



Poynton With Worth Town Council



Annual Report 2023-2024



Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Patrick Bailey

Being Mayor is a really humbling experience and as you'll see from the following journal, one which provided me an unexpected opportunity to witness and take part in so many events and meet so many different people.

Additionally, I was fortunate to have the support of my wife Muriel who often accompanied me. She was a great partner throughout the year and helped me in so many ways for which I thank her.

I see the Mayor's role in two parts, firstly to promote clubs/businesses/services and local voluntary organisations so important to the Town and its residents, and secondly to raise donations for my chosen charity "The Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust".

Mayor's fundraising

A very important part of my mayoral year is being able to support my chosen charity the "Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust" and be able to help them raise donations towards their work.

I chose the Mary Sunley because it's a local charity, which regularly cruises the Macclesfield canal for a few hours in a leisurely relaxing environment especially beneficial to those amongst us who by reason of their age, infirmity, or disability gain great pleasure during such a trip.

I was particularly attracted to the canal boat trust because it is local, independent and employs no staff, everyone is a volunteer and every penny raised goes to the charity.



Mayor's activities

Poynton Golden Memories Group: Was the first event I attended when on May 19th I joined them for their Dementia friendly Concert at the Civic Hall. They were fortunate to secure the services of Katy Allan a professional soprano who charmed her audience with a medley of well known songs.

Cheshire East Mayor Making Ceremony: The end of May found us in the audience at Tatton Park.

Poynton Arts Festival: Opened at the Workmens Club on Sunday 25th June, where singing duo Geronimo joined us for the evening.

Arts Festival: July 2nd found us in the audience at the Acoustic Lounge for the closing party.

Heritage Garden Group: Mingling with the gardeners to celebrate the refurbishment of their coal truck, which now stands proud beside the heritage garden.

Armed Forces Day: Joining with those celebrating the day around the civic hall flagpole.



Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Patrick Bailey

Friends of Poynton Pool: Attending their community gathering in the park, supporting their petition and presentation of their art competition prizes.

Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trip: We decided to take a trip on the canal boat and test it out. And what a fantastic afternoon we had.

Twinning Association: occupied us a couple of times in July firstly at their Garden Party & BBQ at Middlewood House, then flower trough maintenance beside Aldi.

Poynton Show: As summer began to ebb away Muriel and I spent a great day as show guests. Sadly, after such a brilliant start the weather got a bit angry as the afternoon drew to a close. We wouldn't have missed it and I hope the organisers enjoy better weather this year.

Sunflower Judging: Early September saw me visiting a number of local homes to pass a critical eye over the sunflowers grown by the younger children. Some flowers were so tall they needed scaffolding to support them.

Charity Quiz Evening at the Legion Club: After a lot of preparation, we embarked upon our first charity quiz. It turned out to be a great night, enjoyed by all.

Civic and Services Award Presentations: No cosy lying in on Sunday mornings. There were always Civic Services and Receptions to attend on some of the coldest days of the year..., Rainow, Sandbach, Nantwich, Disley and Knutsford and Poynton, although to be fair, ours was held in the afternoon. Congratulations to all the winners.

Armistice day (Saturday 11th) and Remembrance Sunday (12th): Remembrance Sunday parade, well attended as usual by local adult and children's groups, was supported by large crowds lining the route from the civic car park to the church. It is a credit to the Town that such a well organised spectacle is provided every year and makes me proud to be involved. My thanks go out to everyone involved with the Poppy Appeal, both putting up poppies and those giving up countless hours collecting on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

Retirement Homes and Apartments: Any excuse for a cup of tea and a slice of cake meant several visits to local independent living apartments. It played heck with our weight, but nevertheless provided us with buckets full of memories.

Gilbert & Sullivan "Mikado" and Poynton Poppy Day Legion Band Concert: We were invited as guests to both events, which were superb. The concert played music for Christmas and really put us into the festive mood.

"Time Out" Café and Vernon Junior School: As Christmas approached, I accompanied Father Christmas and joined the regulars for lunch at the café and then a couple of days later introduced Father Christmas to the school children at Vernon Primary School.

A big thank you to you all.



Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Patrick Bailey

Poynton High School: For my very last event of 2023 I joined the Christmas assembly and was absolutely knocked out by the creative ability of the pupils taking part. Luckily, they didn't ask me to sing with them.

Joint Schools' Council: The recently created council was invited to the Civic Hall Chamber to bring together local schools, Poynton High, Vernon, Lower Park, Worth, Lostock and Disley to give children an opportunity to come together and share their views and opinions on local topics. The session was a real success and will be repeated later in the year.

