

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

## **2014-15**

### **Mayor's Report**

It has been a tremendous privilege to hold the office of Town Mayor for the past year, and I am grateful for the opportunity to represent our village.

It has been another year of great change within Adlington. The closure of the railway bridges for rail electrification work, and subsequent temporary traffic lights has seen the village subjected to unprecedented traffic chaos, and the council worked closely with the county council and Network Rail to attempt to minimise the impact on residents. We also continued to lobby the train companies for a more frequent service from our station.

However there have also, I believe, been several positive changes in Adlington in the past year. The new skate park and children's playground constructed on the Jubilee Recreation ground has brought much needed rejuvenation to the area, and Chorley Council have announced that money is to be made available to improve other, existing playgrounds within the village.

The park and ride car park at Grove Farm is now finally open and will help ease parking problems on Railway Road. Several roads have seen much needed resurfacing work carried out, and the forthcoming expansion of Harding Street car park is also to be welcomed.

The past year has again seen several controversial planning applications come before the council, and we have, as ever, sought to be fair and reasonable in devising our responses to these.

We also provided a platform for residents to put their questions to both Northern Rail and the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, when they attended town council meetings.

Throughout the year I have represented the town council at the 3 Tier Liaison meetings, along with councillors and officers from Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council, as well as other parish councillors.

The Mayoress and I have also represented Adlington at events in Chorley, Blackrod, Horwich and Westhoughton, as well as at annual functions within the village including Civic Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. We were also grateful to be able to attend several performances by St Paul's Players and the Adlington Music and Arts Society.

I would like to thank the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Steve Higgins for his support, and for stepping in for me to chair council meetings and attend functions when I was unable to do so. I would also like to thank previous mayors, Councillors Barry Lee and Jeanette Lowe for their help and guidance.

Special thanks must go to the Clerk of the Council, Linda Crouch, for her superb organisation and unfaltering service.

My charities for the year were Derian House Children's Hospice, Chorley & District Mencap Society and the Adlington Luncheon Club. In total I have managed to raise £1,800 through a sponsored walk, bingo night, pub quiz and other donations.

**Cllr D Croft**

**Mayor 2014-15**

# **Clerk's Report**

## **Finance**

At £17,500 the precept requested in 2014 was once again the same as in the previous year, and Chorley Council provided additional funding for the Town Council to this level 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 2014-15 was higher than the precept received as the Council spent £5000 on the provision of additional play equipment for the Jubilee Recreation Ground to support the major improvements made by Chorley Council to the facility. It was also agreed during the year to invest £5000 of the Town Council's emergency reserves in the Chorley branch of the Unify Credit Union. The Appendix gives more details of the 2014/15 income and expenditure.

## **Councillors**

Cllr Graham Dunn resigned from the Council in July 2014 and as no request for an election was received following his resignation the vacancy was advertised for co-option, however no appointment was made at that time. Eight nominated Town Councillors were re-elected in an Unopposed Election in May 2015 which leaves four vacant places on the Council to be filled by co-option.

## **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 once again provided by Chorley Council and it has been agreed to continue this arrangement for summer 2015.

The Council continues to respond to problems reported by residents, and has addressed problems relating to the Bellway Homes development, the recurring damage to railings at the corner of the A6 and Railway Road, access into and out of the Tesco car park and pedestrian issues, the pedestrian crossings on the A6, as well as issues raised during the rebuilding of the railway bridge on Railway Road and the other road closures necessary to the electrification of the railway line through the village by submitting comments, objections and requests for information to the relevant authorities.

The Council continues to lobby for the improvement of the Adlington rail service once the electrification work has been completed and has forwarded the residents comments and suggestions received last year to Northern Rail, Lancashire County Council, Chorley

Council and the local MP. 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 the renewal of the rail franchises and the Lancashire County Council budget proposals and continues to submit proposed Neighbourhood Priorities to Chorley Council

The Council was aware that the work to electrify the railway line through the village which started during the year has caused major disruption to residents and has endeavoured to provide information relating to this at its meetings and on its notice boards and website, and has been responding to specific complaints by referring these to Lancashire County Council and Network Rail.

During this time of the commemoration of World War One the Council has been active in consulting with adjacent Parish Councils, local schools, churches and other organisations to consider appropriate events to mark significant moments in the War, and has publicised church and school events in the village. Further events are planned as the commemoration continues and details of these will be available on the notice boards and website. The Council has recently purchased a memorial plaque to be erected in the centre of the village for the duration of the commemoration.

The village was once again entered for the **Lancashire Best Kept Village** competition in 2014, with Lower Adlington being awarded third place in the "Large Village" category and White Bear Marina Highly Commended in the Certificate of Merit category for Industrial and Commercial Premises.

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, although publication of the Spring 2015 edition has been postponed in order to include election news. 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 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 the replacement of the derelict building at 107-113 Chorley Road with flats, the construction

of which is now almost complete, warehouse extensions at White Bear Yard, erection of a detached dwelling alongside the old police station building on Church Street, and the change of use of a house to a veterinary practice on Chorley Road. In many cases the planning permission has been granted, but the Council has suggested changes or conditions to be considered for the benefit of existing 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 pedestrian crossings on Church Street which Lancashire County Council have now assessed and agreed to repaint, pedestrian safety outside Tesco on Chorley Road, where a barrier has now been erected, and problems relating to planning applications.

Other visitors have included the County Councillor for the area, Kim Snape, a representative of the local Police, Lindsey Blackstock from Chorley Council, Craig Harrop from Northern Rail, Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, and Paul Maloney from Freestyle Urban Soccer who have been providing free outdoor activity sessions for children on the Jubilee Recreation Ground.

## **Events**

**Civic Sunday** was held in June 2014 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 Chorley Council Neighbourhood Area meetings, Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Adlington & District Community Association, Lancashire & Chorley Three-Tier Liaison, Adlington Circular Walk and Adlington & District in Bloom.

**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 2015/19

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
VACANCY			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
VACANCY			West
VACANCY			West
Barry Lee	18 St Paul's Close, Adlington, PR6 9RS	01257 481540	East
Tony Wilson	1 Highfield Close, Adlington, PR6 9RL	01257 481776	East
VACANCY			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 2014 to 31 March 2015

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Clerk's Salary	£4746.68
Administrative & Telephone Costs	£208.20
Mayor's Allowance	£750.00
Civic Sunday	£237.16
Training	£0.00
Insurance	£707.90
Audit	£150.00
Mayor's Inauguration	£150.53
Streetscene Enhancement (inc £2000 towards Jubilee Rec play equipment)	£5906.41
RBL Wreath	£17.00
Subscriptions	£599.06
Newsletter – Printing & Production	£840.00
Newsletter - Distribution	£600.00
Neighbourhood Watch	£36.00
Community Awards Scheme	£1000.00
Remembrance Sunday	£440.34
Carol Concert	£417.50
Additional contribution to Jubilee Rec play equipment	£3000.00
VAT (to be reclaimed)	£752.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£20559.22</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Precept	£15684.00
Precept Top-Up Grant	£1816.00
Advertising Income	£60.00
Bank Interest	£8.80
Credit Union Dividend	£28.76
VAT reclaimed	£727.82
Share of Remembrance Sunday costs - Heath Charnock PC	£107.87
Share of Remembrance Sunday costs - Anderton PC	£78.45
Share of Remembrance Sunday costs - Rivington PC	£20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£18531.70</b>