



# Poynton with Worth Town Council



## Annual Report 2020-2021

## Poynton Town Mayor, Cllr Lee Podmore



I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well after what has been an extremely challenging year for everyone. I would like to pass on my thanks to the many key workers in Poynton who have supported the wider community during this time and to the 'Street Champions' and volunteer organisations who helped their fellow residents during lockdown.

Having grown up and lived in Poynton most of my life, I was honoured to have been elected as Mayor in May 2020. Traditionally the role of Mayor involves attendance at civic functions, representing Poynton at community events, charity fundraising and supporting the many voluntary organisations and local businesses within the Town. As a result of Covid many of these activities were cancelled in 2020/21. The opportunity to get out and about and meet people was severely curtailed and this has been a very different Mayoral Year.

However, one of the things that Poynton excels in is community. This has been evident throughout the pandemic and it has been heart-warming to see many people support the local businesses which make it such a wonderful place to live.

During my term in office, I wanted to do something based on the theme of community and in September launched the Poynton Pledge. This is an initiative designed to recognise and build on Poynton's excellent community spirit and further encourage support for local businesses and organisations. The Pledge also has a focus on "green" options (e.g. walking or cycling where possible). Further information about the Poynton Pledge can be found on the Town Council's website <https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/poynton-pledge.htm> and I would encourage all residents to show your support for our community and sign up today.



Other activities I have participated in during the last year include;

- VJ Day commemoration
- Wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday
- Presentation by Waitrose of awards to local volunteer groups
- Supporting the Carroll family (Ollies Army) with their campaign to wear orange to help promote Battens Awareness Day for their children Ollie and Amelia and all the other children struggling with this disease
- Attending the service welcoming Rev Matthew Squires-Hennessey as new vicar of St George's Church
- Virtual Bollington Town Council Civic Sunday
- The Deputy Mayor attended the virtual Knutsford Mayor making ceremony
- The Cheshire East virtual Holocaust Memorial event
- Supporting Poynton Pedals for All quiz night to raise funds for the adaptable cycle

The duties of Mayor can only be achieved through a team effort with the able support of my deputy, Councillor Hayley Whittaker and the Town Council staff and I'd like to thank them all for their hard work during this most difficult of years for everyone.

