



# ***Annual Report***

## ***2025-2026***





# Introduction from Mayor Peter Oakes



## Looking back at 2025

It has been an honour to have been the Mayor of Poynton in 2025/26 which has culminated in a very interesting, challenging and enjoyable year. Major developments have affected the town this year, be it Poynton Pool or the Adlington New Town proposal and the fight continues to attain favourable outcomes, for our Town. After years of pressure, at long last Cheshire East are to attend to the shortcomings of the shared space and start the remedial works necessary, firstly on London Road North/South, Chester Road and the roundels. We will continue to press them to attend to the much needed repair works necessary to Park Lane.

## Favourite moments

There have been many events in Poynton to which I have been invited and proud to have attended. Meeting students from our twin towns of Haybes and Érd. Presenting a letter from the King to one of Poynton's residents, on their 100th birthday. Helping with events for the kids in Brecon Park, The Civic Hall and on the Inclines. Opening and closing the Poynton Arts Festival. Morris dancing, carol singing with the students of Worth School at local care homes. Attending the Remembrance celebrations and lighting the beacon for VJ Day. These are just a few.

## Fundraising

I have had the pleasure to have been able to support two local charities this year. Open Hands who offer vulnerable residents, transport facilities to attend necessary medical appointments in around the area. Along with the Christie at Macclesfield. With the help of friends and especially my family, I have been able to run a Golf Day, Xmas Glitter Ball, a 5 Peaks challenge and will be rattling my bucket at May's Manford Comedy Club event at the Club. I hope to have raised in the region of £8000 by the end of my term in office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my sponsors and supporters for their invaluable contributions.

Please watch out for future fundraising events as Poynton Town Council will be sponsoring a screening event for Cardiac Risk in the Young. 14-35 year olds in 2027.

# ***Your Councillors***



**Deputy Mayor  
Hayley Whitaker**  
East Ward and  
Cheshire East Cllr



**Patrick Bailey**  
East Ward Cllr



**Kevin Booth**  
East Ward Cllr



**Laurence Clarke**  
East Ward Cllr



**Tim Swatridge**  
East Ward Cllr



**David Belcher**  
East Ward Cllr



**Jos Saunders**  
East Ward and  
Cheshire East Cllr



**Mayor Peter Oakes**  
West Ward Cllr



**Mike Beanland**  
West Ward and  
Cheshire East Cllr



**Mark Blackie**  
West Ward Cllr



**Simon Lees**  
West Ward Cllr



**Lee Podmore**  
West Ward Cllr



**Mike Sewart**  
West Ward and  
Cheshire East Cllr



**John Waterhouse**  
West Ward Cllr



# Town Council Staff



**HAF BARLOW**  
Town Clerk



**KATE MCDOWELL**  
Deputy Clerk



**MIKE NICHOLS**  
Operations Manager



**LOUISE FREEMAN**  
Senior Council  
Community Support  
Officer



**SHARON DUKE**  
Communities  
Coordinator



**JENNY LIPPMANN**  
Marketing and Events  
Coordinator



**PAUL BOWLER**  
Council Community  
Support Officer



**WILL ROBINSON**  
Council Community  
Support Officer



**NEIL CURRY**  
Facilities Officer (ft)



**IAN COOPER**  
Facilities Officer (pt)



**SALLY SHAW**  
Administrative Assistant  
(pt)



**ANN ATKINSON**  
Receptionist (pt)



**JOHN SIDDALL**  
Cleaner (pt)



**ANDREW HOUSLEY**  
Building supervisor(pt)



**JOHN VERMEULEN**  
Building supervisor(pt)



**GLYN N WILLIAMS**  
Building supervisor(pt)



**SAM LEACH**  
Building supervisor(pt)



# Community, Order and Public Safety (COPS)



The full CCST with new officer Will, wearing new burgundy uniform.



Another successful BMX event as part of the CCST's diversionary activities



CCST Intergenerational event: schools sing carols at local residential apartments



CCST support the Mini Police scheme with local policing unit.



