



Poynton with Worth Town Council



Annual Report 2022-2023



Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Hayley Whitaker

To be Mayor for Poynton is truly a privilege, and I will never take for granted the experiences that it has afforded me throughout 2022 and 2023. As life continues to return to normal, 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 welcomed me and supported me in my role as Mayor.

Although I experienced ill health at the start of my tenure, with the help of many, I have been able to attend many events throughout the year, and my work with my charities and the creation of Poynton Youth Town Council Working Group has gathered apace.

Mayor's fundraising

I split the fundraising efforts into two this year. I was pleased to work with the Just-Ice charity, supporting their work to assist victims of human trafficking. It has been great to learn of their important work and how they strive in store to ensure sustainability and use of seasonal produce. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the team at Just-Ice for their continued support of my activities this year. The remainder was dedicated to a fund, named the 'Poynton Youth Mental Health' project. Monies raised are planned to be used to



engage with the provider of youth services, Just Drop In, for the delivery of community counselling services, business leaders' mental health awareness and parent courses on youth mental health in Poynton. Both the scarecrow competition, and the Mayor's Spring Craft Fair have assisted my fundraising this year, thank you to all who have supported these events, and thank you also to those who have made donations this year too.



Mayor's activities

Civic Awards: Congratulations to all those very worthy award winners. It was a pleasure to meet so many people who contribute to Poynton and ensure it remains a vibrant community.

Poynton Pedals for All: Launch event, great to meet with Sue, Geoff, Simon and Sharon at the Boars head, to see (and have a go on) the new bikes. Poynton Pedals for All, were the charity of our previous Mayor, Cllr Lee Podmore, thank you to him for all his work with this great charity.

Poynton Sports Club: I met with Brian, Hon President, and Mark, Hon Chairman, who gave me a tour of the facilities. They now have over 1,000 members and half of these are made up of under 15s, great news.

Anson Engine Museum: A wonderful day out (with steam!). After 10 years of hard work the museum gained full accreditation in July this year from the Arts Council England. An amazing achievement for all involved.



Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Hayley Whitaker

Poynton Show: A welcome return after Covid, and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the day. Well done to all the organisers and a shout out on their behalf for much needed volunteers for this year.

Scarecrow competition: Thank you to Just-Ice for providing the winning vouchers, well done to each of the winning teams, a fabulous effort.

Braidbar Boats and canal open day: It was great to meet the owners of Braidbar Boats at the historic Lord Vernon's Wharf. Lovely to meet the community at Higher Poynton Canal, a place many of us enjoy and carried us through Covid.

Queen's Thanksgiving Service: A sad moment for our Country. It was a privilege to attend the Thanksgiving service at St Georges, to bear the Union Flag and have the opportunity to share my thoughts with the congregation.

Holmes Chapel Civic Service: Our previous vicar, Canon Rob McLaren invited me to St Luke's, lovely to see him and Jean again, and I gained lots of advice on their very active Youth Parish Council, which has helped in setting up a Poynton Youth Town Council Working Group.

Gilbert & Sullivan Society: It was all about the pirates! Congratulations to the cast, a very welcome return after Covid and a fantastic performance.

Autumn fair in aid of Marie Curie: Well done to the organisers on a lovely autumnal weekend, thank you for your advice on running my spring Craft Fair.

Just-Ice's first birthday: Birthday cake for all who celebrated with Just-Ice. Congratulations folks and here's to many more years of your vital work.

Poppy Squad: A pleasure to join the 'Poppy Squad' in putting up the poppies around the village.

Remembrance Sunday: Was the warmest on record, thank you to all who attended, it was humbling to see such a strong turn out from the community.

Poynton Christmas Fest: Another welcome return post Covid! I was able to visit many of the businesses, and work with Town Council Staff to gather details to form a business mailing list, leading to better communications between the Town Council and local businesses.



Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Hayley Whitaker

Outreach with Poynton High School: Sharon Duke (Communities Co-Ordinator) and I visited Poynton High School and spent the day delivering talks to Year 7 students, on community and how the Town Council works. They had great ideas and solutions to our problem questions, and it helped shape the development of Poynton Youth Town Council Working Group.

Various trips to local assisted living facilities: Great to join residents for a morning coffee and biscuits, and to learn of the Poynton of yesteryear.

Mayor's Spring Craft Fair: An opportunity to enjoy a cake and a tea, while browsing many local crafts stalls just in time for Mother's Day. Mayor's tombola, children's activities and refreshments all contributed to the mayor's fundraising.

All that remains for me to say is a big thank you to all the Poynton Town Council staff and fellow Councillors for your ongoing support during my time as Mayor. Finally, thank you to Cllr Patrick Bailey, Deputy Mayor for his work during my tenure. I could not have done it without all the help I have received along the way.