**Cllr Lee Podmore**



# Your Councillors

## East Ward



**Patrick Bailey**



**David Belcher**



**Kevin Booth**



**Laurence Clarke**



**Jos Saunders**



**Jo Sewart**



**Tim Swatridge**



**Hayley Whittaker**  
Deputy Mayor



**Nicky Wylie**

## West Ward



**Mike Beanland**



**Mark Blackie**



**Sarah-Jane Gilmore**



**Simon Lees**



**Peter Oakes**



**Lee Podmore**  
Mayor



**Mike Sewart**

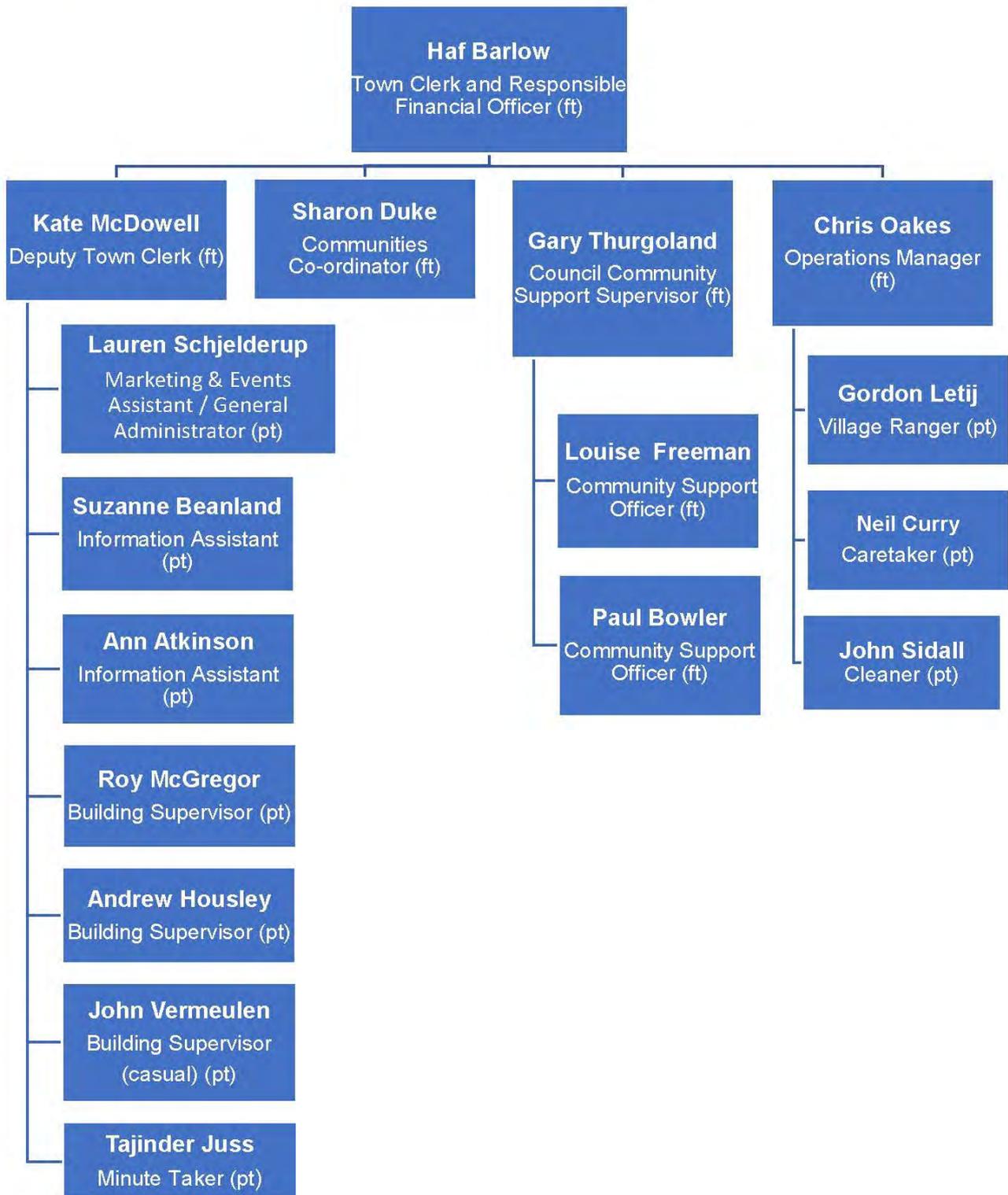


**John Waterhouse**



**Kenneth Woolley**





## Coping with COVID, a community response

In early March, before lockdown, the Town Council took the view that it was likely that COVID-19 would significantly affect our community. In preparation, we initiated a number of proactive measures to support the community to attempt to mitigate the impact of the virus on the most vulnerable. Following a leaflet drop, many calls for assistance and support were received. Requests were mainly for shopping and prescription collections. The Town Council worked with volunteer partners (Churches Together, U3A and Poynton Runners) to provide these welfare services.

Poynton as a community pulled together, concerned residents set up a Facebook page 'Poynton supporting Poynton when the going gets tough!' and Street Champions supported their own communities on a street level. The Town Council mapped street champion locations and put a community call out to make sure that all areas in Poynton were covered. Many local food establishments quickly evolved their businesses, setting up delivery services and supermarkets provided support for vulnerable residents.

**11,000**  
Vaccines  
delivered in the  
Town

**5,000**  
Covid support  
leaflets delivered  
to households by  
volunteers

**230**  
Residents  
supported

**99**  
Street  
Champions

## The Town Council during COVID

Although the Civic Hall has had to close during the national lockdowns, Town Council staff are still working to serve the community. We continue to respond to telephone and email enquiries and maintain Town Council services. Throughout the pandemic, the Council Community Support Team continued their reassuring patrols responding to resident enquiries regarding the current lockdown rules and other community issues. The Village Ranger emptied bins on The Inclines and at Brecon and Hockley Parks. We continue to work closely with key organisations to respond to vulnerable residents who need support.