Northwest Air Ambulance, Barton Aerodrome: Muriel and I spent the day getting to grips with the range of skills provided by the doctors, paramedics, flying and ancillary staff, who all work in harmony to provide an outstanding service to a large catchment area across the Northwest. No, we didn't manage to get a ride in a helicopter and not for the want of asking!

Poynton Golden Memories Group: Our primary task was to judge the annual Easter Bonnet Parade and after a lot of heartache decided upon 3 winners. Following some fun, games, community singing and a spot of lunch everyone left in cheerful mood. Credit to the organisers.

Sorry if I'm repeating myself but I do need to stress what a wonderful year Muriel and I had carrying out our duties, and a big thank you to all the council staff and colleagues, including Hayley the Deputy Mayor; all of whom supported me along the way.



Forthcoming events...

Saturday Apr 13	7:30pm	Charity Band Concert - Civic Hall
Thursday Apr 18	7:30pm	Acoustic Lounge - local Poynton band "A Hundred Endings"
Sunday May 5	8 - 11am	Tour de Manc Charity Cycle Tour
Friday May 24	All Day	Golf Tournament Davenport Golf Club

Cllr Patrick Bailey



East Ward



Patrick Bailey
Mayor



Hayley Whitaker
Deputy Mayor



Kevin Booth



Laurence Clarke



Jos Saunders
Cheshire East Councillor



Tim Swatridge



David Belcher

West Ward



Mike Beanland
Cheshire East Councillor



Mark Blackie



Mike Sewart
Cheshire East Councillor



Simon Lees



Peter Oakes



Lee Podmore



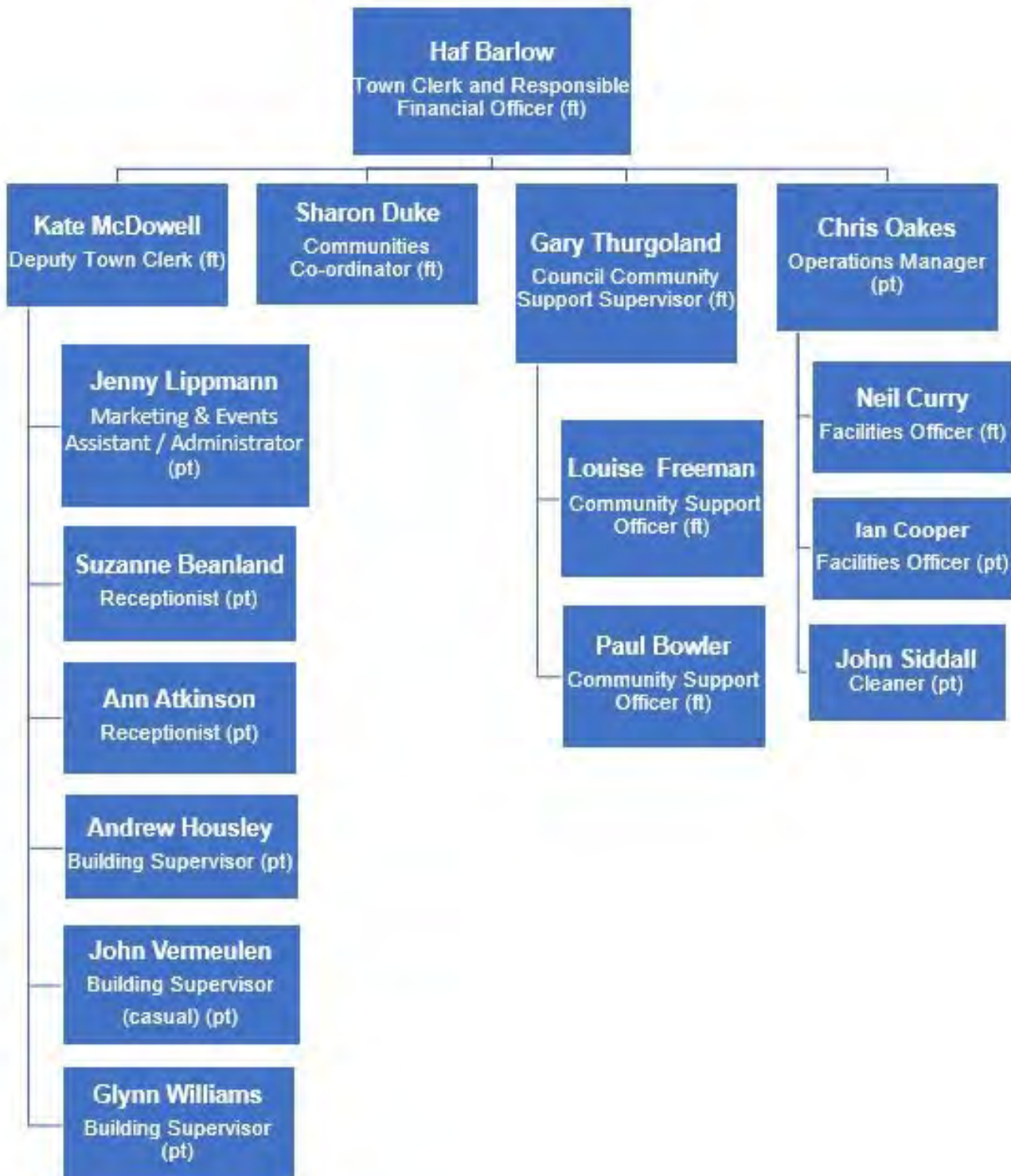
John Waterhouse





Poynton with Worth Town Council

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



1. Working with the community to object to the proposed works at Poynton Pool.
2. Reducing our carbon footprint through the installation of solar panels to make the Civic Hall more sustainable.
3. Helping the community to secure the short term future of the Leisure Centre.
4. Co-ordination of community events including:
 - A week of Heritage Open Days events
 - Plant and Seed Share
 - Twilight Treats family autumn activities
5. Unveiling of Queen Elizabeth II commemorative stone.
6. Extensive new tree planting at Brecon Park.
7. Footpath improvements on the Inclines and Brecon play area and supporting the work of the Footpaths Group.
8. Youth initiatives including football, dance and BMX event.
9. Supporting Mental Health initiatives: Working with Just Drop-In, Poynton Town Council enables counselling services for young people at the Civic Hall. We have also helped to facilitate Just Drop-In's Timid to Tiger Together programme for parents and children in Poynton.
10. Bee a Poynton Pollinator project: this continues to encourage residents to be more pollinator friendly. Men in Sheds have created Poynton's Bugingham Palace which is being filled with critter-friendly material by local schools and community groups.
11. Awarded Cheshire East Council Connected Community status.
