

Adlington Town Council - Annual Report to Electors

2015-16

Mayor's Report

The Mayoral year was preceded by the local council elections. As a result Adlington Town Council comprised only 8 councillors at the Annual Meeting in May 2015. The Council is now back to 12 councillors and we have welcomed Jim Banks, Tim Summers, Alan Robinson and Peter Walkden to the Council. I am sure they will all be assets to Adlington Town Council.

Civic Sunday was held on 26th July 2015, arrangements delayed because of the local elections, and commitments of both the band and St Paul's Church. I would like to thank all who attended.

The last of the roadworks for the rail bridge reconstructions finally ended although the footpath crossing between Westhoughton Road and Fairview has still to re-open. The park and ride parking facility at Grove Farm came into use.

Possibly the most far-sighted decision made by the council this year is the provision of two Defibrillators, one sited close to King George playing fields and another sited close to the Jubilee recreation park. They are not yet installed, but hopefully soon will be, and for this we have to thank Councillor Barry Lee, who has done a tremendous amount of work to bring this into being.

I have to thank my fellow councillors for their help in fund raising for my charity. St Paul's Club ran a charity bingo, the bottom Spinners and the Cardwell both ran charity quiz nights for which I have to thank them. Their efforts combined with the generosity of the citizens of Adlington whose donations helped achieve a fund of £1,600.

My aim was to spend the funds for the benefit of the youth of Adlington, and sessions have been booked with Paul Maloney (Freestyle Urban Soccer) at both the Jubilee and King George V playing fields.

Unfortunately halfway through my year of office, I started to be ill. This proved to be cancer, which thankfully now is being treated and under control. I have been able to complete my year thanks to the help of the Deputy Mayor, Alison Evans and the ATC Clerk, Linda Crouch, my grateful thanks to them both.

Stephen Higgins

Clerk's Report

Finance

At £17,500 the precept requested in 2015 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 2015-16 included the purchase of a Community Notice Board which was partially funded by a grant from the Lancashire County Council Parish Champion. The Council has also updated its computer equipment, including the purchase of a printer/scanner which was paid for by a grant from the Government "Transparency Fund"

The Appendix gives more details of the 2015/16 income and expenditure.

Councillors

As eight nominated Town Councillors were re-elected in an Unopposed Election in May 2015 this left four vacant places on the Council to be filled by co-option at the start of the year. The vacancies were advertised and the following Councillors were co-opted: James Banks in June 2015, Timothy Summers in September 2015, Alan Robinson in October 2015 and Peter Walkden in February 2016.

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 contractor chosen to provide the hanging baskets was Chorley Council and it has been agreed to continue this arrangement for summer 2016.

The Council continues to respond to problems reported by residents, and has addressed problems relating to the recurring damage to railings at the corner of the A6 and Railway Road, construction of a new footbridge to replace the rail footpath crossing, and the lack of youth provision in the village over the summer by submitting comments, objections and requests for information to the relevant authorities.

Flooding in the village was a major problem in the early part of the year, with problems reported in the area around Crawford Avenue and The Common and also across the main A6 route on Westhoughton Road and on the King George V Playing fields. The Council is involved in ongoing discussions with the relevant authorities and residents to try to prevent any recurrence.

The Council continues to lobby for the improvement of the Adlington rail service and other transport links. In addition the Council has reported problems with footpaths, rubbish, dog fouling, bus shelters, and the poor condition of road surfaces to Lancashire County Council or Chorley Council as appropriate.

The Council has submitted responses this year to consultations relating to the Lancashire County Council budget proposals and continues to submit proposed Neighbourhood Priorities to Chorley Council. This year these suggestions have included work to be undertaken at the War Memorial and the Fairclough Gardens, and improvements to the main recreation grounds. Early this year one of the Councillors identified that the Jubilee recreation ground is an original “Carnegie Field” created by the Carnegie Trust 88 years ago. This has led to £5000 of additional funding being made available to Chorley Council towards the improvement of the children's play area.

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 to publicise events in the village. The memorial plaque purchased at the end of last year has been installed with its own flower bed on the grass outside the health centre and library and will remain for the duration of the commemoration.

The village was once again entered for the **Lancashire Best Kept Village** competition in 2015. No Certificates of Merit were awarded in the village but the judges' reports were generally positive, with Higher Adlington described as a “well cared-for village” and much of Lower Adlington “tidy and litter-free” despite the judging taking place shortly after the Carnival weekend.

The Council is currently working in partnership with the North West Ambulance Service to provide **Automated External Defibrillator** devices in two locations in the village.

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 was postponed until June in order to include election news. 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 included the major development now underway on the land surrounding Huyton Terrace, new houses on the site of the old Police Station on Church Street and proposals for additional housing on Ellerbeck View.

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 flooding problems and the Huyton Fields development. Three representatives of Stuart Milne Homes attended July's meeting to answer questions from residents and the Council.

Other visitors have included the local County Councillor Kim Snape; Jamie Carson (Chorley Council Director for Public Protection, Streetscene and Community) and a representative of the local Police.

Events

Civic Sunday was held in July 2015 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, Chorley 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
Jim Banks	54 Westhoughton Road, Adlington PR7 4ET	07968 848345	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
Timothy Summers	5 Fairclough Place, Adlington, PR7 4AN	01257 483543	West
Alan Robinson	4 Grove Farm Drive, Adlington, PR6 9QS	01257 752112	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
Peter Walkden	102 Railway Road, Adlington, PR6 9QT	07777 606726	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 2015 to 31 March 2016

Expenditure	
Clerk's Salary	£4802.64
Administrative & Telephone Costs	£306.27
Mayor's Allowance	£750.00
Civic Sunday	£400.00
Insurance	£399.17
Audit	£170.00
Mayor's Inauguration	£145.65
Streetscene Enhancement (hanging baskets/planters/notice board)	£4723.26
RBL Wreath	£20.00
Subscriptions	£687.51
Newsletter – Printing & Production	£840.00
Newsletter - Distribution	£600.00
Community Awards Scheme	£1000.00
Remembrance Sunday	£442.37
Carol Concert	£437.84
Room Hire Charges	£255.00
Replacement computer equipment	£333.29
Election Costs	£1076.00
VAT (to be reclaimed)	£835.13
TOTAL	£18224.13
Income	
Precept	£15684.00
Precept Top-Up Grant	£1816.00
Advertising Income	£40.00
Bank Interest	£8.68
Credit Union Dividend	£50.17
VAT reclaimed	£752.44
Contributions from other parishes for Remembrance Sunday	£210.00
Grant from LCC Parish Champion for Community Notice Board	£450.00
Grant from Government Transparency Fund for Scanner	£70.83
TOTAL	£19082.12