



Poynton with Worth Town Council
Annual Report for 2018/19

Town Mayor's Report

I have felt very privileged to be able to continue as Poynton Town Mayor for a second term from May 2018. In my first year I aimed to meet with as many of our volunteer and community groups as possible and I have continued to work on this alongside promoting and supporting our local businesses. Working closely with PTC Communities Co-ordinator Sharon Duke, I have worked to connect people, schools and businesses in our community – joining the dots through raising awareness and promotion and proactive support to initiatives to establish links and maximise our community efforts.

It has been a delight to work with many of our primary school parent teacher associations in this year to raise funds for health and well-being projects in the schools. To date I have raised £3,644 and I have 2 events left in the civic year. Although my fundraising won't cover the full cost of the projects, I know the funds will be gratefully received.

I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to represent Poynton twice. The experience has been extremely positive and continues to inspire me to spend a great deal of my spare time undertaking voluntary activities. I have been able to celebrate Poynton and its residents and their determination and efforts to make our town a better place to live, work and play. No one can fail to be inspired by the community we live in.

Cllr Mrs Sarah-Jane Gilmore

Poynton Town Mayor



Community, Order and Public Safety Committee

Chairman: Cllr Mrs Nicky Wylie

Vice Chairman: Cllr Geoff King

The Community, Order and Public Safety Committee considers the prevention, deterrence and detection of crime and disorder and enhances the safety, health and wellbeing of Poynton residents.

1. Communities Co-ordinator

Full time Communities Co-ordinator Sharon Duke continues to work extremely hard for the Poynton community across all ages. It is difficult to list everything that Sharon has achieved but here are some highlights:

- Sharon helped to coordinate the commemoration of the end of the First World War. Input from Men in Sheds, the Anson Museum, Poynton Scouting and Girlguiding, Poynton History Society, Twinning Association and the British Legion resulted in a visitor's book and displays in the Civic Centre and around Poynton.
- The Health and Wellbeing Fair promotes local services, organisations and groups who enable older people to maintain their independence, whilst recognising the positive contribution that they make to the community. This year it coincided with the flu vaccination of 979 residents.
- A review of Poynton Easy Access Scheme (PEAS) shows that the Town Council's mobility scooters and wheelchairs are being used and accessed by the community.
- Poynton is recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as a dementia friendly town and PTC continues to offer support to those in need.
- Supporting high school children in volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.
- Facilitating Poynton A.E.D. (defibrillator) training.
- A health walks programme with Everybody Sport and Recreation and volunteer walk leaders.
- Working closely with Team BDP (Bollington, Disley and Poynton) on health related initiatives.
- In conjunction with the Mayor's fundraising for local schools, Sharon has supported primary schools in a variety of projects.
- Facilitating Poynton Pick and Tidy Group and the 'Drastic on Plastic' event.

2. Community events and grants

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

3. The Community Support Team

As a result of the reduction in PCSO's in Poynton, the Town Council have introduced an innovative Community Support Team. Gary supervises a team of two full time officers, Louise and James. They are quickly taking the service forward and working closely with the schools and community groups, police and Cheshire East CCTV. We are currently awaiting Cheshire Constabulary accreditation to allow collaborative working with our local policing team. Residents need to feel that Poynton is a safe community and our continued partnership with the police and community groups, undoubtedly helps to achieve this.

4. Citizens Advice

Poynton Citizens Advice outreach service operates three times a week from the Civic Hall. It continues to help residents with a range of and sometimes complex issues. The Town Council has increased the funding for this service, recognising its value and need.

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

Cllr Mrs Nicky Wylie, Chairman.

Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED) Committee

Chairman: Cllr Les Berry

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs Jo Sewart

The remit of the FIED Committee is to ensure our infrastructure and services are safe, fit for purpose and maintained to a high standard and with minimum inconvenience to residents. This is achieved by working with Cheshire East Council (CEC) on highway maintenance, street lighting, gritting and tree maintenance. Poynton Town Council has no direct responsibility for the majority of these services. For economic development, the Committee is charged with promoting Poynton and the visitor economy, which includes liaising with and promoting, where possible, local businesses. This year the Mining Heritage Trail leaflet has been updated. FIED 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), enforcement of the byelaws that govern the use of Poynton's parks and open spaces, the provision of benches and notice boards, supporting Poynton In Bloom, and maintenance of Prince's and Lady's Inclines, both owned in the most part by the Town Council.

