – meant that the Inspector made no material changes to the revised Plan.

Despite this, Poynton Town Council, supported by David Rutley MP, are working hard and meeting with Cheshire East to try to mitigate the impact of the Local Plan in Poynton, prevent further incursions into the Green Belt and ensure residents' views are fully taken into account. It must also be remembered that, at the start of the Local Plan process, landowners and developers proposed building over 2,000 houses in a string of large estates all around the village.

## **5. A555 SEMMMS Road**

Construction of the new road from the A6 to Manchester Airport (known as the SEMMMS Road, A555 and the A6MARR) is continuing, and is due for completion later this year. The Town Council will continue to lobby Cheshire East and Stockport Council (who are organising the work) regarding issues such as traffic control and the impact of construction traffic and noise on local residents.

## **6. Poynton Relief Road**

The Town Council supported the provision of a relief road, to run from the SEMMMS Road junction to London Road. The planning application for the road has been approved by Cheshire East and Stockport Councils, and is now with the Secretary of State for further consideration. We are assured by Cheshire East that the funding required is now in place.

## **7. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

The Town Council also commented on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, which was published in October 2016. This includes plans for extensive building across the Green Belt bordering Cheshire. Stockport Council want to build 2,400 houses in Woodford and 4,000 in High Lane – both within a mile of Poynton, plus 3,700 in Cheadle (by the A34) and 2,000 in Heald Green. The 2,400 houses proposed in Woodford are in addition to the 965 houses which are already being built on part of the former airfield. Poynton currently has about 6,250 houses.

The Town Council argued strongly against this wholesale destruction of the Green Belt, which would have a massive and negative impact on neighbouring areas such as Poynton. The scale of the proposed development in Stockport makes Cheshire East's plans seem modest in comparison.

## **8. Neighbourhood Plan**

The Town Council began the development of a Neighbourhood Plan in order 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.

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan by a team of volunteers has continued, with public exhibitions, extensive research and consultations. These culminated in the draft plan being put out for consultation in September 2016. It received an overwhelmingly positive response - the Neighbourhood Plan volunteers are grateful to residents for their support.

However, although the Neighbourhood Plan - when ratified by residents - will form part of the planning process and must be taken into account by developers, it sits below the Local Plan. Most objections to the Neighbourhood Plan were based on the building in the Greenbelt on the three “strategic sites” set out by Cheshire East. Unfortunately, whilst opposed by residents and the Town Council, these sites must be in the Neighbourhood Plan as they are set out in the Local Plan.

The next stage following the consultation is to make changes as necessary so the plan can be deposited with Cheshire East. They will review and eventually hold a referendum with residents to ratify the plan. If it receives a majority vote in favour 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.

## **9. Flooding**

There was serious flooding at several sites across Poynton on 11 June 2016. The Town Council has urged Cheshire East to improve the clearing of streams and gullies, and to prevent building on flood plains. It is a matter of extreme disappointment that Cheshire East are still proposing to allow building in areas highlighted by the Environment Agency as flood risk areas (at Hazelbadge Road, Sprink Farm and the former Woodford Aerodrome land near Poynton Brook). However, they have agreed that a 26 foot (8 metre) wide “buffer zone” along the stream should remain undeveloped.

## **10. Civic Amenity and Recycling Site**

We are pleased to report that Cheshire East Council appears to have withdrawn plans to close the Poynton Civic Amenity and Recycling Site on Anson Road.

Cllr Laurence Clarke, Chairman

## **Reports by Town Council representatives to outside bodies**

### **Coppice Road Allotments**

**Town Council representative:** Cllr Howard Murray

May

The Town Clerk and Operations Manager conducted a two hour inspection of Coppice Road allotments on Thursday 9th June 2016. There were some compliance issues noted as well as some truly outstanding plots. Currently there are 42 plots on the site, one of which requires clearing for the next tenant. The Allotment waiting list is currently being updated.

