

# **Adlington Town Council - Annual Report to Electors**

## **2012-13**

### **Mayor's Report**

The Town Council has welcomed two new members during the last year, Jon Smethurst & Dan Croft. Both Jon & Dan have made a significant contribution to the work of the Town Council in this short period.

The Town Council has, sadly, received the resignation of one of its longstanding members, Lord Hoyle of Warrington, because of his increasing commitments in the House of Lords. Lord Hoyle has been a valuable member of the Council & his wisdom will be sorely missed.

There has been good attendance by residents at the monthly meetings of the Council, mainly to protest about the controversial planning applications submitted for large numbers of houses, which, if built, will have a major impact on Adlington & the surrounding area.

Work commenced on transforming the derelict Ridgway Arms into a Tesco Express, but this work has ground to a halt. An application has been submitted to change the derelict Clayton Arms into offices & flats, but this is yet to be decided. Both of these buildings are eyesores & it is hoped that their renovation will improve the appearance of the village. The former Conservative Club is in the process of being converted into a car showroom, &, whilst this will generate extra traffic on an already very busy road, it brings another building into use.

The Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was commemorated by the building of a stone bench, situated outside the Library, in a joint project with Anderton & Heath Charnock Parish Councils.

During the year, the Mayoress & I have attended many events, all of which have been most enjoyable. In particular, two very special events, St. Paul's Mothers' Union Centenary & St. Joseph's 150th Anniversary celebrations, stand out. We have also attended the shows put on by St. Paul's Players, Adlington Music & Arts Society & Gillie's Mar-Jan Stage School, all of which were superb & very professional. We are very fortunate in Adlington to have such organisations.

Civic Sunday was held at St. Paul's Church in July last year. I would like to record my thanks to Father David Arnold for his help & support in arranging & officiating at that service.

I would like to congratulate Linda, our Clerk, on achieving the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) which is the appropriate qualification for Council Clerks. Linda has worked very hard to achieve this award & Councillors are very grateful, as it will ensure that we work within the law & will assist the Council to attain Quality Status in the future.

My charity for the year was Chorley Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society & I am pleased to report that, with the generous support of friends & residents at fundraising events, over £2500 has been raised for the charity. This will be used to provide services & support for local people with MS.

Finally, I would like to thank Linda & the Town Councillors for their support during the year.

# **Clerk's Report**

## **Finance**

At £17,500 the precept requested in 2012 was the same as in 2011. Grants totalling £1000 were awarded to local organisations who applied through the Community Awards scheme. Expenditure in 2012-13 was greater than the precept but lower than the budget projections, as different suppliers were found for both the hanging baskets and newsletter printing. In addition, £1000 was allocated as a contribution towards a Guide to Adlington, which has not yet been published. Existing reserves will be carried forward into 2013-14 as reserve funding. The Appendix gives more details of the 2012/13 income and expenditure.

## **Councillors**

Mr Jon Smethurst was co-opted to the existing vacancy on the Council at its Annual Meeting in May 2012. Cllr Kim Snape resigned from the Council in May 2012 and as no request for an election was received following her resignation, Mr Dan Croft was co-opted to the vacancy at the Council meeting in July 2012

## **Village Matters**

Hanging baskets were provided in central areas of the village over the summer, and funding was allocated to the provision of bulbs and plants for planters around the village. The hanging baskets were this year provided by Chorley Council and it has been agreed to continue this arrangement for summer 2013. A stone bench to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was commissioned in partnership with Heath Charnock and Anderton Parish Councils and this has now been installed in front of Adlington Library.

The Council continues to respond to problems reported by residents, and has addressed problems relating to parking on Westhoughton Road and Church Street and in other areas of the village, concerns expressed regarding the spraying of chemicals for knotweed eradication close to a watercourse, the condition of local playing fields, the use of waste ground to the rear of Chester Place and the rail service provision from Adlington Station, by submitting comments, objections and requests for information to the relevant authorities. In addition the Council reports problems with potholes, rubbish, bus shelters, street lighting and signs to Lancashire County Council or Chorley Council as appropriate.

The Council has submitted responses this year to consultations relating to the provision of local school places, taxi provision and local transport plans.

Some repairs to the village **notice boards** have been necessary this year to improve the appearance and weatherproofing of all of the boards. In addition it was necessary for the board outside Adlington Library to be re-sited during the construction of the Jubilee Bench.

The village was once again entered for the **Lancashire Best Kept Village** competition, but unfortunately did not win awards this year in any category.