- Operations Manager. Phil Cunningham, will be working an extra day a week from April - up to 28 hrs. The role is to manage ongoing projects by liaising with members of the public, including where issues are raised regarding infrastructure and assets to try and ensure a satisfactory outcome is reached. Working in conjunction with residents we now have two new 24hr access defibrillators in Town Council owned telephone boxes.
- The Village Ranger, in the recently liveried van, is a very visible member of the team around the town. The Village Ranger enhances the local environment in a variety of ways including general tidying, watering hanging baskets, emptying bins, cutting back hedges, repainting road signs and keeping the eight village notice boards updated.
- Shared Space. There continues to be a list of maintenance and damage issues. These include; signage, lighting, localised flooding, uneven setts and kerbs and poor repairs by utility companies. The responsibility for these repairs rests with either the Highway Authority (CEC) or the property owners on Park Lane. Over the last year the Shared Space working group has had success getting some issues resolved including setts being re-laid, lighting repaired and upgraded following several meetings with Cheshire East Highways. The working group recognises this is an ongoing issue which will be regularly monitored and action taken as required.
- Civic Hall. Usage and bookings at the Civic Hall have continued to increase over the last year and a new member of staff now assists with this. The Council Chamber Working Group's remit has expanded to include rolling maintenance and capital projects within the Civic Hall and its grounds. This will help to enhance and maintain the building and its surroundings for users going forward.
- Parks and Play areas. The Council owns and maintains Brecon play area and Hockley Park. These are regularly inspected and maintained. A large piece of play equipment and seating have been replaced at Hockley Park.
- 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, some large scale works have recently been carried out on both Inclines.



Cllr Les Berry, Chairman.

Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee

Chairman: Cllr Charles Gorst

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mike Beanland

The Committee takes responsibility for all issues concerning governance of the Town Council's finances, including internal controls, capital expenditure and reserves.

The Town Council sets an annual precept as part of the Council Tax to help pay for the many local services we provide. The Council has worked hard in difficult circumstances to keep the precept low and made savings wherever possible.

The Cheshire Police Commissioner, Mr Keane, has decided to end the previous scheme where the Town Council contributed £60,000 towards the cost of local Police Community Support Officers. The Town Council has ensured services are maintained by employing Council Community Support Officers directly in addition to funding one PCSO provided by Cheshire Constabulary. We have added an additional £10,000 to the community policing budget to provide for this, bringing the total budget for policing to £110,000.

The Town Council's precept for 2019/20 is £469,913, an increase over the current year of £33,425 or 7.21% for a Band D home. The annual precept is £80.16 for the year, or £1.53 per week. This represents an increase of just over £5.39 per year or 10p per week. We believe that this represents good value for money when measured against all the additional services in Poynton which are provided by the Town Council. These include:

- Hockley and Brecon Close play areas
- The majority of Lady's and Prince's Inclines
- CCTV monitoring – 5 cameras in the centre of Poynton
- Graffiti removal
- Coppice Road Allotments
- Employing three Community Support Officers and funding one Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to enhance the service provided by Cheshire Constabulary's two PCSOs
- Employing the Operations Manager post for a further eight hours
- The Civic Hall, owned and maintained by the Town Council, is home to an increasing number of local voluntary organisations and clubs and needs maintenance and improvements
- The Time-Out café and Friday Shoppers group which provide social contact for many older residents
- Increased funding to increase the hours of the Citizens Advice service delivered from the Civic Hall
- Funding many local organisations and community events, including Poynton in Bloom, Higher Poynton Summerfest and Christmas Fest
- The Town Council acts a Poynton's voice on many issues, including the Cheshire East Local Plan

The Committee conducted the annual review of the Council's room hire charges. Most rooms have been refurbished to a high standard and this is reflected in the increased number of hirers and income. Consequently, it was decided to retain the charges at the same level which are competitive with other venues in the village.