June

Residents on the Coppice Road Allotments Association (CRAA) waiting list have been contacted to ask if they still want to be on the waiting list. Out of 41 we've had 27 positive responses and three we've emailed, telephoned and written to with no response as yet. 11 have told us to remove them from the list.

Two allotment plots have recently been allocated.

Letters have been sent out to eight allotment holders asking them to comply with their tenancy agreements. They've been given 30 days to comply before a further inspection at the end of July.

August

Following an inspection by the Town Clerk and the Ops Manager at the Coppice Road Allotments site on August 18th it was decided to evict one allotment holder. Two other plots owners have decided to half their plot sizes (at our request). This has created three new vacancies on the site. Offers have gone out already to potential tenants. The waiting list stands at over 30.

September

Three new tenants are now working on Coppice Road allotments. One plot has been divided in two. The sitting tenant has given up half his plot and moved into the right hand side. A new dividing path is being laid and the new tenant has started to dig over the new plot. There are at least two other plots on the site which are being underutilised. A further inspection will be carried out before Christmas and a decision may be made to evict tenants if it is deemed they have broken their tenancy agreements.

October

Two tenants have had their tenancy agreements terminated and two new tenants are in the process of being appointed. Annual rental letters have been sent out to all allotment holders. Aerial drone images were taken of the whole allotment site.

January

We currently have one spare plot which we are looking to fill. Second letters requesting annual rent were sent out in November. Final notices have been sent out to five non-payers requesting payment or their tenancy will be terminated.

## **The Heritage Garden**

**Town Council representatives:** Cllrs Mrs J Sewart and Mrs S Horsman

In the middle of 2015 an idea was born to have a garden area between the Library and the Civic Hall, where people could sit away from noisy traffic and the general public – after all other towns and villages have these so why not us? We have Poynton Park but it's quite a long way to walk, we needed somewhere nearer and this chosen place was just perfect.

The first meeting was on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August at the Civic Hall with five people starting the working group. Many points were discussed that day. What would it be called? What would go in it? What permission would they need? Also, how much would it cost?

Over the coming months, many more people joined the group, with ideas about layout design and funding. Lists were made up and jobs given out to try and raise monies to start this project.

Soon the Heritage Garden (as it became) had its go ahead and started to take shape. Men in Sheds revamped a coal truck which would be placed as a centre piece in the garden. This was to keep within the theme of Poynton's heritage but as the garden wasn't ready yet, this truck was placed on Poynton's village green, much to the delight of the residents who live in the cottages there, as it is filled with flowers.

Grants have been applied for and this has been a task in itself. Benches, flower tubs and wall plaques are now ready to be put into place and a local art group has been asked to paint a picture depiction of Poynton, but we need another truck so that Men in Sheds can work on it again. We are now into 2017 and many meetings have taken place to tackle raising more money for the centre raised bed/soil/plants/lamppost which will put the finishing touches to this brilliant idea.

Cllr Mrs Sandra Horsman

## **Poynton Area Community Partnership (PACP)**

**Town Council representatives:** Cllrs G King and Mrs J Saunders

The P.A.C.P. focuses on projects which ensure Poynton and our surrounding communities of Adlington, Disley, Kettlethulme, Mottram St. Andrew and Pott Shrigley are;

- strong and supportive
- have a strong and resilient economy
- people have life-skills and education to thrive
- green and sustainable places
- people live well and for longer

The group has received £8,000 of funding to support projects that contribute to these priorities. Since September, P.A.C.P. has increased opportunities for local networking and has progressed with some key projects, detailed below;

## Men in Sheds Poynton



Men in Sheds Poynton operates from The Centre in Poynton and is a group of mostly retired gentleman who have become firm friends and now offer support and camaraderie to each other. The group has grown to now having close to 30 regular group members.

As well as making wooden hand-made trugs and crates to sell, the group have been involved with several projects for the community such as refurbishment of the railway truck at Poynton Green, construction and erection of a tool shed for the 'secret garden' at The Centre and building a 'tombola' drum for East Cheshire Hospice.

