



Poynton with Worth Town Council Annual Report for 2017/18

April 2018

Town Mayor's Report

I was delighted and extremely proud to take up the role of Town Mayor of Poynton from 15th May 2017. I have very much enjoyed representing Poynton when attending visits to other Towns and Parishes, and I have forged strong relationships with some of our neighbouring areas which has enabled the exchanges of ideas and encouraged mutual support.

It has also been a pleasure to raise funds for Living Well and Poynton Golden Memories. Both groups provide regular meetings and lots of events for people living with dementia and their carers. To date I have raised £3,179, and I have one remaining fundraising event in this Civic Year. I know the money will go a long way to helping both groups continue to provide their invaluable services.

It has been invigorating to work with the Town Council's Communities Co-ordinator and Operations Manager who have taught me so much about Poynton and their roles. Through this I have been able to provide proactive support to some initiatives and help promote positive communication with the Community.

However, for me, the most valuable aspect of my year has been to meet and work with so many of our local volunteers and Community Groups. We are very fortunate to have such an active volunteer base in Poynton and I have tried to meet as many of our groups as possible; and in doing so, understand their role, how the Town Council/Mayor's role can assist them, and also to raise their profiles through the Mayor's Facebook page, the various talks I have given, and many articles I have written for local publications.

I feel extremely fortunate to have had this opportunity, and that I have learnt a great deal in the last year through active contact with Community Groups and members, which really inspires me to spend a great deal of my spare time undertaking voluntary activities.

Cllr Mrs Sarah-Jane Gilmore
Poynton Town Mayor



Community, Order and Public Safety Committee

Chairman: Cllr Mrs Jos Saunders

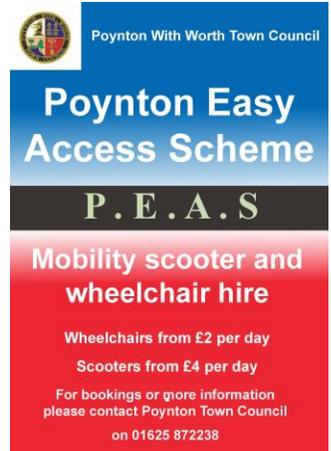
Vice Chairman: Cllr Geoff King

Highlights

1. Communities Co-ordinator

We have a full time 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 community projects. Based in the Community Centre, this has been extremely successful and has now expanded to three 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 was organised in partnership with the joint Patient Participation Group.
- d. Poynton Easy Access Scheme (PEAS). Launched in 2015, this is being utilised more and more by residents with mobility issues with more use of the mobility scooters recently.
- e. Wednesday Lunch club ran from September 2016 until February 2018, providing a successful social group for our older residents which also provided a respite service for carers.
- f. Dementia Friendly Poynton. PTC is recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as "Working to become dementia friendly".



2. 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.

3. The Police

Our support for the local Police Beat 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 Devices (SID)

- g. Shop Watch
- h. Operation Shield, assisted by Sharon Duke
- i. the Working Together initiative

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

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.

4. Citizens Advice

The Poynton Citizens Advice outreach service continues to operate three times a week 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.

5. The Centre in Poynton

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

6. 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 Les Berry

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 (CEC) 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.

In relation to 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.

There have been few significant developments during the last 12 months and thus this report is in part a repetition of the points and observations made last year.

2. Summary of activities and events

- **Operations Manager.** Phil Cunningham took up the 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.
- **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.
- **Shared Space.** There continues to be a regular and growing list of maintenance issues: lighting, localised flooding, uneven setts and kerbs and repairs by utility works. The responsibility for these repairs rests with either the Highway Authority (CEC) or the property owners. In order to achieve a greater focus in this area the Committee has approved the formation of a Working Group to advise it on the issues within the Zone and the performance of CEC and others in relation to completing work and repairs. This additional focus and pressure has had some demonstrable success but as ever, dealing with CEC Highways is a time consuming and frustrating experience. The councillors and volunteers of the Working Group are thanked for their initiative and diligence.
- **Civic Hall.** Following the major renovations, we are welcoming more hirers to our rooms both for regular meetings and one-off events and parties. The one room to have received virtually no attention for many years is the Council Chamber. A Working Group of the Committee has been established to research ideas and options for renovating this key space. Having a plan or a vision is obviously the first step and everyone is acutely aware that funding and regulations will play their part in determining the outcome.