12. Menopause event: Working with Bollington, Disley and Poynton Care Community, we organised a menopause event which provided lots of information about support services in our area and focused on traditional and holistic therapies.
13. Culverts regularly cleared ensuring they are free of debris, especially ahead of any weather events.
14. Improving community engagement through outreach at major Poynton events.
15. Sowing wildflowers and planting bulbs on the London Road North flower bed.
16. Working with Mike Burgess, Chainsaw Artist, to create an incredible Poynton focused tree sculpture on Prince's Incline.
17. Maintenance and vegetation of the local greenspaces Brecon and Hockley Play Areas which Poynton Town Council are responsible for.



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, Christmas Fest & Just Drop In this year.

This last year has been one of unrelenting pressures on the reduction of services by Cheshire East Council (CEC.) In the last year alone we have responded and objected to the proposal to impose parking charges at the Civic Centre car park, reduction in hours of the bus service and the reduction in the library opening hours. Alongside this many members of the committee sit on the Leisure Centre working group fighting to retain our leisure centre.



Our Council Community Support Team (CCST), Gary Thurgoland (supervisor) and Paul and Louise continue to provide reassurance, support, and advice to Poynton residents. The Team continue to forge close relationships with our local police force. The Team pay regular visits to our older residents and give 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 CCSO's with the ability to issue parking tickets. We issued 144 parking notices in the last year April—March. All fines collected were received by Cheshire East Council.

From her work with outside bodies such as Just Drop In, setting up community life support training, 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 and planting bulbs around the Town. You may have seen Buggingham Palace, this structure, made by the talented Men in Sheds, is a place for our pollinating bugs to live and Sharon is keen for local schools and associations to help build the houses within it.

You may have noticed a number of community events not seen before being organised. These have included:

- Poynton Plant and Seed Share
- Heritage Open Day
- Father Christmas Post Box

We have been joined this year by Jenny Lippmann, who is our new Marketing and Events Co-ordinator. Following on from her successful events last year she has organised an Easter and Spring Event. Keep a lookout for more coming community events such as Poynton Pooches and a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Operation Overlord (D Day)



I have been a Poynton Town Councillor for 8 years and am immensely proud of all the staff at the Town Council and all the work they do and what they have achieved. 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 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.