## Dementia Friendly Poynton

Poynton and the surrounding areas are working towards becoming more dementia friendly. In conjunction with Dementia Action Alliance, a 'Steering Group' has been set up which has identified actions that will help achieve this aim. This includes delivering a programme of Dementia Friends awareness sessions for a range of audiences including local businesses.

## Primary Care Home

P.A.C.P. welcomed a presentation from the Chair of NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr. Paul Bowen and his colleagues to learn about the new health and social care model for Poynton, Bollington and Disley. The group will support the development and consultation process for the proposal.

## Connected Community Centres

P.A.C.P. are working with Cheshire East Council on the new Connected Communities Centres (C.C.C.'s) model. The group were keen to support both Level 1 and 2 franchisee venues in Poynton and the surrounding areas, to ensure fit-for purpose venues are available throughout the locality. Services and commissioned services will be delivered from these C.C.C.'s. ensuring that local health issues are addressed in the heart of communities.

## Knowledge Hub for Poynton

This is a Government funded project and is a digital platform for sharing information. Events, group information, notes and dates of meetings, etc. can be posted and viewed. Also, funding opportunities will be identified along with forums to share ideas.

## Getting a grip on litter

As part of Poynton's Civic Pride campaign and supporting Keep Britain Tidy's National Spring Clean, Poynton Town Council organised their annual Pick and Tidy event on 18th March. 40 'pickers' turned up on the day and collected litter from around the village. Over 40 bags of rubbish were collected. More than 20 Disley and Newtown residents met to give Disley village a Spring Clean on 4th March, collecting over 15 bags.



## **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 are a group of volunteers who work hard making the village a colourful, cheerful place to live and to shop in. They have been busy planting bulbs, planters, baskets, tubs and of course the fountain with the most exciting range of plants.

More bulbs will be put in around the Village, their colourful displays making visitors welcome. They not only plant the bulbs and plants, but maintain areas around the village to keep down weeds, dead head the flowers and top up containers where needed. Maintaining and watering is a full-time job which this group deserve a big thank you for as this can be a task in itself.

The Garden Safari took place this year and was very successful with a large number of gardens open to the public.

Everywhere you look around Poynton you can see how hard this group has worked ie the Civic Hall, Burton Drive, School Lane, Park Lane, the Almshouses, and making the entrances to Poynton colourful and welcoming. If anyone would like to help the group in any way, they would be delighted to hear from them.

Cllr Sandra Horsman

Cllr Rebecca Horsman-Johnson

## **Poynton – with – Worth Almshouse Trust**

**Town Council representative:** Cllr Charles Gorst

There are six houses available for occupation by people over the age of 65 who are resident in Poynton and have limited means. The charity is administered by five trustees on an ongoing basis.

During the year, the trustees continued with the refurbishment of more of the houses which included new boilers and surrounds and a new block paved parking space was installed. They are all maintained to a high standard.

All the houses were fully occupied throughout the year. The Trust remains financially sound.

Cllr Charles Gorst, Trustee and Treasurer



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

**Town Council representative:** Cllr Mike Beanland

The Projects 4 Poynton comprises Susan Warrington (Chairman), Malcolm Adams, Dave Dyball (Secretary) - Poynton Baptist Church, Mike Beanland (Treasurer), Diane Smith (Activities Organiser), Mandy Chipchase, Jean Egerton and Liz Wade (local residents) and Tony Hennon (Compère).

### **Christmas Fest**

Poynton held its tenth Christmas Fest in early December 2016. Several businesses supported the Fest this year. A Special mention therefore to: The Street Vendors, Rushey Hey Farm, Going Potty, Cogsmith, Farmers Arms, A&K Wainwright and The Curiosity Shop who all made donations, and to the Scouts and Mates for practical support. Thank you.

