



Communities Co-ordinator report for C.O.P.S. Mid-October 2020 – January 2021

Poynton Town Council’s support for the Covid-19 vaccination programme and community support - January 2021.

Poynton Civic Hall is the venue for the vaccination programme for Bollington, Disley and Poynton’s Care Community and all patients (other than care home residents) will need to attend the Civic Hall for their vaccination. We are working closely with Middlewood Partnership to ensure the logistics are in place to ensure this is a smooth operation.

Following the Prime Minister’s address on the 4th January, Poynton Town Council have put the following support in place to help the community with their needs which will be reviewed on a regular basis as we move through the coming weeks:

- A communication has been circulated via Poynton Town Council’s Facebook and website to offer support for residents who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, along with offering a list of local businesses who are offering food delivery services.
- We’ve reached out to Street Champions to ask if once again, if they are able, to reconnect with other volunteers to help vulnerable neighbours.

Business meeting

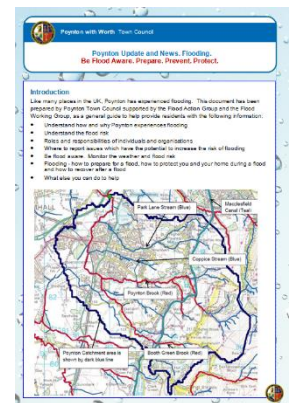
Following a business survey carried out in October, the results show that a number of businesses expressed an interest in receiving additional support and also feel they would benefit from a business network. In response, on the 12th January, the Mayor, Town Clerk and I will meet with those interested in supporting the development of a business network to discuss what this might look like. I will report back at future meetings.

Accessibility Working Group

Action has taken place to encourage residents to deal with overgrown hedges in response to comments made following the recent ‘Green, safe travel for all’ survey and we are now working up an Accessibility Masterplan for Poynton which identifies a number of projects aimed at improving local infrastructure and accessibility throughout the town. The vision is to promote Active Travel principles to residents and offer realistic alternatives for community and commuting routes for leisure and work-related purposes, with reduced reliance on car use. This is at the very early stages and there will be short, medium and long-term plans and projects which will require working with key partners and organisations.

Flood PUN

Following Poynton Town Council’s Strategic Planning Day, one of the council’s agreed priorities was to build community and individual resilience around flooding. I have developed a draft booklet which provides information and guidance from various reports and guidance on the following: understanding why Poynton experiences flooding; understanding flood risk; the roles and responsibilities of individuals and organisations; how and where to report issues which have the potential to increase the risk of flooding; encourage residents to be flood aware; how to prepare for a flood; what action to take during a flood and advice on how to best recover from a flood. The Flood Working and Flood Action Groups have been consulted on the booklet as will the relevant agencies, prior to the Flood PUN being circulated wider.



Time to Talk (TTT)

The fortnightly sessions for people living with dementia and their carers have continued face to face during recent weeks at Poynton Civic Hall, up until the most recent lockdown. TTT sessions have coincided with Poynton Golden Memories Group meetings so participants have been able to access both peer and professional support at the same time. Sadly, the sessions intended for the Bollington and Disley areas haven’t been able to go ahead because of the restrictions imposed on their planned venues, although health professionals have still been available by telephone or email.

A Big Community Thank You

We recently had the opportunity to thank the volunteers and organisations who responded to the needs of the wider community during the Covid-19 pandemic earlier in the year and reaffirmed the Poynton Pledge as a way of encouraging support in future. See the message below which reached out to those who offered help.

Poynton can be very proud of the amazing response which has been offered to vulnerable residents and neighbours as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Part of this response was co-ordinated by Poynton Town Council who wouldn't have been able to meet the many requests for help if it wasn't for representatives of local organisations who stepped up. Volunteers from Poynton Runners, Churches Together, Poynton U3A, Facebook pages such as 'I Love Poynton ❤️ #supportlocal Supporting Local Businesses' and 'Poynton supporting Poynton when the going gets tough!' all supported the efforts to make sure residents' needs were met and included collecting prescriptions and shopping, to name a few. Poynton Town Council would also like to thank the many Street Champions and other volunteers who helped their neighbours. In some areas, we're aware help is still being offered!

A big thank you also to the businesses and supermarkets who put additional services in place to serve their community at such a difficult time. Waitrose put in place an 'essential shopping service' for vulnerable residents and recognising the efforts made by volunteers, kindly donated a small gift and card. Poynton Town Council is keen to recognise the efforts made by everyone and when the time is right will post more information about how we will encourage the community to do this.

Poynton's Mayor, Cllr. Lee Podmore has suggested, as part of Poynton's Pledge, that you might submit a pledge to 'Look out for your neighbours and help them where you can'.

For more information on the Poynton Pledge see <https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/poynton-pledge.htm>



Working with Churches Together – community projects

I have met with the Pastor at the Baptist Church and his colleagues who are setting up a community gardening group. We are looking at ways how together we can reduce social isolation and improve the presentation of Poynton at the same time by improving local spaces. Three areas have been identified for improvement including: London Road North bed - Operation Seed was carried out in the autumn and we will review how the wildflower area in the centre of the bed develops over the coming weeks and months. We will look to see how we can further improve this area in future. The shrub beds around the curtilage of the Civic Hall will be improved with a new design and planting which will encourage pollinators and reflect our aspiration to become a pollinator town. The beds which flank the entrance of Burton Drive have received some attention over the last few years, but without regular maintenance have become overgrown in places. This is another area intended for improvement.

Poynton Town Council. Volunteer Co-ordination Point.

Poynton Town Council's Covid-19 community response was operational ahead of Cheshire East Council's People Helping People offer, however in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cheshire East Council working with Cheshire East Social Action Partnership (CESAP) developed Volunteer Co-ordination Points (VCP's) at various venues across the borough, from which volunteer support was co-ordinated during the crisis. They are now looking to work with these new volunteer networks to meet the needs of the community in future. We will continue to work closely with Cheshire East Council's Community Development Officer and CESAP during the coming months on this.

Poynton Area Community Partnership (PACP)

Rainow Parish Council now has representation on the group along with other areas area including Adlington, Bollington, Disley, Prestbury, Mottram St Andrew, Kettlehulme and Pott Shrigley.

I have been working with Poynton Area Community Partnership to review the future vision for the group can best support their communities. This is likely to involve a re-focus on local priorities and work more closely with parishes and town councils.



Sharon Duke
Communities Co-ordinator