Although Town Council meetings were paused briefly, in May 2020 the Town Council took advantage of new regulations permitting councils to meet virtually during the coronavirus restrictions. Our first virtual meeting was the annual Town Council meeting when the Mayor for the Civic Year was elected.

Members of the public can attend virtual meetings using video or audio conferencing or using a telephone line. Questions from residents are taken at the start of each meeting under the public participation item.



## The vaccine roll out



Poynton Town Council are proud to be supporting Middlewood Partnership with the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination clinics at the Civic Hall by co-ordinating volunteers from the Town Council, Poynton Runners and Churches Together to manage patient parking at the Civic Centre Car Park and ensuring patient experience into the clinic is as smooth as possible.

More information about how the community is working together can be read in the recent blog from Middlewood Partnership website:

<https://bit.ly/35U4IIC>

*To our incredible  
community*

**Covid-19  
Vaccination  
Clinic**



*Thank You!*



# Community, Order and Public Safety (COPS)

**Chair:** Cllr Mrs Nicky Wylie    **Vice Chair:** Cllr Kenneth Woolley

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.

This has been an unusual time with the year taken up by Covid and lockdown. The staff at the council have risen to the challenge and have continued to provide services to residents of Poynton. The COPS committee have met virtually under new legislation.

Our Communities Coordinator, Sharon Duke, along with other staff, quickly responded to the crisis supporting vulnerable residents and coordinating the volunteer response. More recently, Sharon and the Deputy Clerk, Kate have supported the vaccination clinics at the Civic Hall and coordinated volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the service. Sharon can often be seen directing patients to the clinic.

Our Council Community Support Team (CCST) under the expert supervision of Gary Thurgoland continue to provide reassurance, support and advice to Poynton residents. We welcomed Paul Bowler to the team, joining Louise and Gary. Poynton is one of the few councils who have a CCST which are fully accredited with the Home

Office and Cheshire Police. The COPS committee are very proud of this initiative and the work that the team carry out.

The committee would like to say a massive thank you to all the Poynton residents who have stepped up to help the community in what has been a very challenging year.

**Cllr Mrs Nicky Wylie (Chairman)**



# 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, so we liaise with Cheshire East Council (CEC) on highway maintenance, street lighting, gullies and footpaths to try to keep infrastructure in good order and inconvenience for residents to a minimum.

The Town Council is directly responsible for the Civic Hall, Coppice Road Allotments, large sections of the Inclines and Brecon and Hockley Parks. The Committee is responsible for ensuring the enforcement of the byelaws that govern the use of Poynton's parks and open spaces, notice boards and supporting Poynton In Bloom and the Heritage Garden.

Throughout the last year we have had to tailor all council activities to the requirements of the response to the pandemic, regular virtual FIED committee meetings have continued to take place.

We have recently said goodbye to Operations Manager, Phil Cunningham, who has chosen to retire and spend more time on his hobbies and pastimes, most of which involve his bicycles. We would like to thank him and wish him a long and happy retirement discovering cycleways throughout the northwest.

Local resident, Chris Oakes, has been appointed to the role. Chris will continue to work with the Village Ranger for the improvement of infrastructure and services within the town.

The Village Ranger is a very visible member of the team around the town, he enhances the local environment in a variety of ways including general tidying, watering hanging baskets, emptying bins, cutting back hedges, repairing street signs and keeping the eight village notice boards updated.

**Cllr Kevin Booth (Chairman)**



## AEDs (defibrillators)

24-Hour AEDs installed, seven in old phone boxes and one at the Civic Hall.

