

Adlington Town Council - Annual Report to Electors

2013-14

Mayor's Report

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me to the office of Town Mayor. It is a privilege to represent Adlington both within the township and in the wider community.

It has been a very busy year for the Council with major developments being discussed:-

Rail Electrification is coming to town and will start in June. There will be widespread disruption and many discussions have been held with all interested parties to help minimise the effect on the town. I would ask that residents and drivers be respectful of each other during the period of the disruption. I am in ongoing contact with our County Councillor to try and look at further ways to minimise the disruption.

Jubilee Playing Fields has been a major refurbishment project which will be started in late summer and I look forward to the new facilities.

The Mayoress and I have attended many functions over the last year. The year started well when I went to the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition presentations to receive, on behalf of Higher Adlington, the Adlington Bowl for "Most Improved Large Village". Let's hope we can repeat the success this year. We have attended the productions of both St Pauls Players and Adlington Music and Arts it never ceases to amaze me that our community can produce some exceptional productions, well done to both organisations.

One highlight of the year was to attend the induction of Bishop Julian at Blackburn Cathedral. A very special day for the Church in Lancashire

I was invited to help promote organ donation awareness by Natalie Kerr, a transplant recipient, which I was only too pleased to do. Natalie will be taking part in this year's Transplant Games and I know we all send our best wishes for a good games.

We also attended Adlington Luncheon Club and once again I am reminded of the volunteering nature of our residents in looking after those less fortunate.

When I started my year I decided that my “chosen charities” would focus on the elderly and the young. I have chosen to allocate the money raised, **one thousand pounds**, to Adlington Luncheon Club and Adlington Football Club. The Luncheon Club provide not only meals for the elderly but a friendly environment and a meeting place where people can socialise. Adlington Football Club run 10 teams providing sport for over 130 young people. Both of them are run by volunteers. I have presented cheques for £500 to each of them.

I would like to thank all members of the Council and the Clerk for their work over the last year. The Council, once again, has managed not to increase the precept.

Special thanks go to my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Dan Croft, who has supported me in my work. He has stepped in, sometimes at short notice, to represent the council at events

My work as Town Mayor would not be possible without the support of my Mayoress, my wife Sandra. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to her for the work she has done and the support she has given me over the last year.

Barry Lee, Town Mayor.

Clerk's Report

Finance

At £17,500 the precept requested in 2013 was the same as in 2012. Chorley Council provided additional funding for the Town Council to this level despite changes to the Tax Base in order to avoid an increased charge to residents. Grants totalling £1000 were awarded by the Town Council to local organisations who applied through the Community Awards scheme. Expenditure in 2013-14 was lower than the precept as fewer hanging baskets were provided than originally intended, less training was required as there was only one new Councillor and insurance costs were reduced by the Council entering into a three-year agreement. Existing reserves will be carried forward into 2014-15 as reserve funding, with an earmarked reserve of £1831.76 for Streetscene projects carried forward from the remaining 2013-14 Streetscene budget. The Appendix gives more details of the 2013/14 income and expenditure.

Councillors

Cllr Douglas Hoyle resigned from the Council in May 2013 and as no request for an election was received following his resignation, Mrs Alison Evans was co-opted to the vacancy at the Council meeting in August 2013

Village Matters

A traffic incident in Lower Adlington destroyed one of the Planters owned by the Council in late 2012, but this was eventually replaced in summer 2013, once Police investigation of the incident had been completed. The cost of the replacement was covered by the Council's insurance.

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 once again provided by Chorley Council and it has been agreed to continue this arrangement for summer 2014 with an increased number.

The Council continues to respond to problems reported by residents, and has addressed problems relating to flooding on Westhoughton Road, overhanging vegetation on pedestrian routes, litter bin provision, weeds on roads and pavements,

parking problems and the temporary problems with pedestrian access to the railway station by submitting comments, objections and requests for information to the relevant authorities.