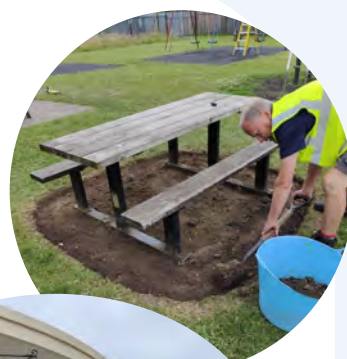
This year has seen the completion of the refurbishment of the Civic Hall ensuring that moving forward we have a modern appearance, suitable for events and the infrastructure in place to efficiently run the facility for all both the PTC workforce and hirers for the future.

We continue to bring together and support local businesses where possible and represent their view and feelings to Cheshire East Council, such as car parking and general road maintenance.

Help 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.

Chris is also working hard securing the funding for some major projects including an extension to Coppice Road Allotments due to the demand, repairs and where applicable replacement of the PTC owned street lighting and also updating the play area at Brecon Park to make it both accessible and toddler friendly.



Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED)

This year also was the inaugural Poynton's Arts Festival which brought many of the Town's venues and organisations together for a week of creative arts, theatre, live music, comedy, poetry and painting. Following the success of the Festival, plans are already in place to repeat it in 2024, bringing more artistic celebrations to attract both Poynton and the surrounding communities. We hope you will come out and get involved and support local venues and businesses.



Cllr Kevin Booth (Chair)



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 rooms out at the Civic Hall and an annual precept as part of the council tax.

This year we have seen the completion of the Civic Hall refurbishment, with the solar panels now installed, reducing our carbon footprint and our running costs. 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.

This year has been very challenging indeed, with the precept for 2024/25 set at £595,504, an increase over the current year of £44518. This equates to an increase of £5.89 (6.57%) per year (just 11 pence a week) for a Band D home.

Poynton Town Council operates and looks after a wide range of community facilities, assets and services, such as Coppice Road Allotments, Hockley & Brecon play areas, 10 Town Defibrillators, Christmas Tree and festive lights, Citizens Advice Outreach and numerous others.

We remain committed to ensuring Poynton remains a vibrant town and a desirable place to live, work and visit and believe the precept gives good value for money, against all the numerous facilities we offer.



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

- Funding of three Community Support Officers, Communities Co-ordinator, Operations Manager, two Facilities Officers and one Events and Marketing Coordinator.
- 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
- Poynton Show
- Community Grants
- Just Drop In

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 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 Civic Award Scheme. Last year 11 Civic Awards were awarded to individuals or groups who have made a "sustained or significant contribution" to our Community. In addition a number of Youth Civic Service in recognition of having "volunteered or shown leadership, initiative, enthusiasm and commitment to a worthwhile cause, of benefit to their peer group and/or the wider community" were awarded.

The committee would like to thank all those who assisted in producing the commemorative stone for our late Queen Elizabeth II which can be seen by all residents in the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial garden at the Civic Hall.

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were carried out efficiently by our own Civic Hall team who supervised the road closure to ensure the general public's safety. Many local organisations were represented in the parade and as ever hundreds of Poynton residents turned out to show their respect to fallen and serving members of the armed forces.

Cllr David Belcher



Planning and Environment (P&E)

Chair- Cllr Laurence Clarke Vice Chair- Cllr Lee Podmore

The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee met seventeen times in the twelve months to 11 March 2024 - more than any other Town Council Committee. Over this period, we considered 127 planning applications from Poynton, plus one at Lyme Park and two just over the border in Stockport.

Town councillors on the Committee discuss every planning application from Poynton, and for each one make recommendations to Cheshire East Council. As over 98 per cent of 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 refuses a plan, the applicants can appeal to a Planning Inspector. The Town Council comments where appropriate on these appeals.

Trees – The Town Council pursued a case where a tree on Coppice Road was threatened with being cut down. We are pleased to report that Cheshire East Council agreed to impose a TPO in this case. A recent incident of unauthorised tree works in protected woodland has also been reported to Cheshire East Council.

Public Footpaths

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

Copperfields Estate - blocked public footpath (FP 33). Cheshire East Council has allowed the developer to close part of the footpath until February 2025.

Hazelbadge Road development - rerouting two public footpaths, with part of the route close to Poynton Brook

Cheshire East Local Plan

The Cheshire East Local Plan was intended to last until 2030. However, they have recently decided to begin the process of compiling a new Local Plan. One concern is that this would allow landowners and developers to propose rezoning land currently in the Green Belt for housing or commercial sites.

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.

Poynton Relief Road

The Poynton Relief Road fully opened to traffic on Monday 6 March 2023, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony three days earlier. Along with the A555, this has finally completed 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. In tribute to Mr Chadwick, an Avro Anson aircraft circled above as the ribbon was cut to open the new road.



