

Adlington Town Council - Annual Report to Electors

2016-17

Mayor's Report

I would like to begin by expressing the sadness felt by council on the death of our colleague and friend, Councillor Stephen Higgins. He continued to work hard for the village throughout his illness and was a serving councillor right up until his death in October. To remember the contribution Cllr Higgins made to our community and to recognise his support for the young people of Adlington we have great pleasure in introducing an award in his name: The Stephen Higgins Young Citizen Award. This will be an annual award for young people who have given their time in service for the community of Adlington.

Last year was a busy one, not least as we started to feel the effect of further cuts to County Council budgets. We were notified that Adlington Library had been identified for closure as part of Lancashire County Council's Property Strategy. Along with the building, including the Surestart Centre, services would also go. As a community we know how important these services are. We contacted LCC with our concerns and officers in charge of assets and the library service attended our June meeting and explained the process. Despite representation from Adlington Town Council, neighbouring parishes, borough councillors, county councillors, residents and a petition of 2000 signatures, LCC confirmed that the library would close. Our library is still open thanks to Chorley Borough Council stepping in to pay for the service until March 2018. We are incredibly grateful for this and for the support they have given to the residents of Adlington. Not only did CBC ensure a continued library service, it also gave much needed time to fight for the library's long term future. Adlington Town Council are grateful to Friends of Adlington Library and CBC for their continued work in securing the future of the building as a library and a community asset.

This year we have worked to improve communication and engagement with residents. This included a stall on the Adlington Carnival field where Adlington Town Councillors were on hand to answer questions and listen to residents' concerns.

Thanks to the generosity of residents, Councillors and groups within the village, fundraising over the year, including a Christmas Fair at Fairview, Christmas Concert donations, Prize Bingo and donations from individuals and organisations have totalled £1264. This sum will be split between Adlington Scout Group, Luncheon Club and providing supervised outdoor sessions for young people.

Clerk's Report

Finance

The precept requested in 2016 was £18,500, an increase of £1,000 on the previous year. The reasons for the increase were a combination of the rising population of the village and the number of new properties being built, and the reduction in funding to local services. Chorley Council provided additional grant funding for the Town Council as in previous years so that the charge to individual residents remained at a similar level. Grants totalling £1700 were awarded by the Town Council to local organisations who applied through the Community Awards scheme. Expenditure in 2016-17 included the purchase of two Automated External Defibrillators and cabinets, one located in Lower Adlington and one in Higher Adlington. Additional funding for these was made available from the Community Infrastructure Levy which is paid by developers to Chorley Council and a portion of which is passed on to fund local infrastructure projects. The North West Ambulance Service paid for one of the defibrillators, Chorley Council assisted in the installation of the equipment in Higher Adlington and Anderton Parish Council donated £250 towards the project. The Council is very grateful to both Chorley Council and the White Bear public house who are providing the ongoing operating power supply to the Higher Adlington and Lower Adlington equipment respectively.

Additional Community Infrastructure Funding received in 2016/17 has been earmarked for the provision of additional play equipment for the new toddler play area currently under construction on the Jubilee Recreation Ground.

The Appendix gives more details of the 2016/17 income and expenditure.

Councillors

Sadly, the death of last year's Mayor Cllr Stephen Higgins in September 2016 left a vacancy on the Council. In addition, Cllr James Banks resigned from the Council in January 2017. Cllr Ainsley Ball was co-opted to the Council in February 2017 and Cllr Kevin O'Donnell in March 2017.

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 2017.

The Council continues to respond to problems reported by residents, and has addressed problems relating to paving, footpaths, lighting and litter by submitting comments, objections and requests for information to the relevant authorities. **Flooding** in the village was a major problem last 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 remains involved in ongoing discussions with the relevant authorities and residents to try to prevent any recurrence of this.