Cllr Hayley Whitaker



East Ward



Patrick Bailey
Deputy Mayor



David Belcher



Kevin Booth



Laurence Clarke



Jos Saunders



Jo Sewart



Tim Swatridge



Hayley Whitaker
Mayor



Nicky Wylie

West Ward



Mike Beanland



Mark Blackie



Sarah-Jane Gilmore



Simon Lees



Peter Oakes



Lee Podmore



Mike Sewart

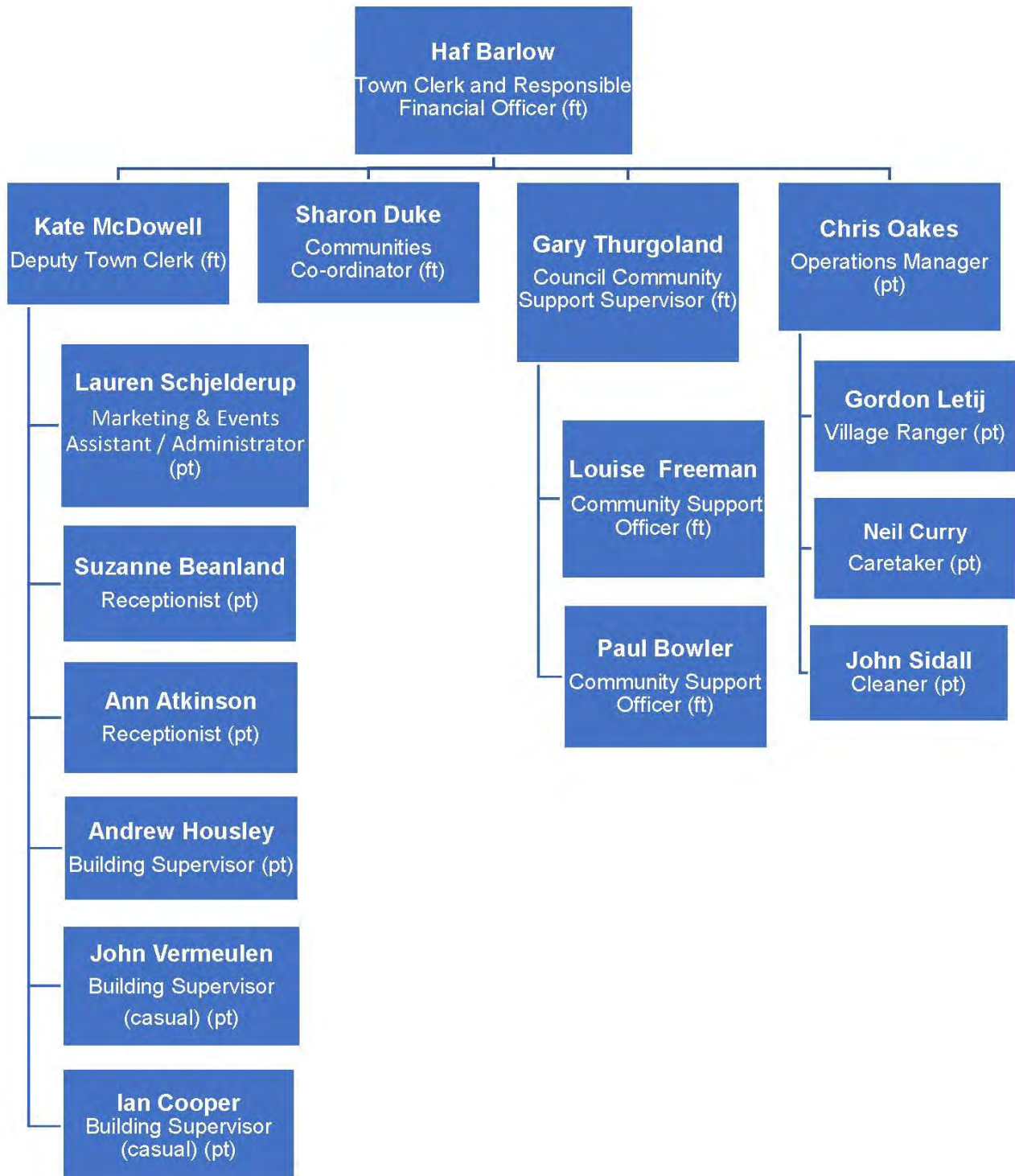


John Waterhouse



Kenneth Woolley





Key Achievements in 2022-2023

1. Major refurbishment of the Civic Hall and Town Council offices.
2. Co-ordination of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events around Poynton
3. Securing funding for planters and bunting
4. Shared space seating improvements in association with Poynton Baptist Church during 'Love Poynton' week
5. Extensive new tree planting at Brecon Park
6. Footpath improvements on the Inclines and Brecon play area and supporting the work of the Footpaths Group
7. Council Community Support Team joint police patrols
8. Youth initiatives including football, dance and BMX event
9. Funding CCTV at Barnaby Park
10. Engaging with our business community
11. Supporting Mental Health initiatives
12. Poynton's first Eco Fair
13. Bee a Poynton Pollinator project
14. Produced a visitor information leaflet 'Welcome to Poynton'
15. Secured funding to enable Warm Spaces in Poynton
16. Developed the Bollington, Disley and Poynton Dementia Guide
17. Retained our 'Working to become a Dementia Friendly Community' status
18. Mayor's scarecrow competition and Spring Craft Fair
19. Refurbishing the Civic Hall flower bed



Poynton Pool Spillway Improvements



This issue arose during 2022 when Cheshire East, who own and run Poynton Pool and Park, announced plans to “improve” the spillway. This was claimed to be necessary to reduce the risk of flooding from the Pool, despite there being no such recorded incidents over many years. The scheme proposed by Cheshire East will potentially see the loss of up to ninety trees along the London Road North side of the Pool.