Planning and Environment (P&E)

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

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.

The Town Council expressed concerns regarding a planning application by the National Trust to build a new car park at Lyme Park. One reason was the risk that rainwater running off the car park surface would flow into the headwaters of Poynton Brook and increase flood risks downstream. We are pleased to report that the National Trust have now withdrawn this application.

Poynton Town Council's flood warden scheme continues to operate across the village. Comprising 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) charge, as proposed by Mr Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, remains "suspended". The Town Council were concerned that 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 with commercial vehicles operating across the border of the zone, as they would have faced a charge on their daily commute.

At a meeting in December 2023, Greater Manchester's Air Quality Administration Committee agreed the latest Clean Air Plan proposals for submission to the government's Joint Air Quality Unit.

The next steps for the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan are dependent on feedback from the government, following which further consultations may take place.



Planning and Environment (P&E)

Issues at Cheshire East's Planning Department

Cheshire East claim that there have been some improvements at their Planning Department. There have been complaints of 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 – An application to build a new house in the Green Belt was rejected by Cheshire East, and an appeal against this decision was recently declined by a Planning Inspector.

Lower Park Road – An application to demolish old workshop buildings and replace them with a modern industrial unit has been refused by Cheshire East. Issues included the proposed development representing inappropriate development within the Green Belt, reducing openness and encroaching into the countryside, and concerns over the impact on great crested newts (a protected species).

Coppice Road – Cheshire East rejected an application to build a new house in the garden of an 18th Century cottage. There were concerns regarding the impact on the Green Belt, increased housing density and the detrimental effect on the residential amenity of surrounding properties.

Coppice Road – An application to build a detached house was rejected on Green Belt grounds.

However, several developments have been approved in recent years by either Cheshire East or Planning Inspectors on Shrigley Road North, Coppice Road, the Coppice and Towers Road using an exemption from normal Green Belt policies for “limited infilling in a village”.

Green Lane – A planning application to convert former agricultural buildings for storage purposes was withdrawn by the applicant.

Dickens Lane – Five detached houses are under construction after plans were approved by Cheshire East. Previous plans to build two new houses and a block of six apartments were refused by Cheshire East. The approved development avoids the issues of overlooking and un-neighbourliness posed by blocks of flats on small sites near existing houses.

South Park Drive – Plans to demolish a house and replace it with four detached houses have been approved by Cheshire East. As above, an earlier application to build a block of five flats plus two houses had been rejected. (Note that work has not yet started on this application).



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 NOx. Evidence so far suggests that the new Poynton Relief Road has led to an improvement in air quality in the centre of the village.

Community Safety

The Town Council opposed plans by Greater Manchester Fire Service to close Offerton Fire Station at night. This station often provides cover to the Poynton area, both when the Poynton fire engine is already deployed and as support for more serious incidents. Offerton is also the nearest fire station to Stepping Hill Hospital. We are pleased to report that Mr Burnham listened to concerns and has agreed to maintain 24-hour cover at Offerton.



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

Over the last year we the Town Council have been updating its corporate identity and streamlining both the website and the PUN.

The Town Council also run a Councillor Surgery on the first Saturday every month (except for August.) 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.

POYNTON TOWN COUNCIL	CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL
is the town council for the town of Poynton and supports the following services:	is the principal authority for all of Cheshire East and supports the following services:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Council Community Support Officers · Town Ranger · Making the town attractive · Christmas tree and lights · Civic Hall · Brecon and Hockley Play Areas · Allotments · Inclines management · 83 street lights · Funding CCTV services · Community grants · Citizens Advice Bureau · Mayor of Poynton · Poynton Easy Access Scheme · Statutory consultee for all planning applications · Community events and funding events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Highways (e.g. street lights and pot holes) · Schools · Libraries · Waste and recycling collections · Council Tax · CCTV · Business rates · Benefits · Licensing · Social Services and Social Care · Planning and building regulations · Public/Environmental Health · Parks and play areas (Barnaby, Deva, Lower Park, Mount Vernon) · Poynton Pool · Car parks · Road and gritting · Buses
Telephone 01625 872 238	Telephone 0300 123 5500

Council updates and events



UPDATES: The future of Poynton Leisure Centre

Published: 20 Mar 24

Up to date information regarding Cheshire East's proposed plans to close Poynton Leisure Centre.



UPDATES: Cheshire East Council - Poynton Pool Spillway Improvements

Published: 18 Mar 24

Poynton Town Council's response to the Cheshire East Spillway Improvement Consultation. Click to read the latest documents ...