Pop-up platform at Higher Poynton as part of Railway 200 celebrations



VE Day 80 party at the Civic Hall



Bunny hop race at the Easter Egg Hunt



Storytelling at the Brecon Park Teddy Bear Picnic



Activity boxes to improve mobility - for residents at local care homes



Communities Coordinator Sharon hosts a Pollinator and planting activity at Vernon Pre-School



Memory Awareness Event for Dementia Action Week - Heart Heroes blood pressure checks



Poynton High School students performing at the Concert to Remember alongside dance and performance from care home residents.



Funding continues for a face to face Citizen's Advice service at the Civic Hall.



Funding continues for Just Drop-In's room hire. This makes counselling more accessible for Poynton's young people.



# Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED)



Wildflower border at Brecon Park



Planting up the Fountain



Street sign cleaning



Cleaning up assets



Painting and cleanup of gateways



Cutting back overgrown bushes to keep signs visible



Tidying up paths by cutting back



Maintenance of the Inclines



Clearing out gutters and sluices to prevent/clear surface water flooding



Supporting residents with sluice clearance



Ivy clearance



Prepping planters for 'In Bloom' groups



Planting up and keeping the Town pretty



Fly tipping clearance



Organising a new wood carving on the Inclines



# Finance and General Purposes (F&GP)

## What does Poynton Town Council spend your money on?

Acting as Poynton's voice on many issues, including challenging Adlington New Town and opposing the loss of trees and habitat at Poynton Pool.



The Civic Hall, owned and maintained by the Town Council, is a community hub for the Town.



Purchasing and erecting Poynton's Christmas tree and Christmas lights



Funding for the Citizens Advice service so that residents can access a face-to-face service at Poynton Civic Hall

**citizens advice**

Graffiti removal in public spaces



A free programme of events across the year. This includes: Heritage Open Days, Plant and Seed Share and School Holiday Activities



Providing CCTV monitoring through the Cheshire East control room.



Carrying out weekly checks on defibrillators owned by the Town Council



Maintaining Hockley and Brecon Close play areas and carrying out regular inspections



Management of the majority of Lady's and Prince's Inclines (between Woodside Lane and Towers Road) including woodland management and footpath improvements



A Communities Co-ordinator who works with voluntary groups and service providers to ensure Poynton is a strong and resilient community.



Management of Coppice Road allotments



The Town Council employs three Community Support Officers who are a visible uniformed presence in Poynton.

Assisting groups and volunteers, including financial support through grants, to provide support to Poynton's community



Maintenance of 83 street lights



Keeping the library service on a Wednesday.

Summer hanging baskets and floral displays



Average Band D home contributes

**£109.19** per annum/  
£2.10 per week



# PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (P&E)

Number of Meetings of the Committee:   
**14**

Average plans per meeting:   
**12**

Total planning applications considered:   
**165 (138 planning applications in 2024-25)**

Total planning appeals commented:   
**5**

Total Licensing applications:   
**3**

### Major concerns for 2026/2027

 **Adlington New Town** - Despite the Government statement that plans for a new town of up to 20,000 houses will not be taken forward "at this stage", it is likely that schemes to develop Green Belt land around Poynton and Adlington will be put forward in the new Cheshire East Local Plan.

 **Poynton Pool** planning application for new embankment and threat to trees - worked closely with Friends of Poynton Pool

 The Government's new "grey-belt" rules also weaken protection of the Green Belt around Poynton.

The Government has increased Cheshire East's annual target for new houses from 977 to 2,461.



As a result, Cheshire East's Local Plan is now "non-compliant" - developers can apply to build in the Green Belt

### Meetings attended at Cheshire East

- 25/11/25:** Northern Planning Committee - 2 houses on Green Belt land off Waterloo Road
- 10/12/25:** Cheshire East Full Council - Spoke on Adlington New Town, including implications for transport and health services.
- 16/01/26** Strategic Planning Board re Poynton Pool planning application
- 14/01/26** Northern Planning Committee - First Avenue, Poynton Industrial Estate: Change of Use to Storage and Distribution
- 14/01/26** Northern Planning Committee - Land at Lostock Hall Road: Permission in principle for one dwelling

### Other issues pursued include...

-  London Road (B5092) - pressing for "No HGVs" order and updated signage.
-  Poynton mobile Household Waste and Recycling site - needs more hours and better booking system.
-  New 391 Bus Service will run on Sundays from April 2026.
-  Hazelfields estate - secure fencing of contaminated land.
-  Anson Road - New Tree Preservation Order approved.
-  Town Council commented on the proposed Peak Cluster Pipeline.
-  Hazelbadge Road: Highways works required following buildings of the Hazelfields estate to repair road surface and improve junction with Chester Road.
-  Copperfields estate - restoration of public footpath, landscaping and emergency exit onto Dickens Lane.
-  Town Council commented on new draft Stockport Local Plan - this proposes several new developments near Poynton, in Hazel Grove, Bramhall and Woodford.