The Town Council has strongly opposed the loss of trees and has urged Cheshire East to find an alternative and less damaging way to reduce any flood risk.

The Town Council has a dedicated page to the spillway development on the Town Councils Website. <https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=53872>

The page contains reports and documents received from Cheshire East under Freedom of Information Act requests. It also contains reports commissioned by the Town Council. The page is regularly updated and all information is published.

Poynton Town Council instructed an independent reservoir engineer to provide an opinion on the Spillway Improvements proposed by Cheshire East. He visited the site and met with representatives from the Town Council, Friends of Poynton Pool and the Flood Working Group and provided an initial report to the Town Council.

The Town Council have also commissioned our own tree survey and valuation on the existing trees.

A detailed submission was made by the Town Council to Cheshire East regarding their proposal not to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed works. The decision on the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening application is awaited. It should be noted that a formal planning application for the spillway works themselves has not yet been made by Cheshire East.

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 a much loved and well used historic site and public leisure facility.



Cllr Laurence Clarke





Poynton celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Poynton's Jubilee celebrations brought the community together and involved around sixty participants including individuals, businesses, organisations and community groups. Spreading the word about events and activities was a key part of sharing everyone's efforts and the Town Council created a colourful and informative programme of celebratory events.

There were four key events that the Town Council had significant involvement with;



Jubilee Beacon lighting. Thursday 2nd June, Poynton Pool

The Town Council were pleased to work with Poynton Round Table who organised a beacon lighting event at Poynton Pool. It was a great turn out by Poynton residents who sang an impromptu 'God Save the Queen' and also heard Jean, Poynton's very own piper, perform Diu Regnare, a piece especially written for the Jubilee, along with other pieces.



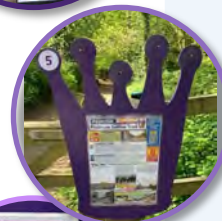
Poynton exhibition. 23rd May to 5th June

A collection of historical information, photographs and memorabilia were displayed in an exhibition at the Civic Hall for two weeks which also included the Jubilee weekend. It's fair to say it was very popular, particularly so when we were able to offer visitors access to 'real' artefacts and documents.



Poynton Platinum Jubilee Trail. 30th April – 12th June

The 2.7 mile trail around the town provided a fun-filled activity for families and consisted of seven points of interest, identified by a large purple crown. The crowns were made by Poynton Men in Sheds and the information for the trail was researched and presented by Rosie Deverell from Rainbow Trails with Rosie. Poynton Town Council created a special trail webpage and trail map and offered goodies for those completing the trail and working out the anagram. The trail provided historical information and interesting information about the location, old photographs and memories from Poynton people, along with interesting information about each decade of the Queen's 70-year reign.



Park Lane Jubilee Party . Sunday 5th June

Despite the rain, Park Lane was filled with Jubilee fun and cheer! The best of Poynton's musical talents and performers were invited to entertain the crowds including Buttons and Bellows, Poynton Golden Memories Band, Unique, Poynton Jemmers, Poynton Male Voice Choir and Poynton Baptist Church Band. The Scouts and the Girl Guides provided children's activities, Poynton Baptist Church very kindly accommodated performers because of the inclement weather and many of the businesses along Park Lane opened to support the event.



Community, Order and Public Safety (COPS)

Chair: Cllr Mrs Nicky Wylie Vice Chair: Cllr Jos Saunders

The Community, Order and Public Safety (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 centre at Poynton, ensuring that our residents have easy access to help and information in these times of rising costs. The committee also has the ability to fund small community grants. Grants were given to a community garden project, Heritage Garden and St Paul's PTA.

Our Council Community Support Team (CCST) Gary Thurgoland (supervisor) and Paul and Louise continue to provide reassurance, support, and advice to Poynton residents. The CCST have now begun regular joint patrols with the Poynton Police Team. The Town Council believe this will have a significant effect on the reassurance of our residents and will show how both organisations are working together. The ability to issue parking tickets has led to a reduction in anti-social parking. They have been praised for their work by Cheshire East Council.



Our Council Communities Co-ordinator Sharon Duke works tirelessly with all ages within Poynton's community. This has included the Pollinator Project and Young Peoples Wellbeing Champions. She has recently completed a Welcome to Poynton leaflet with our Marketing Assistant Lauren, which has been well received. These are available online or from the Civic Hall and have been distributed to all the new houses which are currently being built.