Units are checked on a weekly basis by the CCSO Team

Other locations now being considered



## Poynton Round

Following the Accessibility Survey we undertook work on hedges and paths. The Town Council is currently working with Cheshire East footpaths officer and the footpath volunteer group to revitalise and improve the existing footpath and cycleways to create the 'Poynton Round', a circular route around the Town to encourage walking, running and cycling for all residents.



## Shared Space

The Town Council continue to lobby Cheshire East to repair uneven setts, kerbs, benches, signage, lighting and deal with issues with localised flooding. Town Council is investigating what action it can take to repair benches.



## Civic Hall

Working to develop a plan to update and upgrade this valuable community resource for hirers, community groups and organisations.



## Village Improvement

Ongoing projects – London Road North Flower Beds, Inclines scraping and Civic Centre flower beds.



# FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES (F&GP)

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**Chair** – Cllr Mike Beanland **Vice Chair** – Cllr Peter Oakes

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. This has been a particularly challenging year for the Town Council with a significant loss of income following the closure of the Civic Hall in March 2020 due to Covid restrictions. Although the Civic Hall opened to some hirers between August and December, many were unable to return because of the restrictions imposed by Government.

The Council has worked hard in difficult circumstances to keep the precept low and made savings wherever possible. The precept for 2021/22 is £491,795, an increase over the current year of £2,531 or 0.52% but for a Band D home this equates to a decrease of 0.73%. We believe that this represents good value for money when measured against all the additional services in Poynton which are provided by the Town Council.

**Cllr Mike Beanland**

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## What does the Town Council Fund?

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
- Graffiti removal

The Town Council provides funding for the following organisations and events

- Funding for the Citizens Advice service
- Summerfest
- Christmas Fest
- Poynton in Bloom
- Heritage Garden
- Grants for organisations and events



## Management and Establishment (M&E)

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**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 and organisation of Civic Sunday are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

There have been a number of staffing changes this year. The Council wished goodbye to James Hails from the Council Community Support Team, who has left to join the Cheshire Constabulary and we welcomed Paul Bowler who has joined the team. During 2021, we plan to increase the team from three to four members thus enabling paired working.

We have also said goodbye to two other long serving members of our team – Laurent Wawrzyniak our caretaker and Phil Cunningham our Operations Manager. We thank them for their years of hard work and with an appreciation of all their efforts on behalf of Poynton. We have appointed Neil Curry as Caretaker and Chris Oakes as Operations Manager. They are both very welcome additions to our team.

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. Owing to lockdown over the last twelve months, the Town Council was unable to arrange an award giving ceremony. Any member of the public is welcome to nominate an individual or group that they feel deserves recognition for their contribution to our community. The Civic Awards are presented by the Mayor and the Committee has hopes that the ceremony can be resumed later this year.

**Cllr Mrs Jo Sewart - Chairman**



**Chair-** Cllr Laurence Clarke **Vice Chair-** Cllr Hayley Whitaker

The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee met 16 times in the year to March 2021 - more than any other Town Council Committee. Over this period there were 187 planning applications from Poynton.

Town councillors discuss all planning applications from Poynton, and for each one make considered recommendations to Cheshire East Council. Almost all applications are decided by Planning Officers at Cheshire East using "delegated powers", so the Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee is the only review of planning applications by elected representatives.

Cheshire East have recently supported the Town Council and refused planning permission for developments in the Green Belt, including five houses in the Coppice and four off Coppice Road. They also rejected plans to build four houses and eight flats on a site currently occupied by one house on London Road North.

### Cheshire East Local Plan

The Cheshire East Local Plan imposed a target of 690 new houses in Poynton. The Plan will be in force until 2030, and decides where new houses, offices, shops and roads will be built. The Local Plan did not identify sites for all the 690 new houses. Cheshire East are developing a Site Allocations and Development Policies Document. While it has still to undergo final approval, the latest draft does not require any further development in the Green Belt around Poynton. It must be remembered that, at the start of the Local Plan process, landowners and developers proposed building over 2,000 houses in a string of large estates all around the town.

