



Annual Report 2024-2025

Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Hayley Whitaker



This is my second term as Mayor for Poynton, and it has been fantastic to meet so many people and businesses who make up our vibrant community, and I just want to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported me in my role as Mayor.

Mayor's fundraising

I set up the **Youth Mental Health Fund** for Poynton in 2022, during my previous term as Mayor. The funds raised have paid for places on courses run by Just-Drop In, a charity aimed at helping young people between the ages of 11-25. (<https://www.justdropin.co.uk>)



Part of my fundraising efforts go to **Just-ice**, a registered charity that seeks to help victims of human trafficking. (<https://just-icepoynton.org>)



Mayor's Activities

D-Day Commemorations: A wonderful event, and a privilege to be there. Thank you to the Poynton Town Council staff who organised such a fantastic event that honoured those who served on D-Day.



Poynton Arts Festival: Thrilled to have served on the Poynton Arts Fest Committee, and opened the week long festival. Thanks to Cllr John Waterhouse for spearheading the festival organisation and fellow committee members for all your work. Special thanks to all the artists who have made the festival so varied and exciting.



Civic Sunday: One of my favourite events of the year. Celebrating those who enrich our lives in Poynton, and better our community, is a privilege.

Open days and local events: It was great to meet local groups and engage with the community at the following fantastic events: Raising the flag for Armed Forces Day, Braidbar Boats Open Day, Men's Health Fair, Bonfire Night at St Martin's (thank you to the young helpers who assisted me with the countdown to the bonfire lighting!) Gilbert & Sullivan Society's production of HMS Pinafore and supporting the parade at Remembrance Sunday.



Mayoral events: The Mayor's Treat Trail offered a morning of crafting followed by a treat trail around our local shops. February half term saw a nature trail around Poynton Pool. I organised the Mayor's Winter Wander, a chance to get out and explore nature, thankfully the weather was kind to us.

Christmas: Christmas was a very busy time, I had a stall at the Christmas Fest, a Christmas Card Craft Event, Elf Scavenger Hunt for Children, and my Mum and I created some handmade Poynton themed Christmas decorations!

In a bid to boost my fundraising efforts, I ran 100 miles in March, I can't believe I managed it. Thank you to all who donated.



East Ward



Mayor Hayley Whitaker
Cheshire East Councillor



Patrick Bailey



Kevin Booth



Laurence Clarke



Jos Saunders
Cheshire East Councillor



Tim Swatridge



David Belcher

West Ward



Mike Beanland
Cheshire East Councillor



Mark Blackie



Mike Stewart
Cheshire East Councillor



Simon Lees



Peter Oakes
Deputy Mayor



Lee Podmore



John Waterhouse



Council Staff

All staff can be contacted on 01625 872238 or reception@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk.



Community, Order and Public Safety (COPS)

Chair: Cllr Lee Podmore Vice Chair: Cllr John Waterhouse

The COPS Committee considers the prevention, deterrence and detection of any form of crime and disorder and enhances the safety, health and wellbeing of all Poynton residents. The committee have met four times this year.



The Council continue to fund the Citizens Advice outreach at Poynton, ensuring that our residents have easy access to help and information in these times of rising costs. The committees also has the ability to fund small community grants. Grants were given to the Heritage Garden volunteer group, Poynton Show, Poynton Arts Festival, Canalside Radio, Scouts, Middlewood House and Just Drop In this year.

Our Council Community Support Team (CCST), Louise and Paul continue to provide reassurance, support, and advice to Poynton residents. The Team continue to be the eyes and ears for the local policing team. The Team pay regular visits to our older and vulnerable residents and give educational talks in schools amongst their many roles within the community, and

we are very grateful to have such a dedicated team.

From previous resident feedback on anti social parking, the Town Council funded, trained and equipped our CCST with the ability to issue penalty charge notices where they have the power to do so. All fines collected were received by Cheshire East Council.

From her work with outside bodies such as Just Drop In, the Middlewood Partnership and Dementia Steering Group, through to working with local schools and care homes, our Communities Co-ordinator, Sharon Duke, works tirelessly with all ages within the community. Anyone who knows Sharon will know she has "green fingers". This year she has again been active in promoting and assisting with the pollinator project

We continue to develop and build on community events.

These have included:



Poynton Plant and Seed Share, Heritage Open Days, D-Day Commemorations, Father Christmas Post Box and Twilight Treats. The events have been organised by Jenny Lippmann, who is our Marketing and Events Co-ordinator. Keep a lookout for more coming community events including VE and VJ Days and Railway 200.

We are in a unique position to have a CCST, a Communities Coordinator and now a Marketing and Events Co-ordinator working for the residents of Poynton. Without the hard work and dedication of all our Town Council staff and members, Poynton wouldn't be the place we all love and I'd like to thank each and every one of them.