- **Parks and Play areas.** The Council owns and maintains Brecon play area and Hockley Park. Apart from regular inspections and maintenance there have been several relatively minor projects to update or replace equipment.
- **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, during the year minor work has been carried out on both Inclines.
- **Street light replacement.** Many areas of Poynton have seen the replacement of street lights with new columns and LED heads by CEC. We continued to update the PTC owned lights, as and when they need maintenance.

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 A6 to Manchester Airport 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 are always to the fore in the Committee's 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 Town Council sets an annual precept as part of the Council Tax to help pay for the many local services it provides. The Council has worked hard in difficult circumstances to keep the precept low and made savings wherever possible.

The nature of neighbourhood policing is changing from April 2018, and so the Town Council will be directly employing two Council Community Support Officers and funding a Police Community Support Officer provided by Cheshire Constabulary. This will enable community policing to continue at the same level as currently. We have added an additional £10,000 to the budget to provide this.

The Town Council's precept for 2018/19 is £436,488, an increase over the current year of £7,175 or 1.67%. As there has been an increase in the number of new homes, this has increased the tax base and for a Band D home, the annual precept is £74.77 for the year, or £1.44 per week. This represents an increase of just over 1p per week or under 1%. 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
- Employing two Council Community Support Officers and funding one Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), to enhance the service to be provided by the two PCSOs that Cheshire Constabulary will be providing
- The Civic Hall which the Town Council owns and maintains, which has just been awarded Connected Communities Centre status and is home to an increasing number of local voluntary organisations and clubs
- We support the Time-Out café and Friday Shoppers group which provide social contact
- 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. As a result of this, Poynton has recently been awarded the status of becoming a dementia friendly town. 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 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.

The Committee is responsible for the annual review of the Council's room hire charges. It is pleasing to note that for the current year, the income from room hirings will be in excess of budget. We believe that this reflects the fact that most rooms were refurbished to a high standard two years ago, with additional rooms added and that room rates are competitive with other venues in the village.

Consequently, the Committee decided to retain room rates at their current level for the ensuing year. Another item of good news was that the Committee recommended appealing against the revaluation of its business rates which increased the amount payable by over £15,000 per annum. The appeal was successful resulting in a reduction of approximately £10,000 per annum. Although still higher than was being paid previously, this represents a considerable success.

The Council has financial regulations to govern its conduct of financial management and which must be observed in conjunction with the council's standing orders and any individual regulations relating to contracts.

The Council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that the Council has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk. During the year, the Committee reviewed the Council's existing regulations and decided to adopt the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) model regulations adapted to reflect specific areas the Committee felt better suited the Council's particular circumstances. In particular, new regulations were included to allow the Council to adopt electronic banking in as safe and secure a manner as possible.

The Council is required to have a Reserves Policy to protect against risk, ensure contingencies are in place and to support investment in future projects which are beneficial to the town. The Committee formalised its policy to ensure that its General Reserve provides a contingency to cushion the impact of emerging or unforeseen events or genuine emergencies. Also, a policy for Earmarked Reserves that provides a means of accumulating funds for use in a later financial year, to meet known or planned policy initiatives. The Committee also formalised the Council's Bad Debt policy although there have been few instances of default in recent years.

Several items were dealt with by the Committee under its General Purposes remit. These included a review of and policy recommendation relating to the Council's civic regalia and badges, specifically in respect of the Town Mayor's Consort, the Deputy Town Mayor and Consort as well as Councillors. Also, work was carried out in recommending to full council policies relating to advertising signage on the town's street furniture and flower beds.