The attendance was again fantastic and mostly because of the unseasonal warmer weather and the willingness of the people of Poynton to come and celebrate at the event. The event was opened again by the bells of St George's. The street musicians and performers, Vernon Brass and Junior Bands and the Poynton High School Band were again keen to return to our community event and acknowledge the conviviality and friendliness to be found in Poynton. The children were also entertained with a fantastic roundabout installed with the permission of the Farmers Arms. Carol singing was led by the St George's Singers and MAPS and Church choirs and a superb firework display again held everyone's attention at the midway point. Poynton High School students showed off their musical talent on Park Lane. Many of the businesses on Park Lane supported the event by remaining open and welcoming customers new and old.

Future Fests will depend on financial support coming from local businesses with contributions towards the event. We are always supportive of local charities who wish to promote their causes by having a stall at the event and applications can be made by contacting the organisers on: [projectsforpoynton@gmail.com](mailto:projectsforpoynton@gmail.com)



### **Drug Proof Your Kids (DPKY)**

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 group have also run start-up courses in areas further afield. The courses have run since September 2006 and are continuing to raise awareness of the devastation that can result from drug abuse and help parents understand strategies to combat the problems drugs can cause and realise help is available.

### **Poynton in Bloom and the Heritage Garden**

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 to their worthy efforts. Plans are progressing to construct a Heritage Garden project for which we have received funding from Cheshire East and several sponsors. Additional sponsorship is still required and the search continues to secure further financial support. If you can help, please contact the information desk at the Civic Hall.

### **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 funding from the Town Council towards the costs of the Christmas Fest which is a family event for everyone.

### **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.

Cllr Mike Beanland.

## **Twinning Association of Poynton (TAP)**

**Town Council Representatives:** Cllr M J Beanland & Cllr Mrs SJ Gilmore

The Twinning Association has had a very busy and successful year. The Committee has continued to meet monthly to maintain progress and plan events; the most notable of these involved hosting a delegation of visitors from Haybes, France, led by their Mayor, in July 2016.

During a busy four-day visit programme we were able to show our guests many aspects of Poynton and surrounding areas, including visits to schools, a narrow boat trip along the canal, the Anson Engine museum, Stockport Town Hall and Styal Mill.

The visit culminated in a Civic Reception held at Poynton Civic Hall. Entertainment was provided by the Gypsy Jays and the Lower Park School Choir, and speeches were given by the TAP Chairman, Mrs Susan Warrington, and our respective Mayors, Cllr Mrs Sandra Horsman and M. Benoit Sonnet. The event concluded with both Mayors signing a Twinning Agreement, formally linking Poynton with Haybes.

Periodic contact has been maintained with Poynton's original twinning partner, Érd in Hungary, and it is hoped that this relationship can be reinvigorated in the coming months.



### **Other activities**

Through the year, we raised funds through a number of planned events, delivered by the Committee and other TAP members. These included a Garden Party, a French Evening on the occasion of Bastille Day, a Quiz and a Twelfth Night Celebration. Our AGM was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February and was very well attended. Following the visit from Haybes we have also started holding monthly evening meetings to improve our French. These are becoming very popular with attendance increasing month on month. Throughout the year our membership numbers have steadily increased. Our colleagues in Haybes are also forming a twinning organisation to increase awareness locally, and to manage and promote the twinning of our two communities on their part.

### **Publicity**

We have maintained our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Twinning-Association-of-Poynton-TAP->) and the Council Web Page (<http://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/twinning-association.htm>); and we now have our own website ([www.twinningassociationpoynton.com](http://www.twinningassociationpoynton.com)). We have a number of events planned for the coming year. We also hope to steadily increase and consolidate our links with Haybes by encouraging private and educational visits to the region, as well as suggesting that Poynton's local interest and voluntary organisations initiate contact with, and arrange visits to, similar groups in and around Haybes.

### **Poynton Update and News (PUN)**

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

- Distributed to over 2,000 subscribers on a confidential database
- Content unbiased and based on fact, not rumour!
- Diary of events
- Special editions on important issues
- Printed and large print copies available from the Civic Hall
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