Cllr Lee Podmore



Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED)

Chair: Cllr Kevin Booth Vice Chair: Cllr Simon Lees

The remit of the FIED Committee is to ensure the Town's infrastructure and services are safe, fit for purpose and maintained to a high standard. Poynton Town Council has no direct responsibility for the majority of the infrastructure in the Town, therefore we liaise with Cheshire East Council on borough managed parks and Cheshire Highways on road maintenance, street lighting, gullies and footpaths to try to keep all in good order and react to concerns from local residents.



FIED is also responsible for ensuring the enforcement of the bylaws that govern the use of Poynton's parks and open spaces. In addition, there are a number of working groups which bring together Town Councillors and informed local residents to discuss issues, opportunities and ask questions to the relevant authorities. Thereafter, reporting back to the committee on issues such as car parking, village improvement, flooding, and Civic Hall maintenance.

FIED also helps with funding and working together with our volunteer groups such as Churches Together, Poynton in Bloom, Poynton Twinning Association and Poynton Footpath Group who impressively make repairs, maintain flower beds, resurface pathways, etc. Working with these groups increases our great community spirit while providing a volunteer workforce for projects at a time when council budgets are under pressure.

PTC Operations Manager Chris Oakes reports to FIED on the work of his team as they continue to fine tune all elements of the day-to-day tasks around the Town. These include general tidying, watering hanging baskets, emptying bins, cutting back hedges, clearing water courses, repairing street signs, Christmas lights, keeping the Town notice boards updated and maintaining large sections of the Inclines and the parks at Brecon and Hockley.



FIED is also continuing to work towards an extension to Coppice Road Allotments to keep up with demand, repairs and where applicable replacement of the PTC owned street lighting. This year the Town Council has also updated the play area at Brecon Park to improve accessibility and make it more toddler friendly in response to feedback.

Poynton's Arts Festival has now established itself as an annual event and continues to bring many of the Town's venues and organisations together for a week of creative arts, theatre, live music, comedy, poetry and painting. We hope you will come out and get involved and support local venues and businesses.



Finance and General Purposes (F&GP)

Chair: Cllr Peter Oakes Vice Chair: Cllr Mike Beanland

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is appointed to oversee the financial running of the Council and ensure that all financial policies and procedures are undertaken in accordance with Legal and Accounting practices, within the budgetary framework as set out each year.



The Town Council is funded by a precept included in the annual council tax bill, together with income derived from renting out the Civic Hall and grants received. The precept for 2024/25 was challenging but it would appear, subject to final ratification at the end of the financial year, we have been able to attain a small surplus.

The precept for 2025/26 has been even more challenging, with increased costs including higher National Insurance charges added outside our control. This has been set at £659,095, an increase over the current year of £63,519. This equates to an increase of £8.45 per year (just 16.2 pence a week) for a Band D home. This includes a contribution to Cheshire East, to ensure that the Library continues to offer a 6 days a week service.

Poynton Town Council operates and looks after numerous community facilities, assets and services such as Coppice Road Allotments, as well as financial support for various services, including:

- Funding of 3 Community Support Officers, Communities Co-ordinator
- Operations Manager, 2 Facilities Officers and an Events & Marketing Coordinator.
- CCTV monitoring
- 10 Town Defibrillators
- Citizens Advice
- Town Council Funding
- Christmas Fest
- Poynton in Bloom
- Heritage Garden
- Poynton Show
- Community Grants
- Just Drop In

Again, we are committed to ensuring that Poynton remains a vibrant town and a desirable place to live, work and visit. I believe the precept gives good value for money, against all the numerous facilities we offer and challenges we face.

Assets maintained by the Town Council

Hockley and Brecon Close play areas

The majority of Lady's and Prince's Inclines (Woodside to Towers Road)

Coppice Road Allotments

The Civic Hall

Cllr Peter Oakes



Management and Establishment (M&E)

**Chair: David Belcher Vice Chair: Cllr
Jos Saunders**

The Management and Establishment Committee is responsible for all matters relating to staff employed by the Town Council, including contracts and the monitoring of workloads. During 2024 our Council Community Support Supervisor Gary Thurgoland decided to take retirement. We would like to thank him for all his hard work during his time with PTC and wish him a long and healthy retirement. Taking on the role is Louise Freeman—formerly one of our Council Community Support Officers.



The committee has the responsibility for ensuring that all Council policies and procedures are reviewed which took place in 2024. We oversee Standing Orders, Mayoral Protocol, Civic Award protocols and the organisation of Civic Sunday.

The format for Civic Awards was revamped during 2024 into specific categories:

Nature and Environment – This is awarded to individuals or groups who have had a positive impact on the Town's environment or supported the Town's flora and fauna.

Extra Mile – For those who go above and beyond in their paid work for the benefit of the local community.