Spring photo competition

Published: 18 Mar 24

Capture Poynton in the spring and enter into our competition to win a prize!



Poynton Town Council precept for 2024/2025

Published: 27 Feb 24

The Town Council sets an annual precept as part of the Council Tax to help pay for the many local services we provide. To read the media release, click this news item.



EVENT: Community Seed and Plant Share

Published: 21 Feb 24

The return of last year's popular seed and plant share at the Heritage Garden.



EVENT: Poynton Pooches Pop-up

Published: 21 Feb 24

Start your Sunday walk with us and meet other dogs and their humans.



Challenges to Poynton

1. Civic Amenity and Recycling Site

The Town Council has strongly opposed Cheshire East's plans to "mothball" (i.e. close) the Poynton Civic Amenity and Recycling Site on Anson Road. Cheshire East claim that "mothballing" the sites in Poynton, Bollington and Middlewich is essential to save a total of £263,000, despite wanting to spend over £1.5 million on the Poynton Pool spillway scheme.



The closure was due from 1st April 2024, although Cheshire East recently announced "mothballing" will be delayed by "two or three months". Citing a wish to work with Town Councils to "explore opportunities" for waste services in their local areas. This is likely to mean a demand for additional payments to maintain a service that local people have already paid for in their council tax to Cheshire East. The Town Council understands that Cheshire East will be holding a "consultation" from mid-April on the future of the Civic Amenity sites, including Poynton. We urge everyone to respond to the consultation to support retention of the Poynton site.

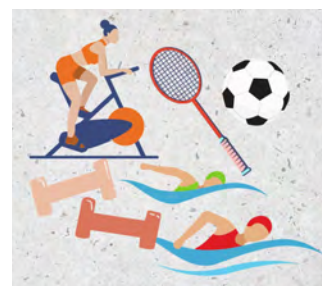
2. 391/392 Bus Service

The bus service from Poynton, which runs north to Stockport and south to Pott Shrigley, Bollington and Macclesfield, has recently been reduced and now runs every two hours. Previously it was every 90 minutes, and before 2020 there was an hourly service. The service is supported by a subsidy from Cheshire East Council.

The most recent changes have caused serious problems for many residents, especially those who use the early and late services to travel to work or study. The Town Council held a meeting in February 2024 with CEC, the operators Belle Vue Buses and representatives of Poynton, Bollington and Pott Shrigley town and parish councils. It was noted that the Government had recently announced funding of £180,000,000 for Cheshire East for improving transport. CEC are seeking guidance on whether this funding can be used to support local bus services. A further meeting is scheduled for April 2024.

3. The future of Poynton Leisure Centre

In November 2023, the Poynton Leisure Centre was threatened with closure from April 2024. Poynton Town Councillors strenuously opposed any proposals for this valuable community asset to be closed. Cllrs Whitaker and Beanland represented Poynton at the CEC Committee meeting on the 9th of November 2023. The proposed closures of the leisure centres took over 4 hours to debate! The original plans were dismissed by the committee and a general consultation ran until the 7th of January. Poynton had the largest number of responses to the consultation! Whilst the short term future of the leisure centre is secured, Cheshire East maintain that savings are still required. The Town Council is concerned that although there are no immediate plans to close the leisure centre, the long term future remains in doubt as no capital funding has been allocated to the centre to improve the facilities. The Town Council has set up a Working Group to investigate the long term future of the leisure centre.



4. Poynton Pool Proposed Spillway Works: Town Council response

This issue first arose during 2022 when Cheshire East Council, 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 incidents over many decades. The scheme proposed by Cheshire East will require the loss of numerous 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 work will cost at least £1.5 million, despite Cheshire East’s claims of severe financial pressures.

Poynton Town Council instructed an independent risk management expert to review the justification for spillway improvements proposed by Cheshire East. He has visited the site and met with representatives from the Town Council, the Friends of Poynton Pool and the Flood Working Group and provided a report to the Town Council. This independent review suggests that the supposed risks of flooding from failure of the existing dam are overstated, and Cheshire East should reconsider their plans.



The Town Council have also commissioned our own tree survey on the impact of the Cheshire East Council Poynton Pool Spillway Improvement proposal.

A detailed submission has been made by the Town Council to Cheshire East on the proposed plans. When Cheshire East’s agents, Jacobs, attempted to refute the Town Council’s arguments, we sent a further document reaffirming our position.

The planning application is currently scheduled to be considered by Cheshire East’s Strategic Planning Board on 24 April 2024.

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.