Our Communities Co-ordinator also secured funding for 'Warm Places' in Poynton. The Town Council co-ordinated the offer by creating a poster showing local places participating in the scheme.

The Poynton Goes Green Eco Fair in April was a great success. Poynton Town Council supported Poynton High School by inviting local businesses and organisations to the Civic Hall to offer residents the opportunity to buy eco-friendly wares and to find out about local support for the environment.

I have been a Poynton Town Councillor for 8 years and 6 of those as the Chairman of COPS. I am immensely proud of all the staff at the Council and all the work they have achieved. We are in a unique position to have a CSS Team and a Communities Coordinator working for the residents of Poynton. I would like to personally thank every single member of the council and all the staff for everything they do for the residents of Poynton.

Cllr Mrs Nicky Wylie (Chair)



COPS Current Projects

Youth Engagement

The Council's Communities Co-ordinator and the CCST have been delivering on their 'Youth Engagement Plan' which outlines the projects, events and initiatives which have engaged with young people and encouraged intergenerational projects.

Mental Health

Working together with Middlewood Partnership, through members of its Poynton-based Patient Participation Forum (PPF) groups and Poynton High School, the Town Council developed resources to help young people in the area. Wellbeing cards were developed to give to every student at Poynton High School. As part of the same initiative, Middlewood Partnership consulted with the students and developed easily-navigated, specific webpages on their website aimed at meeting the needs of young people.

Young People Initiatives

This year has seen the continued success of the football and dance initiatives designed to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour. In October 2022 the CCS Team announced their latest venture in collaboration with Cheshire East Council, a free mountain bike/ BMX event for children aged 10yrs and above. 'Dirt factory' a local company specialising in bike tracks and air bag jumps was engaged.

Bee a Poynton Pollinator!

The Council's Communities Co-ordinator delivered presentations to scouts and brownie groups which resulted in seventy-five children becoming Poynton Pollinators and Wellbeing Champions. Children were taught about the importance of our pollinators and how to support them, encouraged to support the 'No Mow May' campaign and grew sunflower seeds for their gardens. 7th Poynton Brownies also created an attractive Pollinator display for visitors at the entrance to the Methodist Church to help spread the word. Children also became Wellbeing Champions, learning about the 'Five ways to wellbeing' and given strategies to help themselves and others.

Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle Event

In the coming weeks, Poynton Town Council in conjunction with Middlewood Partnership have organised a Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle event at the Civic Hall. Designed as a free community event, suitable for people aged over fifty. It will encourage healthier lifestyles, prevent and manage common health conditions and connect to resources and advice that can help.



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 and Cheshire Highways on borough managed parks, highway maintenance, street lighting, gullies and footpaths to try to keep all in good order and minimise inconvenience for 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, Poynton Arts Festival, flooding, Civic Hall capital projects and preventative maintenance.

Due to the age of the Civil Hall both the heating and electrical installations were proving difficult to maintain and becoming both inefficient and unreliable. This year has seen a major updating of the infrastructure to present day regulations and where required updating of the décor to ensure the facilities are appropriate for both the hirers and the Town Council workforce.



Over the year we have had meetings with local businesses as they attempt to recover from the pandemic and deal with the current economic situation. These conversations have proved a good platform to which all parties have discussed concerns.

The Town Council has provided funding to purchase materials and hire equipment to our volunteer groups such as Churches Together. They impressively repaired and revitalised the street furniture around the shared space. The Footpath Group have undertaken a number of much needed maintenance projects around the local footpath network. Additionally the Town Council support 'Poynton in Bloom' and the Heritage Garden making Poynton a more pleasant place to live, display our community spirit and produce financial savings to the Town Council.



Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED)

Our Operations Manager Chris Oakes reports to FIED as he and his team continue to fine tune all elements of the day-to-day tasks around the village of which include general tidying, watering hanging baskets, emptying bins, cutting back hedges, clearing water courses, repairing street signs, Christmas lights, keeping the village notice boards updated and maintaining large sections of the Inclines and the parks at Brecon and Hockley. In addition, Chris meets with representatives from the Coppice Road Allotments ensuring upkeep and monitoring of the waiting list. Currently the search is on for new sites to expand the allotments due to continued demand. A request for residents to let the Town Council know if they had any suitable land to offer was published.

Plans are underway for Poynton's inaugural Arts Festival at the end of June which will bring all of Poynton's venues together to provide a week of creative arts, theatre, live music, comedy, poetry, painting and more with an artistic celebration attracting the surrounding community to both get out and get involved as well as much needed awareness and footfall for our local businesses.



Since Waitrose commenced parking warnings earlier this year the Town Council has been contacted by both residents and businesses concerned about the impact the warnings are having. The Town Council undertook two separate surveys in June 2022 (one for businesses and one for residents). We received 589 responses from the residents survey and 57 businesses responded.