Community Award – An award for local charities, groups or organisations who have made a positive contribution to the Town. This could range from organising community events, improving facilities or an area of the Town.

Mayors Commendation – Recognising a person who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to Poynton.

Youth Award – Recognises young people aged 21 and under and for showing leadership, initiative, enthusiasm and commitment to a worthwhile cause, of benefit to their peer group and/or the wider community.

Business Award – This award recognises independent businesses whose presence has had a positive impact on the local community, this could be through community outreach, creating jobs or investing in the Town.

This format resulted in some excellent nominations; the awards took place with afternoon teas being served at the Civic Hall following the Sunday service at St Georges church by the Reverend Matthew Swires-Hennessy. The deadline for nominations for this year's awards is 4pm, 12th May 2025. You can nominate here: bit.ly/3G6i9d2

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were carried out efficiently by our own Civic Hall team. A large number of local organisations were once again represented in the parade to St Georges and back to the Civic Hall, we would like to thank Poynton residents for once again turning out in such huge numbers your support is very much appreciated.

Cllr David Belcher



Chair: Cllr Laurence Clarke Vice-Chair: Cllr Lee Podmore

Planning

The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee met fourteen times in the twelve months to 31 March 2025 - more than any other Town Council Committee. Over this period, we considered 135 planning applications from Poynton, plus one at Lyme Park and two just over the border in Stockport.

The Councillors on the Committee discuss every planning application from Poynton and make recommendations to Cheshire East Council. As almost all applications are decided by Planning Officers at Cheshire East using "delegated powers," the Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee will be the only time planning applications are reviewed by elected representatives.

If Cheshire East refuses a plan, the applicants can appeal to a Planning Inspector. The Town Council comments where appropriate on these appeals. Five planning appeals were rejected in 2024/25; these were for sites on Mill Hill Hollow, Lower Park Road, Elm Beds Road and two sites on Coppice Road.

The Government has raised Cheshire East's target for new houses, from 977 to 2,479 each year – an increase of over 150 per cent. Government rules say that Cheshire East must have land with current planning permission to build five times the annual target. The increased target means Cheshire East no longer have an immediate "5-year supply" of building land, so developers can shift their attention to the Green Belt and apply to build there. More houses will put extra pressure on public services – schools, GPs, hospitals, roads, water-supply and drainage. The environment and air quality will be damaged and flood risk increased.

Trees The Town Council has continued to watch over Poynton's trees and will report any incidents of unauthorised tree works in protected woodland to Cheshire East.

Public Footpaths

The Town Council has pursued issues regarding public footpaths at two of the new housing estates being built in Poynton:

Copperfields Estate-public footpath (FP 33) has now been reopened by the developers.

Hazelfields development–Cheshire East has approved the rerouting of two public footpaths.

Cheshire East Local Plan

Cheshire East have decided to begin the process of compiling a new Local Plan. This will allow landowners and developers to propose rezoning land currently in the Green Belt for housing or commercial sites. Before Cheshire East can start formal work on a new Local Plan, they need information from the Government about changes to the way future local plans must be prepared as part of



the planning system. As this is not yet available, work is starting to gather information and begin preparatory work so they are ready once the information and legislative requirements arrive, which should be towards the end of 2025 or early next year.

The preparation of a new Local Plan is a lengthy process, however, the Town Council will continue to oppose inappropriate development in the Green Belt around Poynton.

One especially controversial proposal is that elected Cheshire East councillors should no longer decide planning applications for new housing estates and other large schemes. Instead, such decisions will be made by either council planning staff or London based civil servants.

Poynton Relief Road

The Town Council pressed Cheshire East and Stockport Councils to replace obsolete road signs on the A555 and Macclesfield Road in Hazel Grove, which directed traffic going to Macclesfield along London Road through the centre of Poynton, rather than onto the new road.

We are pleased to report that new signs are now in place on Macclesfield Road and at the A555 junction near Brookside Garden Centre. Cheshire East have also replaced some signs in the centre of Poynton (after initially putting them in the wrong place) and further work is planned.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Stockport Local Plan

The Town Council is continuing to monitor the new Stockport Local Plan, following Stockport Council's decision to withdraw from the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. There are concerns that Stockport may seek to rezone Green Belt land near Poynton for building, including sites near Woodford, Hazel Grove and High Lane.

The Town Council has recently expressed concerns to Stockport Council regarding proposed housing developments at Stockport Rugby Club (off Jackson's Lane) and an extension of the Woodford Garden Village into the Green Belt. Both proposals could increase traffic through Poynton and cause increased strains on local services.

Flooding

Following the serious flooding in 2016 and 2019, the Town Council has continued to press Cheshire East to improve the clearing of streams and gullies. There was a further incident of flooding, on 1st January 2025. Councillors Hayley Whitaker and Lee Podmore joined Town Council staff in supporting residents. It is likely that the work done in recent years to clear culverts and gullies helped prevent a more serious incident.