### Poynton Relief Road

Work started in 2020 on the long-awaited Poynton Relief Road, running from the SEMMMS Road junction to London Road (near Starbucks). This will join with the A555 to form the Poynton Bypass - first proposed in 1948. The Poynton Relief Road is scheduled to be completed in Autumn 2022.



### Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)

The Town Council has commented on the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. This included plans for extensive building bordering Cheshire, including several thousand houses in Woodford and High Lane – both within a mile of Poynton. The Town Council argued strongly against this wholesale destruction of the Green Belt, which would have a massive and negative impact on neighbouring areas. However, the current situation is still unclear since Stockport Council decided not to support the GMSF.

### Civic Amenity and Recycling Site

In December 2020, Cheshire East Council published plans to close the Poynton Civic Amenity and Recycling Site on Anson Road. They staged a consultation, in which each option included closing the Poynton site. The Town Council publicised the consultation, and 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 withdrawn their plans to close the Poynton site, but we remain concerned that they may soon try again.



Cllr Laurence Clarke



## Flooding update

Following the serious flooding in 2016 and 2019, the Town Council has continued to work with residents, Cheshire East, the Environment Agency and United Utilities on this issue which has affected so many in our community.

After a flooding event, Cheshire East Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority must investigate the flood and the role of the Flood Risk Management Authorities. In September, Cheshire East published the report which investigated the flooding event. Work has been undertaken by a number of agencies in response to the flooding. Cheshire East have cleared several culverts across Poynton and improved the watercourse between Glastonbury Drive and Poynton Brook. They are currently working on the bifurcation into Poynton Pool on Woodside Lane.

The Environment Agency is investigating flood mitigation schemes which could benefit Poynton including natural flood management. Natural flood management is when natural processes are used to reduce the risk of flooding, this can be done by “slowing the flow” for example this can include restoring bends in rivers, changing the way land is managed or creating leaky dams. Working with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust a meeting with landowners was arranged in February 2020. Although possible schemes have been identified these require landowner co-operation. Areas of land around Poynton Coppice, Rabbit Burrow Farm and Pool House farms are priority areas for these projects. If you are a landowner or know of a landowner who may be able to assist with these projects please contact Ashley at Cheshire Wildlife Trust by email [Adeane@cheshirewt.org.uk](mailto:Adeane@cheshirewt.org.uk).

The Town Council have prepared a flood information newsletter of the **Poynton Update and News (PUN)**. The newsletter is a general guide to help provide residents with the following information:

- Understand how and why Poynton experiences flooding
- Understand the flood risk
- Roles and responsibilities of individuals and organisations
- Where to report issues which have the potential to increase the risk of flooding
- Be flood aware. Monitor the weather and flood risk
- Flooding - how to prepare for a flood, how to protect you and your home during a flood and how to recover after a flood
- What you can do to help

The Flood PUN will be published on our website shortly and the and a link will be sent out in the next PUN.



## Poynton Heritage Garden



Using the grant from Poynton Town Council, the volunteer group has continued to maintain and improve the Heritage Garden. They have added new elements of historical interest including a replica coal truck and pit head wheel (thanks to the Anson Museum). They have introduced some new colourful shrubs and bulbs and have been able to continue to plant a range of delightful impatiens, cosmos and geraniums for a wonderful Summer display followed by pansies and primulas for a colourful winter display.

Before lockdown, the group arranged a number of outdoor events including a musical morning with a jazz band and G&S singers and collected a significant amount for Cancer Research.

The space has been used extensively this year by Poynton residents as a peaceful corner for the relaxation and enjoyment and calm that a floral display and comfortable benches provide. As well as pollinator-friendly planting, a bird box and bughouse made by Men in Sheds have been installed to encourage wildlife into the space.

## Poynton In Bloom

We are a group of volunteers who plant and maintain a number of containers which are mostly to be found around the centre of Poynton, with the aim of providing floral colour to brighten up the streets. The Group is supported by the Town Council who fund the purchase of the plants.