During the year, the Committee instigated procedures to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR).

Town Councillors receive no form of salary, attendance or other allowances and give freely of their time.

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

Cllr Charles Gorst, Chairman.

Planning & Environment (P&E) Committee

Chairman: Cllr Laurence Clarke

Vice Chairman: Cllr Lee Podmore

Planning

The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee met 16 times in the year to April 2019 (more than any other Town Council Committee). Cheshire East Council allows the Town Council only a short period of time to consider each application. During the year, we reviewed 155 planning applications from Poynton, plus several applications to grant or vary licenses for entertainment or supply of alcohol.

Town Councillors discuss every planning application from Poynton and make recommendations to Cheshire East Council. Most applications are decided by Cheshire East's planning staff. The Town Council is usually the only opportunity for elected representatives to discuss and review local planning applications.

Cheshire East Local Plan

Poynton Town Council continues to work with Cheshire East to try to mitigate the impact of the Local Plan, prevent further incursions into the Green Belt and ensure any building is on previously developed "brownfield land".

A555 SEMMMS Road and Poynton Relief Road

The new road from the A6 to Manchester Airport (known as the SEMMMS Road, A555 and the A6MARR) opened in October 2018. The Town Council has lobbied Stockport Council (who built the road) over issues such as safety at junctions and traffic light timings.

Cheshire East are continuing to plan the Poynton Relief Road from the SEMMMS Road junction with Chester Road to London Road (by the Travelodge). A Public Inquiry was held in November 2018, and the Inspector is currently preparing his report. In October 2018 a procurement exercise began to draw up a shortlist of contractors to build the relief road.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

We are pleased to report that the Mayor of Greater Manchester has amended his original Spatial Framework, which included plans for 2,400 new houses in Woodford and 4,000 in High Lane. However, although these figures have now been reduced to 750 and 500 houses respectively, they will still lead to loss of green space and increased traffic and pollution. The Town Council will continue to campaign against developments in the Green Belt bordering Poynton.

Environment

The Town Council has decided to increase the coverage of air quality monitoring within Poynton by installing our own monitoring points to supplement those maintained by Cheshire East.

Cllr Laurence Clarke, 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 the Council Community Support Team have commenced operations. Our CCSOs are based within the Civic Hall and comprise:

- Gary Thurgoland; Council Community Support Supervisor
- Louise Freeman; CCSO
- James Hails; CCSO

The Community Support initiative has been very well received and team are already actively involved within the local community.

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.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Town Council representative: Cllr Lee Podmore

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan by a team of volunteers under the direction and guidance of a planning professional has continued throughout 2018. The Town Council formally submitted the Poynton Neighbourhood Plan to Cheshire East Borough Council in December 2018.

The Cheshire East consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan ended 8th March 2019. An independent planning examiner will be appointed to examine the plan, after which Cheshire East Council will hold a local referendum. All Poynton residents on the electoral register will be eligible to vote. If the majority of residents are in favour of the Plan, it acquires legal status, and must be paid due regard by developers, landowners and planning officers.

The plan will shape the scale and nature of future development in Poynton until 2030. An added bonus is that Poynton would then be able to retain 25% of what is known as the Community Infrastructure Levy, or CIL, paid for by those responsible for building new housing developments in Poynton.

The volunteers of the Neighbourhood Steering Plan Group are thanked for their diligence throughout this process.

Coppice Road Allotments

Town Council representative: Cllr Howard Murray



The Town Council has 47 (an increase of one from last year) allotment plots on a site just off Coppice Road, Poynton. The Council works closely with the Coppice Road Allotment Association (CRAA) to maintain and run the site. The waiting list for allotment plots currently stands at 28 persons with the average waiting time now five years. This has come down considerably from ten years, just three years ago. This year an extra allotment plot was created when one of the larger plots was sub-divided.

An allotment inspection was undertaken by the Town Clerk and the Operations Manager on two occasions in 2018. The standard of plots was very high with most plots having a large percentage of cultivation. However, the growing season was hampered by the very dry weather.

Annual rental letters were sent out to all allotment holders in October and all monies have now been received.