A meeting has been held by the Town Council and the Poynton Flood Action Group with representatives of Cheshire East, the Environment Agency and United Utilities to discuss the flooding on New Years Day 2025 and continuing flood protection issues around Poynton.

Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

The Clean Air Zone (CAZ) charge, as proposed by Mr Andy Burnham, the Mayor



of Greater Manchester, has finally been abandoned.

The Town Council were concerned that traffic seeking to avoid the charge would divert Through Poynton and nearby areas of Cheshire East, increasing road congestion and air pollution here while reducing it in Greater Manchester.

Instead, the Greater Manchester Authority has agreed a new Clean Air Plan with the government. This includes funding for zero and low emission buses, traffic management measures and supporting taxi operators moving to cleaner vehicles.

Issues at Cheshire East's Planning Department

Last autumn, Cheshire East introduced a new computer system to process planning applications. There were complaints of increased delays, and some people have found the new system to be difficult to navigate.

The Town Council have reported some specific problems to Cheshire East and urged that they address these issues. Delays in the planning system cause problems for residents, developers and builders.

Air Quality

The Town Council has continued to monitor air quality on Park Lane, London Road North, London Road South and Chester Road, using diffusion tubes. All readings to date are below the current legal limit for Nitrogen Oxide. Evidence over the last two years confirms that the Poynton Relief Road has led to an improvement in air quality in the centre of the village.

Cllr Laurence Clarke



Poynton Town Council Strategic Plan - Key Priorities for Poynton 2023-2027

Priority	Area	Strategic Objective	Actions
High	Communication	Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore creative solutions to Cheshire East's budgeting constraints which affect our community, residents and infrastructure, by working in partnership with Cheshire East officers and councillors to a mutually satisfactory conclusion Proactively work on improving the communication and networks between the Town Council and Cheshire East
Medium	Civic Pride	Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and strengthen our partnerships with key stakeholders and the community Develop relationships between the Town Council and our neighbouring Towns and Parish Councils on community issues Improve engagement between councillors, staff, outside organisations and community groups Find creative ways to recognise and celebrate our community champions
Monitor	Flooding	Manchester Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Town Council responds in a timely and appropriate manner to any future flight path consultation Maintain Poynton's resilience to flooding Ensure that the Town Council is prepared to act quickly and resourcefully in the event of a flood
		Town Council Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to explore funding opportunities including income generation for the Town Council to support Poynton



Poynton Town Council's Key Projects and Achievements 2024—2025

Communication

- The Town Council have continued with regular activity on Facebook, gaining over 300 more subscribers in 2024 and providing regular updates on Council news, events and road closures. <https://www.facebook.com/poyntontowncouncil>. Communication on the Facebook page is designed to be vibrant, eye-catching, making Council updates clear and accessible.
- Our longstanding newsletter (PUN) is published approximately every four weeks and now reaches over 800 subscribers. Last year saw a redesign of the PUN, with the result being a more streamlined and refreshed version. The PUN is also on display in the Town's nine noticeboards and is available for collection from the Civic Hall. We encourage residents to subscribe to the PUN here: bit.ly/3RwlhAp
- Our website is frequently updated with important information, local news and events and is in the process of being updated and streamlined. www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk
- The Town Council now has an active events page on Instagram, which is also used to create videos of behind the scenes at the Council and event promotion. These have proved accessible and popular, with the goal of uploading one a month ongoing.
- There is a Councillor Surgery on the first Saturday every month (except for August,) at which residents are encouraged to speak to Poynton Town Council and Cheshire East Councillors about any issues around the Town. Residents can drop in between 10am and 11am or appointments can be made during 11am-12pm by calling 01625 872238. Residents are welcome to attend any of the Town Council's committee meetings, which take place on most Mondays from 8pm.



TOWN COUNCIL VOTES NOT TO SUBSIDISE FREE PARKING IN POYNTON
Following debate and discussions at the public Town Council meeting on the 23rd September 2024, the Town Council voted against subsidising free parking in Poynton. Thank you to all those who responded to the car parking survey; 75% of respondents did not want the precept (council tax) increased to subsidise free car parking at the civic hall car parking. The Town Council remain opposed to the introduction of car parking charges by Cheshire East Council and the impact these might have on the Town. However, the Cheshire East Council request for £68,861 per annum from the Town Council, increasing the precept for this item alone by over 48%, is excessive and unaffordable for residents.



CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL VOTE TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE THREE HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRES
Cheshire East's Environment and Communities committee voted on the 26th September to permanently close the three Household Waste Recycling Sites at Poynton, Bollington and Middlewich. Despite admissions that the '20 minute journey times' to the Macclesfield site quoted in the report were wrong and fly tipping figures only included waste dumped on their own land the proposals to close the sites were approved by Cheshire East Council by 8 votes to 5. Poynton, Bollington and surrounding Parishes continue discussions to explore solutions, but Cheshire East are clearly not interested in trying to save the two sites.

Partnerships

- After receiving a number of concerns from residents that changes to the 391/392 bus services would leave them isolated or unable to get to work. Poynton Town Council arranged and hosted a meeting with Bollington, Disley, Pott Shrigley and Adlington Town and Parish Councils together with Cheshire East Council and Belle Vue Buses. As a result changes were agreed to improve the 391 bus service between Middlewood and Stockport (via Stepping Hill Hospital) from a two hourly service to an hourly service from 31st March 2025. Get your new timetable from the Civic Hall reception or view it here: tfgm.com/travel-updates/live-departures/bus/391-macclesfield



Civic Pride

Our Operations Team have been busy this year and have completed a number of projects to keep Poynton in peak condition. These include:

- A brand new wooden directional fingerpost was commissioned for Princes Incline, to ensure walkers know which way to go.
- Bee a Poynton Pollinator project: Buggingham Palace is now in situ on the wall at the Civic Hall. These bee and bug houses were kindly made by Men in Sheds and filled with materials to attract little critters to set up home by local children's groups. The Town Council were named a 2024 Bee's Needs Champion by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs for this work. Have a look at the handywork next time you are busy buzzing around the Town.
- Culvert trash screens are regularly cleared by staff, ensuring they are free of debris, especially ahead of any weather events.
- Brand new play equipment has been installed in Brecon Park. With a view to making the park accessible to all with the installation of an eagles nest swing and some toddler friendly pieces.
- Continued maintenance and vegetation management of the local green spaces owned by PTC at Brecon and Hockley Play Areas, Princes and Ladies Inclines and London Road North flower bed.



Engagement

- Our Community Support Officers have arranged a number of ASB diversionary events for our young people. These youth initiatives include weekly football sessions hosted by Stockport County, weekly dance classes and two BMX events in Brecon Park. These continue to be a great success and helps to forge great relationships between the youth and the Community Support Team.



Volunteer Fair

Weds 29th January 2025
10am - 1pm
Poynton Civic Hall

Thought about volunteering but don't know where to start?
Come and meet local groups and charities that are looking for volunteers just like you!

If you're a community group or small charity interested in having a table at the volunteer fair, please contact sharon.duke@poyntonTownCouncil.gov.uk

Be a volunteer! Make a difference!

There has been a number of events arranged focusing on Poynton's Care Community health priorities, supported by our Communities Co-Ordinator, such as

- 'A Concert to Remember', where residents from local care homes and community groups who support older people and people living with dementia were invited to learn a song and perform it.
- Men's Health Fair and Volunteer Fair.

Poynton Town Council also funds counselling services for young people at the Civic Hall through Just Drop in.



Events

A number of free events have been arranged by our Marketing & Events Coordinator for residents of the Town. These include:



- D-Day 80 commemoration event at the Civic Hall where there was a tea party serving war recipe cakes, war memorabilia exhibition, the Anson Museum showcased their gramophone which played war tunes, whilst a fish and chip lunch was eaten, bought from the Strawberry Pig. Did you know Fish and Chips was the only thing that was not rationed in the war?

- Poynton celebrated Heritage Open Days (HODs) over a week in September, with HODs events at local attractions with local groups, beginning with a Heritage Craft Fair and

culminating in a day of vintage bus journeys from Poynton to the Avro Museum. Look out for this year's HODs events coming soon!

- An Easter Egg Hunt, Teddy Bear Picnic and autumn themed Twilight Treats for families were held on the inclines and in Brecon Park, with competitions, fancy dress, crafts and treats for all who joined in. Thank you to our little residents for your enthusiasm and overall cuteness

- December saw a request from the main man himself and we were honoured to be picked by Father Christmas to host his post box, to make sure he got letters from Poynton's Children. He personally replied to all received!



- Holly Jolly Poynton (A Christmas Shop Local Scheme) was launched at Christmas Fest. Residents were encouraged to shop local and collect stamps on a card for purchases at shops and businesses. Once it was filled, it was handed in at the Civic Hall and a prize draw was held and one lucky resident won a hamper of local produce and prizes from the local high street businesses. Christmas Fest also saw the first wave of our limited edition Poynton badges. There will be more designs to collect over the coming months at Town Council events, but be quick once they are gone they are gone! Did you get yours?



1. Civic Amenity and Recycling Site

Despite strong opposition from the Town Council, Cheshire East closed the Poynton Civic Amenity and Recycling Site on Anson Road. They also shut the sites in Bollington and Middlewich.