**Did you know?** *virtually all planning applications are decided by Planning staff at Cheshire East using "delegated powers." The Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee is the only place elected representatives review most plans. **Cheshire East make the final decisions on all applications.***



# ***Management and Establishment***

## ***(M&E)***

**A warm welcome to new staff members!**



**Will Robinson**



**Sally Shaw**

Will Robinson joins Poynton Town Council as a full time Council Community Support Officer, and Sally Shaw joins us as our part time Administrative Officer. We are grateful for everything they bring to the team and hope you will see hello when you see Will around Poynton and Sally at the Civic Hall reception desk.

**Farewell to Operations Manager**

**Chris Oakes**



Chris was responsible for a myriad of things in the Poynton community; management of the Operations Team, keeping Poynton clean, tidy and appealing, managing the Council's parks and assets, picking the Poynton Christmas tree and more. We wish Chris a very happy and relaxed retirement.

**Welcome to Operations**

**Manager Mike Nichols**



In mid March, Poynton Town Council welcomed a new Operations Manager, Mike Nichols. As Operations Manager, Mike will oversee a variety of responsibilities across the Town, including management of the Town Council's assets, picking Poynton's Christmas tree and much more. Please join us in welcoming Mike to the team.



**Remembrance Sunday parade and service**



# ***Challenges to Poynton***

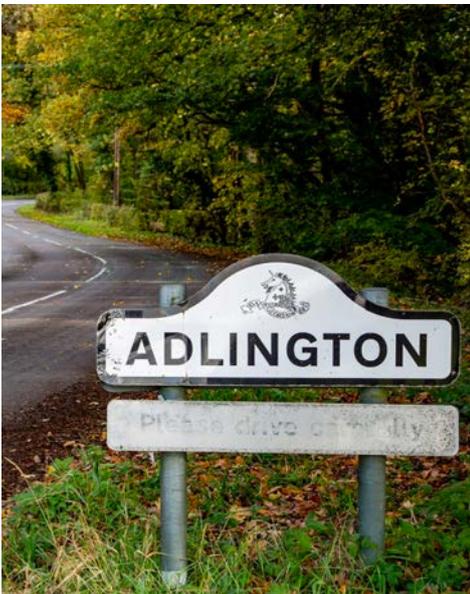
## **Poynton Pool**

The Cheshire East Strategic Planning Board (SPB) met on the 16th of January 2026 to determine the Poynton Pool planning application. The SPB rejected the planning application. This won't be the end of the story as work is still required to the dam embankment. Together with Friends of Poynton Pool we have met with representatives from Cheshire East to discuss the future of the pool. A further meeting will be held in coming weeks. We understand that discussions between Cheshire East Council and the Environment Agency are ongoing.

*Pictures by Friends of Poynton Pool*



## **Adlington New Town**



Plans to create a New Town at Adlington were announced by the Government at the end of September 2025

Poynton Town Council has joined with other local town and parish councils to form a Working Group to co-ordinate our strategy.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment was published by the government on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Although Adlington has been deprioritised, the Government have launched a consultation on new town locations and it is important that all residents still respond.

Further information will be made available on the Town Council website: [www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk)

*Photo credit: Gekko Media*



# Poynton Arts Festival

PAF '25 once again had over fifty events, with performances and exhibitions at over twenty venues.

Highlights included....



**The Order of the Magi,** Manchester's oldest magicians' collective performing at the Royal British Legion.



**Mambo** - Lively Poynton-based latin music trio performed different sets at the opening event at the Snap Tin and later in the week at the Cask Tavern



**Poynton Gilbert & Sullivan Society** - their workshop at The Centre in Poynton is a regular fixture at PAF, with the '25 festival being the turn of 'Iolanthe'.