Challenges to Poynton

Friends of Poynton Pool (FOPP)

Following the announcement of CEC's Poynton Pool Spillway Proposal (planning application 23/4152M) Friends of Poynton Pool 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 early 2023, we worked with Poynton Town Council and other experts in their field to produce reports, including:

- An arboricultural report which places the capital amenity value of the trees at risk between £3-5m. This value is not included in the planning application cost benefit analysis;
- A report from well-respected Professor David Ball, which highlights significant errors in the report on which the scheme is based; and
- Mark Buttle, CEng MCIWEM, who interrogated the Flood Report provided by Jacobs to CEC and wrote an open response.

FOPP representatives have spoken at two full CEC meetings (June 2023 and January 2024), and held a further two closed meetings with them and Poynton Town Council.

A meeting in July 2023 held with the CEC engineers Jacobs, where they acknowledged that the risk of dam failure at Poynton Pool was not 'unacceptable' but actually categorised as falling into the 'tolerable' risk zone. Despite the justification for the planning proposal changing, the application remains virtually unchanged.

Over 5,800 Cheshire East residents signed a paper petition against the works which was formally submitted to CEC on 4th October 2023. Despite this, the planning application was launched by CEC in November 2023, and closed for comments on 10th January 2024 with approximately 1,700 comments submitted. Within the planning application the stated number of trees impacted has reduced to 31, however these figures are grossly inaccurate as advised by Cheshire Woodlands Limited and CEC's own tree officer. See our myth busting campaign, <https://poyntonpool.org/myth-busters/> for further details.

FOPP has undertaken a comprehensive review of all the documents relating to the planning application and has submitted a 52 page objection. This details our concerns regarding a range of fundamental omissions, errors, and inconsistencies in the application.

On the 26th January 2024, 16 weeks after the petition was submitted to CEC, it was presented to the Economy and Growth Committee. Sadly the committee only 'noted' the petition without any debate. Only after the deciding vote did some councillors declare an interest in this matter, which is against the Council's code of conduct.



Poynton Arts Festival



The aim was to have a multi-arts festival in venues across Poynton, run on similar lines to the long-established Buxton Festival Fringe. An ambitious target was set of around twenty venues hosting a wide range of both performance and static events over an eight-day period that would showcase all that Poynton has to offer whilst also providing a platform for artists from outside the Town.

In the run up to the festival, there was a working group of just four people organising everything from liaising with venues, booking artists, designing programmes and flyers, general administration and distributing of promotional materials. This was far too small a group and the group of volunteers has now increased to 15. The large amount of work involved in making the festival happen has been broken into around 20 specific jobs and volunteers are in the process of committing to individual tasks for the festival in '24.

22 establishments became venues during the festival. The venues represented a good cross-section of Poynton life including bars, restaurants, clubs, churches, shops and the High School. 43 events were booked to take place covering painting, music, sculpture, theatre, dance, magic and poetry. In addition, there were the opening and closing events, which the Mayor spoke at and which featured musicians.

There have been many, very positive comments from across the festival attesting to the success of events. There is a genuine desire for the festival to happen again next year with a number of unsolicited e-mails recently received, ranging from musicians to Morris dancers, asking to be included in Poynton Arts Festival '24.



Poynton Heritage Garden



The Heritage Garden is 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. The Christmas lights complemented well with the main display on Park Lane.

Over the last year we have continued to refresh and maintain the main bed and planters and we have now, thanks to funding from Poynton Town Council, Poynton Round Table and the Co-operative Communities Fund, replaced two of the large planters that had begun to show signs of wear. Our volunteers took part in the Poynton Town Council led Seed & Plant swap in April 2023 and also in the new venture of celebrating National Heritage week last September 2023.

We have continued our quest to make Poynton 'greener' by planting more fruit trees around the housing estates of Poynton. We now have 11 sites scattered around the Town of groups of 3-12 fruit trees. The latest five fruit trees have been planted in Higher Poynton. Each 'mini orchard' has a custodian to monitor and maintain the trees. The trees are still small but in years to come they should provide a good supply of apples, pears, plums and damsons for residents and visitors to pick and enjoy.

We are very grateful to Civic Centre and Library staff and our volunteers who help sweep up after busy weekends, tidy up minor damage or litter caused by petty vandalism although thankfully this has been very small scale.

The Heritage Garden team is always looking to recruit enthusiastic volunteers to help maintain the various flower beds and orchards for which it is responsible. For further information please contact Di Penny on jammydidi@gmail.com

Poynton In Bloom

We are a group of volunteers, funded by Poynton Town Council, 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 but anything that has just grown too big is often planted elsewhere to continue growing.

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 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.

Please contact Poyntoninbloom@talktalk.net.