The Town Council investigated whether it would be possible for us to continue to run the recycling centre, possibly in conjunction with Bollington Council. However, Cheshire East, who own the site, refused to co-operate and made clear that, as the waste disposal authority, they would not support such a move.

Cheshire East have implemented a pre-booked mobile waste and recycling collection system. There is a mobile site in “Poynton East / Disley” and that CEC “will operate on a 6 location stop system across a four-week window, with one 3-4 hour stop per location”.

2. Poynton Pool – Proposed Spillway Works:

The Town Council continues to strongly oppose the loss of trees and has urged Cheshire East to find an alternative and less damaging way to reduce any flood risk. The work will cost at least £1.5 million, despite Cheshire East’s claims of severe financial pressures.

When the application was considered by Cheshire East’s Strategic Planning Board, councillors urged further investigations, including a bathymetric survey to confirm exactly how much water is in the Pool, and hence the risk if it were to escape.

The survey has now been completed. The results confirmed that there was significantly less water in the Pool than had been assumed by Cheshire East. The risks caused by a breach in the dam are therefore reduced.

Despite this, indications are that Cheshire East still intends to pursue its original environmentally damaging plans. They will need to return to their Strategic Planning Board to seek approval.

The Town Council will continue to work closely with ‘Friends of Poynton Pool’ and the local community regarding this proposal. We are committed to defending the environment and the character of Poynton Pool, a much loved and well used historic site and public leisure facility.



3. Long stay car parking charges

Cheshire East Council have now implemented parking charges in the long stay section of the Civic Centre car park.

You only need to purchase a ticket if you are parked in a bay marked with a P in a square (see attached photo.)



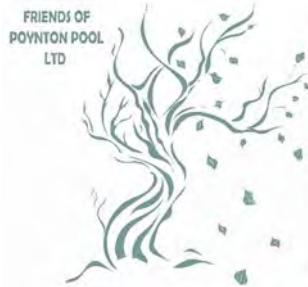
Charges are in place from 8am - 3pm, Monday - Sunday. The Waitrose car park is currently free for up to two hours, with no restrictions on Sundays.

4. Proposed Poynton Library closure on a Wednesday morning

This year saw Cheshire East Council propose the closure of the library on a Wednesday morning. Poynton Town Council consulted residents and subsequently agreed to provide funding for a reduced service on Wednesday mornings with four members of staff.



In October 2022, Cheshire East Council (CEC) announced its Poynton Pool Spillway Proposal (planning application 23/4152M) which aims to reduce any flood risk at Poynton Pool, but significantly threatens the trees and habitats. As a result, Friends of Poynton Pool (FoPP) was formed. More information about who we are and what we stand for can be found on our website www.poyntonpool.org.



FoPP is concerned that inaccurate and misleading data has been used as a basis for the proposed works and has tried to engage with CEC at every opportunity to ensure the works are proportionate to the risk of any flooding from the pool.

In 2024 we registered as a limited company so we can mount a legal challenge against this planning application, if necessary, without personal liability for legal costs. A legal challenge could cost more than £50,000. Details of our crowdfunding campaign can be found here: <https://poyntonpool.org/donate/>. (If the money is not needed, we'll spend it on environmental projects, which might include Poynton Pool.)

The planning application for Poynton Pool was heard by CEC's Strategic Planning Board on 24 April 2024 with a recommendation for approval by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) case officer despite the proposal breaching 22 of CEC's own policies.

In a report to the board, CEC's case officer stated: "The proposal results in a significant loss of trees. The loss of these trees is significantly harmful to the amenity of the local area and the non-designated heritage assets of Poynton Pool and Poynton Park." The report also stated: "...The identified harm is considered to be outweighed by the need for the proposal and the lack of any viable alternatives in this case."

Stewart Tennant, chartered engineer and fellow of both the Institution of Structural Engineers and the Institution of Civil Engineers spoke on behalf of Friends of Poynton Pool to object to the proposals and present our alternative spillway proposals. Poynton councillors also attended to object to the application.

Having raised our objections highlighting errors and inaccuracies in the application and presenting valid alternative proposals, the application was deferred for the following reasons:

- To consider and update where necessary any inaccuracies in the submitted data to ensure modelling is accurate.
- To review the current condition and risks associated with the existing dam wall, and the impact caused by removal of trees on the dam.
- Encourage engagement with third parties to consider / explain alternatives.
- To instigate a further independent review, if necessary.
- To review the location of the proposed mitigation and consideration of any alternatives

The responsibility for addressing each of these reasons for deferral lies with officers of the local LPA who are leading the deferral process. Following a request by the LPA, Poynton Town Council and FoPP submitted reports listing the inaccuracies we had identified at the end of May 2024.