Just under half of all residents (288) reported that they visited the Town Centre between 2-4 times a week. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday were the most popular days to visit and most people stayed between 1-2 hours. 37% of people stayed longer than 2 hours. 63% of respondents stated that they had abandoned a trip because they were unable to park and 47% of people stated that they had altered the number of times of the duration of the visit because they were concerned about receiving a fine. 56% of people stated that they did not support Waitrose enforcing the short stay area of the car park and just over 20% were undecided if they supported the measure.

The business survey identified that some businesses had their own limited parking for staff and also some parking for customers. 59% of businesses reported that their staff had difficulty parking and 63% said that customers had reported difficulties parking. 40% of the businesses believed that the parking warnings had impacted their businesses and a further 15% were unsure at present whether the warnings had impacted their businesses.

The Town Council is currently working with business owners to explore opportunities to improve parking and we are mindful that further attempts might be made by Cheshire East in the coming year to introduce uniform car parking charges across the entire borough.

Cllr Kevin Booth (Chair)



FIED Current Projects

Flood Warden Scheme, new recruits

January saw the training of three new Flood Wardens. There are 18 Flood wardens covering all 13 sites of interest.

Community Orchard and Jubilee Crown- Brecon Fields

The community orchard is now complete with 12 fruit trees. Recently poor trees have been replaced. Many thanks to Walter Thomas and Steve Tyrell for supporting the planting.

Men in Sheds group supported the Town Council as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' to plant 7 silver birch 'Snow Queen' trees on Brecon fields. Each tree represents a decade of her Majesty's reign. It is hoped that the trees will provide a legacy for Poynton residents to enjoy by providing an interesting focal point and a useful habitat for local wildlife.

Spring arrives in Poynton

March saw the installation of six public planters in Poynton. They were applied for earlier in the year by the Town Council as part of the 'Welcome Back' scheme run by Cheshire East Council. The planters are located on Park Lane, Clumber Road junction and London Road South. The plants chosen are low maintenance, bee friendly and complimented the colours of her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee emblem.

Town Centre Improvements

Civic Hall Long Bed: Cheshire East's ground maintenance company, ANSA, informed the Town Council at the beginning of the year that they would no longer be able to service the 'long bed' (outside the Civic Hall) with seasonal bedding plants. Town Council officers have since cleared the beds, added 3 tonnes of top soil and an arrangement of seasonal bedding in a red white and blue theme. Red, white and blue hanging baskets were also displayed along Park Lane. In autumn the beds were cleared and replanted with perennial plants.

Shared space seating: Working alongside volunteers from Poynton Baptist church, the shared space seating has been transformed. Repaired and in parts replaced, resulting in them looking like new and will hopefully ensure they remain an attractive, usable asset for many years to come.

Burton Drive bed clearing: Support from Rapid Relief Team (RRT group) generously offered their services to assist clearing an increasingly overgrown area where Burton Drive meets Chester Road.

Aldi pledge: Aldi have kindly offered £400 to help re-plant / compost the planters outside the Aldi Store and those outside the units opposite. The Poynton Twinning association have willingly agreed to plant the containers up with sustainable all year-round planting scheme.

Inclines: The removal of leaf litter from the inclines continues again this year. It allows for greater natural drainage. The Village Ranger has received many complimentary comments this year as users of the inclines are more aware of the usefulness of this task.

Street name plates: Although the responsibility of Cheshire East Highways The Village Ranger has been repairing street name plates where he can around the town.



Finance and General Purposes (F&GP)

Chair: Cllr Peter Oakes Vice Chair: Cllr Mike Beanland

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is appointed to make recommendations to the Town Council on all aspects of the Council's financial and budgetary management. The Town Council is funded from income received from hiring the Civic Hall and an annual precept as part of the Council Tax.

During the year we have made a major investment into the Civic Hall, having refurbished the building internally upgrading heating and electrical systems, new kitchens and internal decoration. Solar power is to be installed during 2023. Overall, this will reduce the running costs of the building and contribute to our green agenda.

This investment has been achieved by prudent budgeting over previous years to cover these costs, with a small loan to supplement the difference. The cost of this loan is covered by our annual budgeting for Civic Hall repairs and has made no impact on the precept. The finished product is a more attractive facility, which will attract hirers in years to come, maintaining our income stream, which will help to keep the precept down.

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 a time of high inflation to keep the precept low and made savings wherever possible. The precept for 2023/24 is £550,986, an increase over the current year of £29,919. This equates to an increase of £3.70 (4.31%) per year (just 7 pence a week) for a Band D home. This is much less than the current inflation rate of over 10%.