**The Boaty Theatre Company:** an Ellesmere Port-based company performed a modern version of Shakespeare's ' Much Ado About Nothing' in the grounds of Vernon Junior School.

## Poynton Footpaths Group

Some highlights from the many projects the group have taken on over the last year.



Repairing vandalised bridge boardwalk in Princes Wood area.



Cutting back and relaying stone on foot path 33 between Hope Lane and Dickens Lane.



Working with Ranger Ed to improve wildlife areas in Poynton Coppice, e.g. creating butterfly flights.



Repairing steps in Poynton Coppice with Ranger Ed.

## Coppice Road Allotments



Poynton's allotments enjoyed prize winning success at Poynton Show in August.



A busy Saturday morning at the well attended Seed /Plant Swap in March



# Heritage Garden Group



We have continued to refresh and maintain the main bed and planters and, thanks to funding from Poynton Horticultural Show Committee and the hard work of Leigh Fencing Poynton we replaced two large planters that had begun to show signs of wear.

Our volunteers took part in the PTC led activities celebrating Heritage Open Days last September and we very recently joined in the very successful PTC Seed & Plant swap in early March 2026. Thanks to the fine weather we were able to use the space around the garden for this event.

Our mini orchards continue to mature and there were certainly a lot of large baking apples on the 'Lord Derby' heritage tree in the border at the end of the Civic Centre offices. There were also many eating apples on the trees on Poynton Pool and on the playing fields at Higher Poynton.

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



## Twinning Association



The Twinning Association of Poynton has a committee of 10, which meets monthly. We arranged several events in 2025. These included our annual 12th night dinner, held this time at Panache; the garden party in Middlewood House and the annual quiz and supper in the autumn.

Two young women from Erd came for a visit to Poynton. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves wandering around the Town and even had afternoon



tea with the Mayor at Just-Ice. It was very difficult to keep these troughs watered during the very hot and dry summer, but we still had a good display which was much appreciated by passers-by. This year we had entries for the Poynton Arts Festival painting competition from Erd, Haybes and Poynton. We continue to hold two French conversation evenings – one on zoom with our friends in Haybes and one face-to-face at the British Legion. All are welcome – whatever level of French!

## Projects for Poynton

Poynton Christmas Fest 2025 was an incredible night. It was a fabulous evening, with wonderful entertainment, food and refreshments. The community of Poynton came together to celebrate the festive season. A massive thanks to so many Poynton businesses and Poynton Town Council for supporting the event.



# ***Almshouses Trust***

Since our last report Ian Johnson has stepped down as Chair after many years dedicated and loyal service to the Almshouses Trust. John Graham is now our new Chair and Angus Buchanan has joined our Board of Trustees. The Charity Commission agreed to our amendment to include Adlington, Pott Shrigley and Kettlethulme in our catchment area for eligibility for applicants to apply for any vacant Alms house.

The Trustees have devised a five -year plan after reviewing the structural soundness of all six properties to make them more energy efficient in future years. We have used a large portion of our reserves to totally renovate two properties this year (No4 & No1), and we hope to complete a further two homes next year.

Swift Trees have also started improving our grounds and clarifying our boundaries by cutting away over grown shrubs and some trees. Our gardener has re-turfed the area behind Nos 5 & 6 and planted shrubs in a small border to camouflage the new fencing. The Trustees now meet four times a year to enable us to keep on top of new rules and regulations which our six homes, classed as social housing, are subject to.

Di Penny

Secretary, Poynton-with-Worth Almshouses Trust.



## ***Poynton in Bloom***



Poynton in Bloom was formed in 2005 by a group of residents who wanted to make Poynton look more attractive. The group was previously known as the Poynton Residents Association.

There is a fairly large group of volunteers who change the plants twice per year in May and October. The main work is during the summer months with constant watering weeding and maintenance dependent upon the weather. The newer planters do have a reservoir in the bottom, which does mean that no water is lost, which is a help. In the future it would be good to replace the remaining older ones.

In 2025 the large planters on School Lane were completely renovated with all the old plants taken out, refilled with compost and new permanent planting replacing what was there before. This was seen as a better way of providing year round interest and there have been many positive comments about them.