During the year, Cheshire East Council consulted local councils in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is a planning charge on new development to help fund infrastructure. The funds raised must be used to provide infrastructure which is required to support new development across the area. The Committee responded to the consultation and proposed the setting up of a working group to develop a priority list of projects for the village and the CIL monies. It was also decided that this topic should in future be dealt with by the Planning and Environment Committee.

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. Finally, it is important to note the excellent support given by both the Town Clerk and her Deputy during the year.

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:
Lisa Painter, Building Supervisor

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 19 times in the year to April 2018 (more than any other Town Council Committee). In view of limited time which Cheshire East Council gives the Town Council to consider planning applications, several additional meetings are now scheduled in the Town Council's cycle of meetings.
2. During the year, we reviewed 152 planning applications from Poynton, plus six applications to grant or vary licenses for entertainment or supply of alcohol.
3. Town Councillors discussed each planning application from Poynton and made a recommendation to Cheshire East Council. Most applications are decided at Cheshire East by Planning Officers under "delegated powers". This means that the Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee is usually the only forum where elected representatives discuss and review local planning applications.

4. Cheshire East Local Plan

The Local Plan was approved in 2017 by Cheshire East Council. The Plan should be in force until 2030, and prescribes where new houses, offices, shops and roads will be built.

The Cheshire East Local Plan includes at least 650 new houses and 10 hectares of employment land in Poynton and the northern part of Adlington with significant development in the Green Belt on three so called "strategic sites"; the land near Hazelbadge Road, land near Chester Road and Sprink Farm on Dickens Lane. Cheshire East has also removed the eastern part of the former Woodford Aerodrome site from the Green Belt and "safeguarded" it for building after 2030.

The Local Plan was opposed by Poynton Town Council, as we felt there was no justification for developments in the Green Belt, and the Plan was unsustainable and would cause significant damage to the environment. We were pleased to note that all the Cheshire East Councillors representing Poynton voted against the resolution to formally adopt the Local Plan.

One small success occurred when the Town Council persuaded Cheshire East to impose a Tree Preservation Order protecting the woodland along the stream on the southern border of the Sprink Farm site, plus two oak trees near Dickens Lane.

Poynton Town Council is continuing to engage with Cheshire East to try to mitigate the impact of the Local Plan, prevent further incursions into the Green Belt, ensure any building is on previously developed "brownfield land" and that residents' views are fully taken into account.

5. A555 SEMMMS Road

The new road from the A6 to Manchester Airport (known as the SEMMMS Road, A555 and the A6MARR) is progressing slowly, and Stockport Council (who are organising the work) claim it is due to be completed "in late summer". The Town Council will continue to lobby Cheshire East and Stockport Council over matters affecting local people such as traffic control, dust and noise.

6. Poynton Relief Road

Cheshire East are continuing the process of seeking approval and funding for building a relief road, to run from the SEMMMS Road junction with Chester Road to London Road. After

publication of the Side Roads Order (SRO) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in November 2017, there was a six-week objection period, ending in early January 2018. A total of 12 Statutory objections, two Non-Statutory objections and one Representation were received during this period.

Cheshire East are now working with the Planning Inspectorate to arrange the Statutory Orders Public Inquiry. Once a date has been confirmed for the Public Inquiry, they plan to submit the Outline Business Case to the Department for Transport.

Confirmation of the CPO and SRO along with approval of the business case will allow the scheme to proceed. Cheshire East expect a contract to be awarded in mid-2019 with work starting in late 2019 and the road opening in 2021.

7. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

The Town Council are also concerned about the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. The original version included plans for massive developments across the Green Belt bordering Cheshire, with 2,400 new 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 will continue to campaign against developments in the Green Belt bordering Poynton. The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Mr Burnham, withdrew the original version of the Spatial Framework. A second draft is currently being developed, which should be published in June 2018, followed by a 12-week public consultation.

8. Flooding

Despite the serious flooding at several sites across Poynton on 11 June 2016, Cheshire East continues to support building on flood plains, especially at the land near Hazelbadge Road, and the so-called "safeguarded" land on the eastern side of the former Woodford Aerodrome. Recent heavy rain has led to further flooding, for example on Middlewood Road, and the vulnerability of several areas of Poynton remains a source of concern to the Town Council.