The **Update** newsletter is produced and distributed in Adlington three times a year, in early April, August and December, and contains contact details for the Council and information about events in the local community. The **website** [www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk) also gives access to an archive of minutes and newsletters for the past year and links to other websites of local interest. In addition the Town Council is now also on **twitter** with regular updates on Council matters available at [@AdlingtonTC](http://www.twitter.co.uk)

## **Planning**

Several planning applications have been considered by the Council this year and objections and comments raised with the planning authority. These include a response to the **Chorley Local Plan** submission consultation (previously the "Sites for Chorley" consultation), and objections to specific applications relating to the building of housing on the **Huyton Fields** site, now approved after appeal and the change of use of the former **Conservative Club on Railway Road** to a car showroom and the proposal to convert the former **CGS Design** building on Railway Road into flats, which were also approved. Other planning applications for which the Council has submitted comments and objections include the proposal to build 14 houses on land **SW of the Appenzell** in Heath Charnock, which was refused, and the proposal to convert the **Naylor & Walkden offices** on Hatton Street to Bed & Breakfast accommodation which is still under consideration by Chorley Council. The Town Council has also commented on the additional application to temporarily sort, crush and screen excavated soil waste and demolition materials at **Sandons Farm** which was recently approved by Lancashire County Council.

The Council continues to monitor Planning Applications which affect the residents of Adlington, and welcomes representations from all interested parties

## **Meetings**

The Council meets every month and the meetings are well-attended. Visitors are welcomed and have this year included many residents with issues and problems they wished to bring to the Council's attention, particularly in relation to the Huyton Fields housing proposals. Other visitors have included representatives from Groundwork to explain proposals for the development of the Rivington Gardens, representatives of the Planning department at Chorley Council; and local residents with concerns regarding planning or other issues in the village. The meetings have also been regularly attended by the local Police volunteer.

## **Events**

The first **Civic Sunday** for several years was held in July 2012 and was well-supported by local groups and individuals, as was this year's **Remembrance Day** service and procession. The annual **Carol Concert** with Rivington & Adlington Brass Band was very well attended.

## **Representation**

The Town Council has been represented throughout the year on several external bodies: the Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Adlington & District Community Association, Chorley Council Parish Liaison, Adlington Circular Walk and Adlington & District in Bloom. The Council's representative at the new **Neighbourhood Area** meetings set up by Chorley Council is Cllr Dan Croft.

**Adlington Town Council continues to address local issues and local problems and welcomes the involvement of all members of the local community in ensuring a positive future for the village.**

## Adlington Town Council Members 2012/15

Councillor	Address	Phone	Ward
Stephen Higgins	50 Westhoughton Road, Adlington, PR7 4ET	01257 482322	Central
June Molyneaux	36 Westhoughton Road, Adlington, PR7 4ET	01257 481184	Central
Dan Croft	90 Park Road, Adlington, PR7 4JN	01257 482379	Central
Clive Hart	10, Ollerton Street, Adlington, PR6 9LF	01257 483194	North
Jeanette Lowe	10 Nightingale Street, Adlington, PR6 9LR	01257 481415	North
Florence Molyneaux	36 Westhoughton Road, Adlington, PR7 4ET	01257 481184	North
Graham Dunn	6 Highfield Close, Adlington, PR6 9RL	01257 480048	West
Jon Smethurst	21 Ashfield Road, Anderton, PR6 9PN	01257 481534	West
Barry Lee	18 St Paul's Close, Adlington, PR6 9RS	01257 481540	East
Elizabeth Sumner	24 Lancaster Close, Adlington, PR6 9RA	01257 480043	East
Tony Wilson	1 Highfield Close, Adlington, PR6 9RL	01257 481776	East

**Town Clerk** Linda Crouch, 6 Coniston Avenue, Adlington, PR6 9QH,  
telephone 07896 729646

Website address [www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk)

And on twitter **@AdlingtonTC**

## Appendix - Financial Summary 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Clerk's Salary	4509.84
Administrative & Telephone Costs	258.58
Mayor's Allowance	750.00
Civic Sunday	395.80
Training	85.00
Insurance	764.35
Audit	185.00
Mayor's Inauguration	150.00
Hanging Baskets, Jubilee Bench and Notice Boards	5707.66
RBL Wreath	17.00
Subscriptions	548.38
Newsletter – Printing & Production	986.00
Newsletter - Distribution	600.00
Neighbourhood Watch	36.00
Community Awards Scheme	1000.00
Remembrance Sunday	385.00
Carol Concert	417.50
Plants for Planters	98.94
Regilding of Mayoral Chain	443.71
VAT	1056.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18395.19</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Precept	17500.00
Advertising Income	80.00
Bank Interest	7.99
VAT reclaimed	140.98
Donation from Heath Charnock PC	110.00
Donation from Anderton PC	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17938.97</b>