In December 2024 the findings of a bathymetric survey, commissioned by the Environment Agency, was made public. The survey showed the volume of water and silt in Poynton Pool is 75,598 m³, 42% less than the 130,000m³ estimated by CEC in its planning application.

Another significant finding is the height of the dam, the earth embankment at the side of the pool where the threatened trees are situated, which is almost 50% lower than stated in CEC's proposals, thus reducing the impact of a dam burst.

The findings of a 10-year statutory inspection, known as a Section 10, was also published in December 2024. This concluded the spillway capacity at Poynton Pool did not meet the required standards.

The report recommended that input data and methodology for the 2019 flood study be reviewed. A subsequent independent review recommended that the flood study be updated by 28 February 2025 to inform the design works required to meet reservoir safety requirements which has a deadline of December 2025, with construction work completed by December 2026. The flood study has not yet been completed.

The Section 10 report also stated: "Any trees identified as unstable should be stabilised or removed if necessary. Care is required when removing large trees from embankment dams as the increase in moisture content may cause instability of the embankment and may create leakage paths as the root system decays."

We recently attended two meetings involving the Council (as applicant), their engineers and Poynton Town Council. The purpose of the meetings was to review the technical issues and present our alternative designs to increase the spillway capacity at Poynton Pool as recommended by SPB in April 2024. Discussions are ongoing.

We would like to acknowledge and thank those people who have already made donations that have funded our group activities, enabling us to raise awareness and challenge this application, the ongoing support from Poynton Town Council and last but not least the hard work and support from our amazing group of volunteers.



There were 26 registered venues for PAF '24. The Legion and Poynton Players were welcome new additions, both of whom will be back next year.

Across all events, audience numbers were respectable and in many cases very good indeed with several venues reporting 60 -70 people in attendance at specific events.



Feedback: Once again, there have been many, very positive comments from across the festival attesting to the success of events.

A few quotes from contributors this year:-

"Thoroughly enjoyed being part of Poynton Arts Festival. A fabulous crowd turned out to the music" – Fiddlestix (violinist)

"You were an amazing audience! Thanks to the organisers of Poynton Arts Festival for inviting us." – Order of the Magi (magicians)

"I had a totally magical night. It was a joy to share some of my songs and stories" – Ric Neale (singer/pianist)

Poynton Footpaths Group



During the past year, the group have continued to be active, helping the Rangers on several fronts.

In early April we planted 50 Willow tree saplings along the Middlewood Way to create a habitat for the endangered White-Letter hairstreak Butterfly Moth.

We have assisted them in widening several stretches of the Middlewood Way which had narrowed over time with the overgrowth of grass.

The group also put in steps up one of the higher- level paths near bridge 18 at Poolhouse Road on the Middlewood Way.

We also demonstrated our versatility by pulling Himalayan Balsam near the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre and in a field in nearby Adlington.

Members of the group usually meet on Friday mornings and look forward to the great camaraderie which exists between them.

Charles Gorst





The Heritage Garden continues to be a local highlight for anyone wanting some peace and relaxation at the centre of village life and has provided a colourful display of seasonal bulbs, flowers and shrubs throughout the year.

Last year we sadly lost Chris Halsall one of the original founders of the Heritage volunteer committee and a very knowledgeable plantsman. His contribution to the garden will be greatly missed. We have, however, continued to refresh and maintain the main bed and planters and we will shortly, thanks to funding from Poynton Horticultural Show Committee and the hard work of Leigh Fencing Poynton be replacing two more of the large planters that had begun to show signs of wear. Our volunteers took part in the PTC led activities celebrating Heritage Open Days last September 2024 and we very recently joined in the PTC Seed & Plant swap in early March 2025. Thanks to the fine weather we were able to use the space around the garden for this event.

Our mini orchards continue to mature and there were lots of large baking apples on the 'Lord Derby' heritage tree and on the trees on Poynton Pool. Sadly, after vandalism, our trees on Brecon fields had to be replaced again and PTC kindly did this. Unfortunately, some of these trees have again suffered damage. We will continue to monitor this and other sites. We have also tried to make Poynton 'greener' by planting spring bulbs in the orchards and on verges around the village.

We are very grateful to Library and Civic Hall staff and our volunteers who help sweep up after busy weekends or tidy up minor damage or litter caused by petty vandalism although thankfully this continues to be on a very small scale. We also greatly appreciate the financial help given yearly by the Poynton Town Council that does enable us to keep the garden looking bright and cheerful throughout the year. **Di Penny**

Poynton In Bloom

We continue as a group of volunteers who plant and maintain a number of containers which are mostly to be found around the centre of Poynton, with the aim of providing floral colour to brighten up the streets.

The bedding plants are changed twice a year in spring and autumn and in between the main tasks are to keep the containers weeded, plants deadheaded, trimmed and watered. From time to time, in the bigger containers, the structural planting has to be renewed. This year's project is going to be School Lane containers. On the whole the planting is the easy part, it is the maintenance that takes up the time especially in summertime when the watering can be time consuming depending on the weather.