9. Civic Amenity and Recycling Site

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

Cllr Laurence Clarke, Chairman

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Town Council representative: Cllr Lee Podmore

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 Green Belt on the three “strategic sites” set out by Cheshire East. Unfortunately, despite considerable objection by residents and the Town Council, these sites have been included in the adopted Local Plan and consequently must be in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Following the consultation in September 2016 the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group made changes to the Neighbourhood Plan based upon the residents’ responses to our consultation and having to take into account the now agreed Local Plan. Discussions were held with Cheshire East, who requested that the Neighbourhood Plan be sent out for Regulation 14 consultation again. This consultation ended on 20th March 2018 and responses are being collated. Once these responses have been reviewed any amendments to the plan will be made as necessary in order to comply with legislation and the plan will 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.

Cllr Lee Podmore, Vice Chairman

Coppice Road Allotments

Town Council representative: Cllr Howard Murray

The Town Council has 46 allotments on a site just off Coppice Road, Poynton and works closely with the Coppice Road Allotment Association [CRAA] to maintain them. The waiting list currently stands at 27 persons with the average waiting time down from eight years to five years since 2016.

An allotment inspection was undertaken by the Town Clerk and the Operations Manager on the 1st June. Two letters were sent out complimenting tenants on the high standard of their plots. A number of advisory letters were sent out to tenants. Also in June a new tenant was installed in plot 26a.

In August plots 22a and 5b became available as both tenants gave up their tenancies due to poor health. Plot 5b was filled straight away.



On the 26th September the Town Clerk and the Operations Manager conducted an inspection. It was observed that several tenants were not cultivating a high enough percentage of their plots, whilst another seemed to have a lot of clutter on the plot. Advisory letters were sent out.

Annual rental letters were sent out to all allotment holders in October. The plot holder from 6b resigned their plot and plot 22a was filled with a new tenant. One plot holder was evicted due to non-compliance of the tenancy agreement.

In November the track up to the allotments was re-surfaced as far as the Scout hut by Cheshire East Council. This track had been a source of many complaints from the CRAA tenants. A new tenant took over plot 6b which had been somewhat neglected by the previous tenant and so it was decided the plot's next inspection would be viewed sympathetically. A new tenant was also installed on plot 14b.

Sunday 4th February saw the first CRAA AGM in nearly three years. The meeting was well attended with 15 plot holders attending. Subjects discussed were a new communal shed, a composting toilet and the state of the weeds on the roadways and paths. New officials were elected. Phil Swift who has been the Chair for over ten years announced he would be standing down in August 2018.

Poynton Area Community Partnership (PACP)

Town Council representatives: Cllrs G King and Mrs J Saunders

The PACP focuses on projects which ensure Poynton and our surrounding communities of Adlington, Disley, Kettleshulme, Mottram St. Andrew and Pott Shrigley work together in partnership.

The group receives an annual grant of £8,000 from Cheshire East Council to help deliver and support community projects that contribute to the new Connected Communities Strategy and the five key areas that it covers:

- **Connected People** – helping people in communities to become more connected to others
- **Connected to Services** – delivering services differently, with more community outreach services
- **Connected to Neighbourhoods** – strengthening networks and partnerships
- **Connected to Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector organisations** – developing the VCF sector infrastructure and links to thematic communities
- **Connected to decision making** – local people influencing decision making, policy and the way services are commissioned.

PACP Chair

The group has a new Chair, Cllr. Sarah-Jane Gilmore, who has met with representatives from the parish councils to understand better the issues they face and how the PACP can help to address these issues.

New logo

The group thought it was important for people to recognise the group and connect the wider parishes, so a logo was devised to reflect this.



Volunteer support

The group have secured the services of a volunteer who is now supporting the group with administration duties.