Cllr Peter Oakes

Assets maintained by the Town Council

- Hockley and Brecon Close play areas
- The majority of Lady's and Prince's Inclines (Woodside Lane to Towers Road)
- Coppice Road Allotments
- The Civic Hall

Services provided by the Town Council

- Three Community Support Officers, Communities Co-ordinator, Operations Manager and Village Ranger
- CCTV monitoring – 5 cameras in the centre of Poynton and camera at Barnaby park
- Graffiti removal
- 10 town defibrillators
- Community mobility scheme
- Funding for the Citizens Advice service

The Town Council provided funding for the following organisations and events

- Christmas Fest
- Poynton in Bloom
- Heritage Garden
- Queen's Jubilee
- Community Grants



Management and Establishment (M&E)

Chair: Cllr Mrs Jo Sewart Vice Chair: Cllr 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 and procedures including the Standing Orders, Mayoral Protocol, Civic Award protocols and the organisation of Civic Sunday are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

This Committee, on behalf of the Council, has the rewarding 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 nomination protocol is available to all interested residents. The Civic Awards are presented by the Mayor during the afternoon tea arranged in the Civic Hall after the Civic Service held at Poynton Parish Church of St George.



Cllr Mrs Jo Sewart - Chair

Communications

The Town Council have been increasingly active at communicating with our local community via Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/poyntontowncouncil>

Our longstanding newsletter (PUN) is published approximately every four weeks and reaches almost 700 subscribers. The newsletter is also on display in the Town's eight noticeboards and is available for collection from the Civic Hall. The Poynton Post often republishes many of the articles. We encourage residents to subscribe to the PUN here <https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/Newsletter - PUN 35289.aspx>

Our website is frequently updated with important information, local news and events. www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk

The Town Council also run a Councillor Surgery on the first Saturday every month. Residents are encouraged to speak to a 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.



Planning and Environment (P&E)

Chair- Cllr Laurence Clarke Vice Chair- Cllr Mike Beanland

The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee met sixteen times in the eleven months to 20th February 2023 - more than any other Town Council Committee. Over this period there were 164 planning applications from Poynton.

Town councillors on the Committee discuss every planning application from Poynton, and for each one make recommendations to Cheshire East Council. As virtually all applications are decided by Planning Officers at Cheshire East using "delegated powers" the Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee is the only time planning applications are reviewed by elected representatives.

If Cheshire East refuse a plan, the applicants can appeal to a Planning Inspector. One appeal rejected recently aimed to convert a former agricultural building off Green Lane into several houses.

Cheshire East Local Plan

Cheshire East Council approved their new Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) in December 2022. Despite submissions by some local landowners and developers arguing that yet more building be approved in the Green Belt around Poynton, the SADPD supported the Town Council's view that no further development should be allowed on Green Belt land.

Poynton Relief Road

The Poynton Relief Road is due to open on 6th March 2023. This will meet the A555 to form the Poynton Bypass - first proposed in 1948. The Relief Road has been named Roy Chadwick Way after the chief designer for Avro. Roy Chadwick, CBE, F.R.S.A., F.R.Ae.S. who designed many aircraft, most notably the Lancaster bomber and started work on the Vulcan before his tragic death on a test flight.



Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Stockport Local Plan

The new Stockport Local Plan is being drafted, following that 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. This may include sites near Woodford, Hazel Grove and High Lane.

The Town Council will oppose any major developments in the Green Belt bordering Poynton, which would have a massive and negative impact on nearby areas.



Planning and Environment (P&E)

Flooding

Following the serious flooding in 2016 and 2019, the Town Council has pushed Cheshire East to improve the clearing of streams and gullies. Work has continued with the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the National Trust (many of the streams in Poynton rise in Lyme Park).

During 2022, Cheshire East undertook the following works:

London Road South / Lostock Road: A drainage improvement scheme was undertaken to replace the existing highway drainage system and improve drainage from Lostock Road to outfall in Poynton Brook.

Park Lane: Work was completed in early 2022 to a section of culverted watercourse, of Park Lane stream that runs under Park Lane, near School Lane. This will improve the system, along with rebuilding the access chamber, improving access for future inspection and maintenance.

Coppice Road: Works were completed in March 2022 to improve localised flood protection, by increasing the highway drainage and kerb heights and profiling the carriageway to retain water on the highway during intense storm conditions.

Melrose Crescent: With agreement from local landowners a high-level overflow for an existing drainage system was installed. This is designed to provide provision in extreme weather events, when excess surface water will drain onto the Middlewood Way, where the water will be temporarily stored before naturally draining via gravity towards Norbury Brook.

Waterloo Road: New drainage systems were installed during 2022.

Poynton Town Council's flood warden scheme has continued to operate across the village. Including PTC staff, councillors and local volunteers, Flood Wardens act as the community's eyes and ears on the ground. They report problems, support residents with advice and information and raise awareness about flooding in general.

Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

The Clean Air Zone (CAZ), as proposed by Mr Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, has been suspended. The Town Council were concerned that through traffic seeking to avoid the charge would divert through Poynton and also Adlington, Disley and Handforth.

A further issue was the negative impact on local businesses who have commercial vehicles which operate across the border of the zone so would have faced a charge on their daily commute.