There is a committee which meets to discuss planning and progress and we now have another group of volunteers who also help the committee with the planting and maintenance. 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.

The plants are renewed twice a year in spring and autumn and in between the main tasks are to keep the containers weeded, deadheaded 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 planted elsewhere to continue growing.

In 2018 we held a Garden Safari which was very successful and with the funds raised we were able to buy 3 new containers which can be found in the centre of Poynton.

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](mailto:Poyntoninbloom@talktalk.net)





Somewhat surprisingly, we have had a really productive year! All allotmenters breathed a very big sigh of relief when the Government confirmed that we could continue to tend our allotments during lockdown. As people were struggling to get exercise and were spending more time at home, the allotments have been well-cared for this year and some people have said they have never looked so good! A few plot-holders were self-isolating and neighbours helped maintain them.

The new 'Chalet' has proved very useful for storage and for sheltering from passing showers and we have been able to complete the patio area including 3 raised beds for community group usage (thanks to Waitrose, Round Table and Rotary). We hope to have a naming ceremony once Covid restrictions are lifted. Thanks

also to all PTC officers for all their help and advice!

Crops were bountiful and we were even able to feed the local badger population with some really tasty sweetcorn! Grrr!! Oh well, here's to this year's growing season.

**Tony Penny – Chair of Poynton Allotments**

## Twinning Association Poynton (TAP)

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Sadly, the Twinning Association have been unable to have any events over the past year.

Lockdown started just before three students from Poynton High School were due to visit Haybes to stay with French families and to attend the local high school. It was so sad that the visit had to be cancelled.

The Twinning Association and their Haybes counterparts are having regular zoom meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every months to practise language skills.



## Poynton- with - Worth Almshouse Charity

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There are six houses available for occupation by people over the age of 65 who are resident in Poynton and have limited means.

The charity is administered by five trustees on an ongoing basis. They are all maintained to a high standard and all the houses were fully occupied throughout the year.

The Trust remains financially sound.

**Charles Gorst - Trustee and Treasurer**

## Charities of Viscountess Warren Bulkeley

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

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

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

During the past year, the trustees provided further funding towards the provision of another defibrillator in a former BT telephone box for use in an emergency.

**Charles Gorst - Trustee and Treasurer**



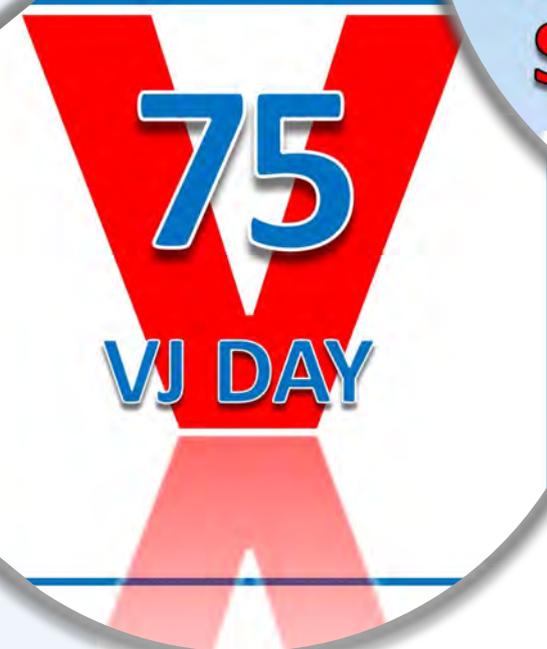
# Key Achievements in 2020-2021



- Reinstatement of the 391 and 392 Bus Service
- VE Day 'Stay at Home' celebrations and VJ Day online exhibition
- Community Support throughout the Covid Pandemic

VE Day 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebrations  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**STAY AT HOME  
STREET PARTY**



# Key Priorities for Poynton 2021-2022

## High

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

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

<b>Partner Engagement</b> Improve the engagement between Poynton Town Council's two main partners, Cheshire East and the and Cheshire Police	<b>Destination Place</b> 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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