The Council continues to lobby for the improvement of the Adlington rail service and other transport links and is monitoring the effects on the village of the ongoing railway electrification work. It submitted comments and suggestions for replacement bus services at the time the Number 7 bus route was withdrawn. In addition the Council has reported problems with footpaths, rubbish, dog fouling, motorbike nuisance, damage to fencing, gully cleaning, street-sweeping, damage to road signs and the poor condition of road and pavement surfaces to Lancashire County Council, Chorley Council and the local Police as appropriate.

The Council has submitted responses this year to **consultations** relating to The Lancashire County Council Property Strategy which included the plan to close Adlington Library, the proposals to replace the footpath level crossing at Bradshaw Fields with a footbridge, Accident & Emergency provision in the local area, the BT Payphones consultation, the redevelopment of the Grafton Street and Jubilee Recreation Ground Play Areas, and has submitted feedback and suggestions to the organisers of the Ironman event. The Council continues to submit proposed Neighbourhood Priorities to Chorley Council. This year these suggestions have included renovation of benches in the village, an "Adlington Gateway" on the approach to the village and improvements to the King George V recreation ground.

The village was once again entered for the **Lancashire Best Kept Village** competition in 2016 and Higher Adlington received the "Most Improved" Large Village award.

The Council worked in partnership with the North West Ambulance Service to provide **Automated External Defibrillator** devices in two locations in the village, and a third was donated to the Council by Mrs G Walkden and the United Reformed and Methodist Church, where it is located. The AED was donated by Mrs Walkden in memory of her late husband Mr Frank Walkden.

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 have included applications to extend sand extraction at Sandons Farm, matters relating to the Douglas Meadow housing development and the Retreat Restaurant.

In many cases planning permission is granted, but the Council suggests 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. The venue for the meetings was changed in January 2017 and all meetings now take place in Adlington Library. Visitors are welcomed and have this year included many residents with issues and problems they wished to bring to the Council's attention, including last year's flooding issues, bus service changes and the new low-power street lighting.

Other visitors have included the local County Councillor Kim Snape, Brian Hamm who explained the future plans for the use of Adlington Medical Centre, Michelle Graham who explained to the Council the plans for the new "Inspire" youth centre in Chorley and a representative of the local Police. Mel Ormesher (Lancashire County Council Head of Asset Management) and Julie Bell (Lancashire County Council Head of Libraries, Museums, Culture and Registrars' Services) attended the meeting held in June 2016 to explain the plans for the Adlington Library building.

Events

Civic Sunday was held in July 2016 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 as always 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 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
Ainsley Ball	20 Babylon Lane, Adlington, PR6 9NN	01257 485007	Central
June Molyneaux	36 Westhoughton Road, Adlington, PR7 4ET	01257 481184	Central
Kevin O'Donnell	7 Crawford Avenue, Adlington, PR7 4DY	01257 482107	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 2016 to 31 March 2017

Expenditure	
Clerk's Salary	£4850.64
Administrative & Telephone Costs	£280.02
Mayor's Allowance	£750.00
Civic Sunday	£400.00
Insurance	£423.41
Audit	£150.00
Mayor's Inauguration	£149.86
Streetscene Enhancement (hanging baskets/planters/notice board)	£3743.12
RBL Wreath	£20.00
Subscriptions	£688.67
Newsletter – Printing & Production	£840.00
Newsletter - Distribution	£600.00
Community Awards Scheme	£1700.00
Remembrance Sunday	£456.70
Carol Concert	£453.72
Room Hire Charges	£300.00
Automated External Defibrillators	£2065.00
Other Projects & Contingencies (additional room hire)	£192.00
VAT (to be reclaimed)	£1181.18
TOTAL	£19244.32
Income	
Precept	£16684.00
Precept Top-Up Grant	£1816.00
Bank Interest	£7.48
Credit Union Dividend	£50.73
VAT reclaimed	£835.13
Contributions from other parishes for Remembrance Sunday	£210
Contribution from Anderton Parish Council for AED	£250.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£2495.58
TOTAL	£22348.92