Mr Burnham is now discussing new plans with the Government. We hope this will allow improvements to Greater Manchester's air quality without requiring a county wide charging zone.



Civic Amenity and Recycling Site

The Town Council is pleased to report that Cheshire East Council appear to have abandoned plans to close the Poynton Civic Amenity and Recycling Site on Anson Road. Following a “consultation” in which each option included closing the Poynton site, a majority of those responding rejected all of Cheshire East’s options and supported the “status quo” including keeping the Poynton site open. Cheshire East have now awarded a new contract to an outside company to run their Civic Amenity sites, including Poynton. We will continue to monitor the situation and oppose any further attempts to close the Poynton site.



Issues at Cheshire East’s Planning Department

The Town Council has continued to receive complaints of problems at the Planning Department at Cheshire East. These include both serious delays in processing planning applications and a failure to respond to alleged breaches of planning consents. The Town Council has no direct input into Cheshire East’s operations, but we have urged them to address these issues. These delays have caused problems for residents, developers and builders.

Recent Planning Issues

Some recent planning decisions include:

- Mill Hill Hollow: Application to build new house in the Green Belt was rejected by Cheshire East.
- London Road South: An application to build a new house near Poynton Brook was refused by Cheshire East. Issues included concerns over possible flood risk.
- Coppice Road: Cheshire East approved an application to demolish a derelict former shop and build two new houses on the site. The Town Council had previously expressed concern to Cheshire East about the safety and appearance of the existing building on the site.
- Coppice Road: An application to demolish a cottage and build a new house on the site was rejected, partly on Green Belt grounds but also due to the historic nature of the existing house, which is recognised in the Poynton Neighbourhood Plan.
- Dickens Lane: Plans to demolish a dwelling and build two new houses and a block of six apartments were refused by Cheshire East.
- Waterloo Road: A planning application to build two new houses on Green Belt land was withdrawn by the applicant. (Note that Cheshire East did not make a decision on this application).

Air Quality

The Town Council has installed an additional diffusion tube to monitor air quality on Park Lane. This is in addition to existing tubes on London Road North, London Road South and Chester Road. All readings to date are below the current legal limit for NOx. It is hoped the new Poynton Relief Road will lead to an improvement in air quality in the centre of the Town.

Cllr Laurence Clarke



Poynton Heritage Garden



The Heritage Garden group continues to flourish. In addition to maintaining the large raised bed outside the Library and the large planters around the Library walls, it is busy maintaining and expanding the collection of community mini-orchards at various sites around Poynton. The group has benefited from generous funding from the Co-op and Waitrose, as well as help with materials from Mates. The funding will be used for seasonal planting, for the refurbishment of the rail truck outside the Library, for the replacement of one of the large planters which is showing signs of rot, as well as the purchase of new and replacement fruit trees for the orchard programme.

The Heritage Garden group has also arranged for 3rd Poynton Beavers to adopt and maintain one of the planters outside the retail premises adjacent to Aldi.

Suggestions for the location of new mini-orchards in accessible green spaces are always welcome, as indeed are new volunteers to help carry forward the work of the Heritage Garden group. For further information please e-mail Di Penny at jammydidi@gmail.com.

Parish Plan Group

Projects for Poynton are a group of local residents that have their origins in the establishment of the Parish Plan in 2008. During its existence the group have been involved in several projects that have improved life in the village for all age groups.

These projects include:

- Deva Skate Park and improvements to the Play Area
- Helping administer and plan the Arts performances of Noah's Fludde
- Holding a small sports fund surplus arising from sporting events in the village
- Helping to administer the Jubilee celebrations
- Organising the Annual Christmas Fest in the village
- Arranging finance for the Heritage Garden Project

These projects ask for volunteers who can help organise the projects using the skills and experiences they possess.

Funding comes from Poynton Town Council, Cheshire East and Funding agencies including banks and the National Lottery. We also help groups complete applications for these funds when they are advertised.

This year the planned projects are: the Annual Christmas Fest, Heritage Garden and the Poynton Arts Festival. We are also continuing to plant fruit tree orchards around the village with the Heritage Garden group.

If you wish to be involved and can offer any assistance, then please contact the committee to discuss. New members are always welcome.



Cllr Mike Beanland



Poynton In Bloom

Poynton in Bloom are a group of volunteers who plant and maintain a number of containers which are mostly found in and around the centre of Poynton, with the aim of providing additional colour to brighten up the streets of Poynton.

For a number of reasons we have lost a few members of the original committee however we have another group of volunteers who also help with the planting and maintenance. The planting is the easiest part of the job and it is the maintenance that takes up the time especially in summertime when the watering can be time consuming depending on the weather. We also maintain a number of additional planters which were purchased by the Town Council in 2022 however they are watered by the Council.

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, structural planting has to be renewed but anything that has just grown too big is planted elsewhere to continue growing. This year it will be the turn of those on School Lane to have a bit of a makeover and renew.