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 some sections of the concrete pathways were renewed.

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.



Twinning Association Poynton (TAP)



TAP has had a very busy year. Notably, we have successfully renewed our student exchange initiative, after this was halted due to the pandemic. A student from Poynton High School visited France last Easter and we are delighted to announce that in the coming year three students will go to stay with host families in Haybes. Three French students will make a return visit to Poynton in the summer. This is one of our key aims – to involve young people in the scheme and we hope to make this an annual event. TAP holds regular monthly committee meetings and we are glad that we have the support of Poynton Town Council.

We have held a number of social events for members and non-members, starting, as usual, with a 12th night dinner at Il Borgo. We then made two social visits to Just Ice – one to eat crepes to celebrate Pancake Day and another just before Christmas to have a coffee and a mince pie.

A very successful coffee morning was held in one of our members' home in April and in June, we held a garden party at Middlewood House. Malcolm Adams was the question master at our annual quiz held at the British Legion in October.

TAP has adopted 8 troughs outside Aldi on London Road South. Eight volunteers keep their troughs tidy – which entails constant weeding and watering in the summer. We receive very many complimentary comments about the troughs both online and face-to-face.

TAP continues to organise French conversation evenings. On the first Wednesday of the month, we have a zoom call with Haybes and on the third Wednesday of the month, we meet at the British Legion at 7.30 p.m.

After a period of inactivity, we have re-established contact with Erd, and hope to explore further links in the coming year.



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 village. 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 support in funding for The Heritage Garden project and the newly created Poynton Arts Fest which had a successful first year.

The Fest was successful in operating in December and it was good to see the support from residents looking to re-establish a village tradition grown from this group's initiative.

The firework display returned and many Park Lane establishments opened their doors and forecourts and were used by local charities to gain some well needed financial support from the people of Poynton.

If you have any ideas that can help build the successful community of Poynton then please get in touch via the Civic Hall.



Poynton Allotments



We saw another busy year at the Allotments.

There were two site inspections with representatives from the Town Council and the Chair of the Coppice Road Allotments Association. There was also quite a high turnover of plots compared to previous years.

Allotments members helped at the following events, both by providing plants and seeds as well as help on the day; Save the Bees, Swap yours Seeds in April to celebrate National Gardening Week; East Cheshire Hospice Plant Sale in May - to support the vital work they do.

We had a stand at the Poynton Show in the Horticulture Tent, with the theme of Productive Plots. We had information on show detailing the weight of crops a typical allotment can yield as recorded by one of our members. We were awarded a bronze rosette. There were plenty of people stopping by for a chat and one visitor was so impressed they produced a painting of the stand.

September saw our AGM taking place with another high turnout. We have now decided to use the three raised beds near the chalet for people who want to carry on growing fruit and veg but who find a full allotment too much.



Poynton Footpaths Group

During the past year, the group have continued to be active on many fronts.

We have assisted the Rangers in coppicing work at Poynton Coppice, scrub cutting at Jacksons' Brickworks Nature Reserve and edging work on the Middlewood Way.

The group also scraped off a muddy section of the Incline path near Charlecote Road on behalf of the Town Council.

In 2021, the group addressed a very muddy stretch of the Incline path near a gate which adjoins a path leading up from the golf course. This had become very muddy again as a result of water draining down from higher stretches of the path. To address this, a perforated land drain and a French drain were installed and fresh stone laid down to try to avoid a recurrence.

Work has also been carried out on two boardwalks, on FP85 and FP9. This involved putting in handrails, installing anti-slip strips and extending one of the boardwalks.

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



Charles Gorst - Leader



Poynton Town Council's Key Priorities for Poynton 2023-2027

High

Communication	Partnerships	Cheshire East
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a strong corporate identity for the Town Council to ensure that residents understand the role and responsibilities of the Town Council in Poynton -Refresh the Town Council's communication media 	<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 	<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	Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop and implement management plans for green spaces and parks owned by the Town Council. -To improve, in conjunction with Cheshire East Council, volunteers and groups, the Town's physical environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improve engagement between councillors, staff, outside organisations and community groups -Find creative ways to recognise and celebrate our community champions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a calendar of free community events in line with the Town Council's strategic plan -Support and promote Poynton events with other stakeholders to ensure a vibrant town and community

Maintain and monitor

Flooding	Manchester Airport	Town Council Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintain Poynton's resilience to flooding -Ensure that the Town Council is prepared to act quickly and resourcefully in the event of a flood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure that the Town Council responds in a timely and appropriate manner to any future flight path consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to explore funding opportunities including income generation for the Town Council to support Poynton