Connected Communities Centre

On Tuesday 13th February, Cllr Janet Clowes, Cheshire East Council Adult Social Care and Integration Portfolio Holder, the Mayor, Cllr Sarah-Jane Gilmore and Chair of PACP, and Cllr Jos Saunders officially launched Poynton Civic Hall as a Connected Communities Centre. PACP will work together with Cheshire East Council and Poynton Town Council to encourage and support programmes and projects that contribute to health and wellbeing priorities with some subsidised room hire at the Civic Hall.



At reception in the Civic Hall a tablet is available that provides access to Poynton Town Council's website and Live Well, Cheshire East's online directory of useful information and advice on a range of subjects, services and activities in our area.



Dementia Friendly Poynton

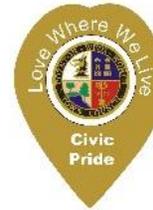
Poynton Dementia Steering Group (PDSG) has gone from strength to strength raising awareness and leading the work around dementia in Poynton. Poynton has officially been recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as a Dementia Friendly Community and means that PDSG can support businesses and other groups to become dementia friendly. On the 8th March, PTC's application 'working to become dementia friendly' was the first organisation to be awarded.

A guide to local interest, activity and hobby groups

PACP produced and distributed a booklet 'A guide to local interest, activity and hobby groups' to kick-start the groups 'ending loneliness' campaign. The booklet contains information about the impact of being lonely and a message to encourage people to join the activity groups as well as encouraging others to do so. The booklet was distributed in the Poynton Post ahead of the festive period last year and copies were made available at the Civic Hall and library.

Civic Pride - Cleaner, Greener Poynton

Representatives from the growing groups in Poynton met to discuss how they could come together to improve Poynton. In October, over twenty-five volunteers from the Heritage Garden Group, Projects4Poynton, Poynton in Bloom, Poynton Pick and Tidy, Coppice Road Allotment Association, Poynton Home Gardeners Club and Poynton and District Rotary Club planted 5,000 purple crocus bulbs in support of the End Polio campaign.



Funding and support for groups and projects across PACP

PACP have supported several community projects including:

- Comfortable seating for Pott Shrigley village hall to encourage the venue to be used for social activities and cinema
- A letter of objection was submitted to Cheshire East Council from PACP opposing the closure of Disley library. Following the consultation process, the decision was made not to close the library which is also an important community hub
- A guide to local interest, activity and hobby groups.

The Heritage Garden

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

A small group of volunteers came together after the refurbishment of the Civic Hall with the idea to remodel a neglected spot into a Heritage Garden between the Library, Doctors' Surgery and the Civic Hall. The group gained consent from Cheshire East Council who are the landowners and the support of the library staff after consulting the emergency services who confirmed such a garden would not pose access problems.

More volunteers joined the group from Poynton in Bloom, Poynton Rotary, the Anson Museum, Projects 4 Poynton and the Town Council to carry out the design and planting work. Projects 4 Poynton became the umbrella organisation for the volunteer group and successfully applied for funding from Poynton Town Council, Cheshire East Council, the Poynton Agricultural Show, Tesco and the Postcode Lottery. Memorial benches have been purchased by families.



A new centrepiece and wall structures will be installed and then the garden will be complete. The garden will be officially opened on 14th April by Mr Theo Eaves, one of Poynton's distinguished war veterans.

Volunteers are always welcome to help maintain the Heritage Garden and the group can be contacted through the Civic Hall reception.

Poynton In Bloom

Town Council representatives: Cllrs Mrs S Horsman and Mrs Rebecca Horsman-Johnson
Chairman: Mrs Janet Burton

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. The group has a new Chair.

Many bulbs were put in around the Village, their colourful displays making visitors welcome. The group 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 for which this group deserve a big thank you for as this can be a task in itself.

Damage has been caused to one of the planters at St George's church and the group is hoping this will be replaced by the church. PIB would like to be informed of any damage to other planters in Poynton.

PIB are to enquire about plants and prices for Summer planting. PIB have approached Waitrose about maintaining the flower bed by the bus stop at the side of the store. PIB are hoping that Waitrose will finance this venture.