The Council is also monitoring the progress in the provision of a Park and Ride facility for Adlington station, replacement of the railings at the corner of Railway Road and the A6 with a more suitable alternative, and requested improvements to the local recreation grounds. The Council continues to lobby for the improvement of the Adlington rail service and has asked residents for their suggestions and input relating to this in the most recent edition of the newsletter. In addition the Council reports problems with potholes, rubbish, dog fouling, 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 estate parking, modifications to the Chorley Local Plan, the Chorley Council Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy and CCTV provision. It has also contacted Stagecoach to express its disappointment at the withdrawal of the 125 bus service to Chorley Hospital, a change which was made without consultation.

The Council is aware that the work to electrify the railway line through the village which is due to start later this year will cause major disruption to residents and has endeavoured to provide information relating to this at its meetings and on its notice boards and website. It has also responded to consultation regarding the timing of the local bridge closures in order to minimise inconvenience to residents. The Council contacted Lancashire County Council at the start of the project requesting that consideration was given to widening of the bridge on Railway Road as part of the scheme, and the agreed plans now include widening of the road at this point and the provision of a pavement on the station side of the bridge in addition to the existing walkway.

Chorley Council is planning to provide an improved skate park and play facility on the Jubilee recreation ground in summer 2014 and the Town Council is working with its representative to provide assistance with consultation and consider options for the additional funding required.

The village was once again entered for the **Lancashire Best Kept Village** competition in 2013, with Higher Adlington named as "Most Improved Large Village" and White Bear Marina once again winning in the Certificate of Merit category for Industrial and Commercial Premises. The play area at Fairview Community Centre was also Highly Commended in the Children's Play Area 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 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 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 responses to proposals related to the Chorley Local Plan, and objections and comments regarding specific applications relating to the conditions attached to the **Ridgway Arms Tesco** site, now under construction and the amendments to the proposal to convert the former **CGS Design** building on Railway Road into flats, which have now been approved. Other planning applications for which the Council has submitted comments and objections include the proposal to build three houses on land at **59 Church Street**, which was refused, and the proposal to convert the **Clayton Arms** public house to offices, which the Council agreed was an appropriate use of the building and which is currently ongoing. The Town Council has also commented on applications relating to **White Bear Yard**, fencing around the **Grove Farm** site and commercial development on **Chorley Road**, taking into account any objections received from local residents.

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 Grove Farm development. Other visitors have included the recently elected County Councillor for the area, Kim Snape, the local Police sergeant Andy Bramhall and Lindsey Blackstock from Chorley Council. A recent meeting welcomed a representative from the Superfast Lancashire project who outlined the effect the project proposals are likely to have on Adlington. The meetings have also been regularly attended by the local Police volunteer.

Events

Civic Sunday was held in July 2013 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 Chorley Council **Neighbourhood Area** meetings this year has been 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
Alison Evans	12 Outterside Street, Adlington, PR7 4HS	01257 475610	West
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 and on twitter @AdlingtonTC

Appendix - Financial Summary 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

Expenditure	
Clerk's Salary	£4555.06
Administrative & Telephone Costs	£341.51
Mayor's Allowance	£760.00
Civic Sunday	£449.61
Training	£60.00
Insurance	£723.45
Audit	£150.00
Mayor's Inauguration	£133.76
Streetscene Enhancement	£3168.24
RBL Wreath	£17.00
Subscriptions	£643.27
Newsletter – Printing & Production	£840.00
Newsletter - Distribution	£600.00
Neighbourhood Watch	£24.00
Community Awards Scheme	£1000.00
Remembrance Sunday	£375.00
Carol Concert	£417.50
Replacement planter and plants (covered by insurance)	£344.26
VAT (to be reclaimed)	£727.82
TOTAL	£15330.48
Income	
Precept	£15684.00
Precept Top-Up Grant	£1816.00
Advertising Income	£40.00
Bank Interest	£9.16
VAT reclaimed	£966.19
Donation from Heath Charnock PC	£110.00
Donation from Anderton PC	£100.00
Insurance claim for damaged planter	£345.00
TOTAL	£19070.35