Slowly all the original planters are being replaced or new ones added, usually with ones that have a reservoir in the bottom to aid the watering process and healthy growth of the plants. The latest ones being the baskets at the Alms Houses have now been replaced with one container.

The group have recently recruited a number of new volunteers at the local Volunteer Fair held at the Civic Hall. If you would like to volunteer and help out with planting and/or watering please contact us on: poyntoninbloom@talktalk.net





The past year has seen many changes to the Poynton with Worth Almshouse board of Trustees. Malcolm Sandiford (Secretary) and Charles Gorst (Treasurer) both retired after 12 years loyal service. We wish to extend our very great thanks to both. New to the board are Nigel Wanford, Operations Manager, and Jim Slack is our new Treasurer. Di Penny is now Secretary and Ian Johnson remains as

Chairman.

We recently had an almshouse vacancy when a long standing resident moved into residential care. Thanks to Civic Hall staff we were able to advertise the vacancy in the notice boards around the Town and at the Civic Hall. We were able to find a suitable candidate and all six houses are now fully occupied. Due to us having great difficulty finding eligible candidates, we have now applied to the Charity Commission to amend our Constitution to allow us to consider candidates from Adlington, Pott Shrigley and Kettleshulme alongside those from Poynton Parish. This will hopefully produce more eligible candidates next time we have an Almshouse vacancy. The Trustees have also agreed to have a complete review of the structural soundness of our properties to enable us to make informed decisions about steps we can take to make them more energy efficient in future years. This process is due to commence in April 2025.

Di Penny

Twinning Association Poynton (TAP)

The TAP committee meets monthly to plan events and activities throughout the year. We now have a full complement of members, including two representatives from Poynton Town Council.

TAP organised an exchange visit this year between three students from Poynton High School and three students from Haybes, our twin town in France. The girls from Poynton went to France during the Easter holidays, and the French girls came over here at the end of June. The exchange was very successful and the girls have kept in touch with each other. In August four members of TAP, at their own expense, visited Haybes to attend the celebrations to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the rebuilding of the Mairie in Haybes.

The work that TAP does to plant and maintain eight decorative troughs with flowers and shrubs outside Aldi and Subway is very much appreciated by the general public. We always receive comments from passers by when we are working at the troughs.

We continue to hold French conversation evenings at the British Legion on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. These are open to all levels. We also hold a zoom session with our friends in Haybes. This is particularly useful for both sides to hear native speakers.

TAP participated in the Poynton Arts Festival and organised a competition for children from junior schools in our twinned towns. We had entries from Erd and Vernon School in Poynton. Unfortunately Haybes was unable to participate this year. The children were asked to portray "Where I live". Eva Hamilton-Fisher judged the entries and gave a critique on each. Each child received a certificate of participation which they were thrilled to receive. **Glenys Parry-Jones**





Successful vegetable growing relies upon the weather to cooperate - last year good weather took a holiday. While most plot holders continued to succeed, many decided to call it a day, this provided a long awaited opportunity for people on the waiting list to take up a plot for the first time. We look forward to an expansion of the allotments to enable even more Poynton residents to enjoy the benefits of growing their own fruit and vegetables.

During the year members have continued to support related Council initiatives (the Spring Plant and Seed Swap and Poynton Pollinators) maintaining a wildflower bed on the allotments and implementing a herbicide policy which encourages a herbicide free approach, with the use of chemicals only as a last resort.

Our stand at the Poynton Show in August was the most successful yet winning a Silver Medal Award, the event is a marvellous opportunity to meet residents with an interest in growing.

Projects for Poynton (previously Parish Plan Group)

This group is available to help with administration of community projects that are for the benefit of Poynton Community.

It has been in existence since 2008 and in that time has assisted in the creation of leisure, sport and arts projects, staged in the Town. The group can assist with administration of projects that require the local knowledge and contacts of its members. The group have continued its activities with the Christmas Fest and continued support with funding for The Heritage Garden project and the Poynton Arts Fest which are both active again this year. Volunteer help is always required. or if you wish to volunteer, please contact projectsforpoynton@gmail.com



There was good attendance at the Christmas Fest and thanks are given for the sponsorship and support from village businesses and stall holders. With excellent assistance from the Town Council staff giving support and advice. The CCST were able to help get the Fest running and kept good peace and order. Mostly though, thanks to the people of Poynton for giving the event their support and creating a friendly atmosphere with the village tradition grown from this group's initiative. Shop forecourts and were also used by local charities to gain some well needed financial support from the people of Poynton.

The Heritage Garden was again a delight for all seasons and the Community Orchards are growing every year.

Cllr Mike Beanland