Incredible Edible is a new project that PIB are interested in. The Garden Safari will go ahead this year on 14th July with a large number of gardens open to the public. If anyone would like to help the group in any way, they would be delighted to hear from them.



Cllr Mrs S Horsman

Poynton – with – Worth Almshouse Charity Report

Town Council representative, Trustee and Treasurer: 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 carried out further work to modernise the houses. 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

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

Town Council representative: Cllr Mr M J Beanland

Christmas Fest

Poynton held its eleventh Christmas Fest in early December 2017. Contributions to the Fest were received from the retail shops on Park Lane. A special mention to Keith Lambert from Mates DIY and Malcolm Adams for the organisation of this vital support and keeping this a night for everyone. There were also contributions from The Street Vendors, D Furnace, Jo Walsh, Slimming World, Posh Logs, A&K Wainwright and Ollie's Army who all made donations. Thank you.

The weather again proved not to be a determining factor as the people of Poynton turned out for a superb night. Attendance was again fantastic and it shows the resilience of the people of Poynton to come and celebrate the start of the Festive season at the annual event. We started with the bells of St George's and the street musicians and performers were again keen to return to our community event and acknowledge the conviviality and friendliness to be found in Poynton.

The main stage was compered again by Tony Hennon and the Town Mayor opened the evening. The children were also entertained with a super Father Christmas assisted by the Round Table. A roundabout was installed at the Farmer's Arms along with additional rides in the Co-op car park. Excellent carol singing was led by St George's with the Samba Band raising the sound level dramatically. A superb firework display again held everyone's attention at the midway point. The Baptist Church had craft activities and stalls throughout the evening.

Many of the businesses on Park Lane supported the event by remaining open and welcoming customers new and old. The High School Band, Ecuador 2017, Poynton Scouts, Cheshire Fire & Rescue, Pixies Cheer, Anson Engine museum, East Cheshire Hospice, Poynton Leisure Centre and Vernon Building Society were amongst others making a great evening.



The Paul Taverner special wire Red Rum was a delight to see. 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

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.

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 M J Beanland

Twinning Association of Poynton (TAP)

Town Council Representatives: Cllr M J Beanland & Cllr Mrs S-J Gilmore

The Twinning Association has had another busy and successful year. The Committee has continued to meet monthly to maintain progress and plan events.

Our relationship with Haybes in France has been strengthened by constant contact with their newly formed Twinning Committee. Highlights have included the visit there of our cycling quartet last June but also by brief visits by other Poynton residents who have made a point of calling on Haybes while on holiday in France. All of them have received a very warm welcome.



In September two members of our Committee accepted an invitation to Érd, our Hungarian partner, to meet with their other Twinning delegations and share thoughts on the subject of European co-operation. Despite the cold wet weather, we had an enjoyable time and were delighted to

meet old friends dating back to our first visits to Hungary.

A new contact much nearer home was Bollington who sought our information and experiences as the Council there is interested in setting up a Twinning arrangement with a European town. We will be interested to hear how their plan progresses.



Social events here to raise the TAP profile and enjoy the company of our members and possible members have included dinners, an afternoon tea, a quiz; we also had a stall at Poynton Show, and are members of the North West Twinning Federation. In August this year we hope to take a group of members and friends to the Haybes commemoration of the end of the First World War and, in turn, to play host to a French group as soon as possible.

Committee efforts, especially those of the Secretary and the Publicity Officer, have done much to increase awareness of

Poynton's Twinning.

Publicity

We have maintained our Facebook page, the Council web page and our own website. We have effectively utilised these and local publications to maintain awareness of the work of the Association. We have also produced an Annual Report, copies are available on request from the Publicity Officer, Sarah-Jane Gilmore, sarah-jane.gilmore@outlook.com

Cllr M J Beanland & Cllr Mrs S-J Gilmore

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 from the Town Council.

- Distributed to approximately 1,000 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
- Copies posted on Town Council noticeboards and on our web-site.

To subscribe to this free service please e-mail Liz Osborn, Town Clerk, on liz.osborn@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk or call at the Civic Hall for printed copies.