As a result of monies not spent in 2021 we were able to purchase two new small planters to replace ones that were very old and were falling apart. These now look much better and much more attractive.

In time we would like to replace some small baskets that are near St Georges Church with a larger planter like others we have. These smaller containers are hard to keep well watered as they are under the trees and a larger free standing one would help with the parking on the footpath situation in that area.

The group would be happy to hear from anyone, even if you don't already know a lot about gardening, who would like to volunteer and help out with planting and/or watering.

Contact Poyntoninbloom@talktalk.net.



Twinning Association Poynton (TAP)



The Twinning Association of Poynton has had a very positive year, which included visits both to and from Haybes, which were very enjoyable. Our programme of social events to celebrate special French dates included a French coffee morning and a January dinner both at local restaurants.

French conversation evenings, which are well supported, continue – by zoom with Haybes on the 1st Wednesday of each month and at the British Legion on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

One of our aims was to encourage communication amongst young people and we are delighted to hear that some pupils from Poynton High School have set up a WhatsApp group with some friends in Haybes. Our AGM will be at the British Legion with music from Poynton High School to which all are welcome, particularly the student, who is about to visit Haybes, and her family.

Glenys Parry-Jones — Honorary Secretary



Poynton Allotments



The last year has been another busy one for Coppice Road Allotments (CRAA) with some weather challenges as we had the hottest temperatures on record during the summer.

We took part in the Eco Fair held in April at the Civic Hall and had a stall with leaflets about growing fruit and veg, talked to people about the benefits of having an allotment and gave out free seedlings.

CRAA also had a stand at this year's Poynton Show and were pleased to win a bronze certificate. We had a busy day talking to people and the allotments holders did us proud with their contributions to the stand.

Allotment holders now have access to a free Seed Bank. Surplus seeds are donated to the bank which enables people to use those rather than buying new ones.

We held a very successful AGM in September with a record turnout of members. The new Committee are working on a number of projects including a review of the herbicide free trial.

Sarah Curran – Chair of Poynton Allotments



Poynton Footpaths Group



The group was originally named Poynton Towpath Group but has changed its name to reflect the many different projects the group has become involved with.

During the year, the group continued work on muddy parts of the towpath in areas close to Marple and Adlington.

There was a very muddy section of footpath close to the allotments off Coppice Road which the group have resurfaced and a path which runs between the Golf Club practice ground up towards Towers Road has been improved by cutting out and surfacing a path and installing steps and a handrail.

We have also been assisting Cheshire East Rangers at Jacksons' Brickworks Nature Reserve by scrub cutting and coppicing, resurfacing a section of the path around the Reserve and replacing rotting wooden posts.

Recently we became involved in providing a wildlife habitat for an endangered butterfly, the White-letter Hairstreak Butterfly at the Coppice. This is a project funded by Butterfly Conservation and the aim is to plant elm trees in the Coppice and along the Middlewood Way. The elm is the sole plant food of the caterpillar of this butterfly. We have assisted the Rangers with this project by coppicing small areas so that wych elm trees can be planted later in the year.

At the Council's Annual Civic Service, the group were privileged to be nominated for a Civic Service Award for its efforts in undertaking footpath improvements throughout the town over the past three years. Funding for materials is provided by both Cheshire East Council and Poynton Town Council and tools provided by The Canal and River Trust and Peak and Northern Footpath Society.

Charles Gorst - Leader





Poynton-with-Worth Almshouse Charity

The almshouses were erected in 1854 on land gifted by the Rt. Hon. Lord Vernon, originally for aged and deserving colliers and other workmen on the Vernon Estate. He also provided some funds for the building work.

There are six houses available for occupation by elderly people who are resident in Poynton and have limited means.

The charity is administered by four trustees on an ongoing basis.

They are all maintained to a high standard.

During the year, all the existing windows, front doors and rooflines were replaced with uPVC double glazing.

The Trust remains financially sound. All the houses are currently occupied.

The trustees do not maintain a waiting list for vacancies but, when one arises, the vacancy will be advertised throughout the village including on the Town Council's website and on their notice boards.

Charles Gorst - Trustee and Treasurer

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 three 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.

No grants were applied for during the past year.

Charles Gorst - Trustee and Treasurer



Key Priorities for Poynton 2021-2023

High

Flooding Improve Poynton's resilience to flooding Ensure that the Town Council is prepared to act quickly and resourcefully in the event of a flood	Civic Hall Repairs Refurbish the Civic Hall premises for the benefit of the community Reduce the Town Council's carbon footprint	Communication To improve communication between the Town Council and residents
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Medium

Civic Pride To encourage Civic Pride in the village by engaging with the local community	Accessibility To improve accessibility for all Poynton residents	Youth Engagement To engage with young people in Poynton to encourage greater integration into their community	Business support To boost the local economy and support local businesses
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Low

Partner Engagement Improve the engagement between Poynton Town Council's two main partners, Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Police	Destination Place Work towards making Poynton a destination place by improving the quality of life for residents and attracting people from surrounding area
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