Phil Swift who was the CRAA Chair for over ten years sadly passed away in August 2018. Phil was a passionate gardener with a vast knowledge about the subject. His experience as an industrial chemist gave him a unique take on the growing environment which he passed on to local school children in talks and demonstrations. As a cornerstone of Coppice Road Allotment Association, he will be sadly missed.

Charities of Viscountess Warren Bulkeley

This is Poynton's oldest charity, founded in 1826 by Lady Warren Bulkeley, the daughter of Sir George Warren of Poynton. The Warren Bulkeleys, through marriage, later became the Vernons, all of whom made a major contribution to the people of Poynton.

The trust is managed by four trustees and has a small regular income from investments and occasional donations.

Small one-off funding is available to support people who are sick, poor or needy or require assistance for educational purposes.

Recently, the trust has agreed to fund the provision of a defibrillator in a former BT telephone box for use in an emergency.

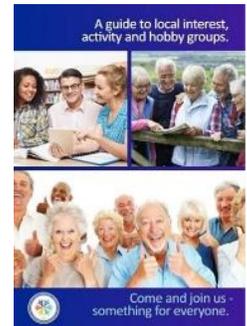
Cllr Charles Gorst, Trustee.

Poynton Area Community Partnership (PACP)

Town Council Representatives: Cllr G King & Cllr Mrs J Saunders

A key theme for PACP has been to raise awareness of the devastating impact that loneliness and social isolation has in our communities of Poynton, Adlington, Disley, Mottram St Andrew, Prestbury, Kettlethulme and Pott Shrigley. Several projects supported by the group have attempted to address this:

- A review and reprint of 'A guide to local interest, activity and hobby groups', which has also been recognised as good practice and adopted by Handforth Patient Participation Group
- Funding a new Parish Notice Board in Adlington enabling better communication with residents and visitors
- Contribution to Disley Community Bus Scheme. The new bus contributes significantly to reducing social isolation and is a lifeline to many of Disley's older residents



Poynton Civic Hall as the Partnership's Connected Communities Centre has supported several initiatives including:

- Poynton Area Health Walk programme, for training and as a venue for people to socialise after walks
- Blood pressure check sessions
- End of Life Partnership workshops for carers looking after people living with dementia
- Dementia Friends Information sessions

Other notable projects and initiatives that the Partnership have been involved with include:

- Poynton Men in Sheds made life-size soldiers for several local parishes as part of their end of the First World War commemorations
- Community A.E.D. training sessions delivered by North West Ambulance Service
- Action on Hearing Loss workshop raising awareness
- Performances of 'Over the Garden Fence', a play about dementia, were offered at both Poynton Civic Hall and Poynton High School

Poynton – with – Worth Almshouse

Town Council representative, Trustee and Treasurer: Cllr Charles Gorst

In 1854 with the help of Lord Vernon who gave the land and agreed to maintain the buildings, six almshouses were opened near the church which were, originally, for elderly colliery workers.

These houses are now 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, Trustee.

The Heritage Garden

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



Poynton's Heritage Garden in the Civic Centre was formally opened just a year ago and has drawn many compliments. It is now well-established with the latest addition being a model of a coal truck and mining pit head, kindly designed, constructed and donated by volunteers from the Anson Engine Museum. The wall plaques show all four town 'boundary markers'.

Funded by a series of grants from various organisations and companies, including substantial support from Poynton Town Council, Cheshire East Council, Waitrose and others, the garden has gradually taken shape and matured over the last two years. A group of local volunteers is proud of what it has achieved, transforming a sterile area of public space into a colourful and restful haven for all to enjoy. A monthly rota of volunteers ensures that the garden is kept tidy and looking fresh with seasonal planting.

New recruits are always welcome to help with ongoing maintenance of the garden. No experience is needed as there is always expert help on hand. Feel free to approach anyone seen working at the garden or leave your details with Town Council reception staff at the Civic Hall.

Poynton In Bloom

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

Poynton in Bloom is a voluntary organisation comprising of a small committee of enthusiastic gardeners who strive to provide floral colour around the village. A number of volunteers do not attend the Committee meetings but have separate meetings to share their views and ideas.

The group continues to plant up a number of planters and baskets around the Poynton area. These are renewed twice a year in spring and autumn. There is also the need for ongoing deadheading of the plants. Last year it was particularly challenging to water and keep all the plants alive in the very warm weather.

Some of the structural planting will need to be replaced shortly and this will require additional funding.

There was a Garden Safari in 2018 which was very successful in raising funds to allow the purchase of two large planters for Poynton. The sites for the new planters have yet to be agreed.

The group would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer and help out with planting and/or watering.

Poyntoninbloom@talktalk.net

Twining Association of Poynton (TAP)

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

The Twining Association has had another busy and successful year. The Committee has continued to meet monthly to maintain progress, plan events and proactively progress contact with Érd and Haybes.

We were delighted to join the community of Haybes in their First World War commemorations in August 2018. Our relationship with Haybes has been strengthened by encouraging contact between local interest groups and through our schools.

There have been several social events held to raise the profile of TAP, enjoy the company of our members and encourage new members.



Publicity

We have maintained our Facebook page 'Twining Association of Poynton – TAP', PTC Web Page www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/twining-association.htm, and our website www.twiningassociationpoynton.com.

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, tapoynton@outlook.com

2448 Poynton Squadron ATC

Town Council Representative: Cllr I Hollingworth

In September 2018 parents and cadets were given the unexpected news that the squadron was to close, owing to insufficient adult volunteers. A spirited campaign by parents and the cadets themselves sought to reverse this decision. The media, ATC hierarchy, Facebook and Twitter campaigns, and the MP David Rutley were all engaged in this process.

The decision was made that senior ATC officers would work with the community to help identify and train suitable adult volunteers. In the meantime, the cadets would be housed temporarily at 236 Bollington Squadron. 2448 are grateful to the Bollington squadron as a number of commitments were made to assist with the volunteer drive and to accommodate cadets.

However and in the long term, Bollington does not seem to be a suitable temporary or permanent home; resources are limited, when faced with the challenges of hosting a second squadron and engaging effectively in Poynton's civic events.

The future for 2448 therefore looks difficult at a time when Poynton really needs an organisation of this sort in order to engage positively with its young people. The best hope for the squadron seems to be collaboration with Poynton High School in the government funded Cadet Expansion Programme. A number of parents are actively pursuing this possibility with the Head Teacher.

Projects 4 Poynton

Town Council representative: Cllr Mr M J Beanland

Christmas Fest

Special thanks to Susan Warrington and Malcolm Adams who have stepped down after many years keeping this event running. Also, thank you to Keith Lambert who led support from local businesses. A full list of contributors can be found on the Christmas Fest Facebook page.

Attendance was fantastic. The bells of St George's were followed with performers keen to return and acknowledge the friendliness of Poynton Fest. The main stage had Tony Hennon and the Town Mayor opening the event. Father Christmas, assisted by the Round Table, called by.

Roundabouts and rides at the Farmer's Arms and the Co-op car park were fantastic entertainment. Carol singing came from St George's Singers. The Samba Band raised the sound level. Other successes were The Rock Choir, a superb firework display and the Baptist Church craft activities. The High School Band, Ecuador 2018, Poynton Scouts, Cheshire Fire & Rescue, Anson Engine Museum, East Cheshire Hospice, Poynton Leisure Centre and Vernon Building Society Brass Band and Poynton Youth Band were all represented. The Paul Tavernor special wire "Entwined" Stag was superb. Future Fests will depend on financial support from local businesses. Local charities can promote their causes by contacting projectsforpoynton@gmail.com

Financial

The group's accounts are available from the Treasurer, Mike Beanland, via the Town Clerk.

Town Council Communication

Keep up to date with Poynton Town Council news, including planning information, the work of the Town Mayor and Communities Co-ordinator, events, activities, community groups, adult health and wellbeing and other local news that you may be interested in, by following the Town Council on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/poyntontowncouncil/> and Twitter Feed <https://twitter.com/poyntontownclrk>

Residents and businesses can also keep up to date with the Poynton Update and News (PUN), a free regular e-mail newsletter featuring all the latest news, developments and events in and around Poynton from the Town Council.

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