

Adlington Town Council Annual Report to Electors 2023/24

Town Mayor's Report

Cllr Nina Buckley

Nina Buckley Town Mayor from 15 May 2023 to 13 May 2024 of Adlington Town Council

Civic Sunday 25 June 2023

On Sunday 25 June 2023 Adlington Town Mayor, Nina Buckley, and ATC Councillors, hosted the Civic Sunday at St Paul's Church and afterwards at St Paul's Club. Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation and support of this day, but especially to St Paul's Church, vicar Fr Graeme Buttery, and the Church Wardens for organising a lovely church service. We were really pleased to welcome Sir Lindsay Hoyle as a guest, along with Mayors from the neighbouring towns of Horwich, Blackrod and Westhoughton. The service was accompanied by the Rivington and Adlington Brass Band.

The Adlington Town Council Civic Awards for 2023 were presented in the club after the church service. These are awarded to residents of Adlington who have been nominated by someone for something they have done, in or for the community.

Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2023



The Adlington and District Civic Remembrance event was held to remember the local people who had fallen in the service of this country. We paraded from the Community Centre to St Paul's Church for the memorial service and then to the Cenotaph on Railway Road for the outdoor dedication and the sounding of the last post. As usual the event was well supported by veterans and the public. We also welcomed The Mayor of Chorley, and local dignitaries from other local town councils.

Carol Concert 18 December 2023

The Adlington Town Council Christmas Carol Concert was held in the community centre which once again was full of residents, councillors along with the Mayor of Chorley, and other local neighbouring Mayors, from Horwich, Westhoughton, and Blackrod. We enjoyed a lovely evening listening to Rivington and Adlington Brass Band and singing along to our favourite carols, followed by a free hotpot supper. Thank you to Councillors and volunteers for making it such an enjoyable night. We also received generous donations including a hamper from a local business. The raffle raised over £550 for the Town Mayor's charity Chorley Women's Centre.

Other events and visits



It has been an honour to take part in other events during the year, including visiting our two schools Adlington Primary and St Paul's Primary, along with Adlington Scouts / Beavers, and Adlington Guides where I was able to present them with a cheque each to help towards their bio-diversity programmes. It was wonderful hearing the ideas that the children came up with on how to spend the money. This is money from Lancashire County Council to help local community groups to build anything from bug hotels to hedgehog homes. I look forward to hearing how their projects grow.

Other events that I have visited along with my consort have included the civic ceremonies of Horwich town Council, Blackrod Town Council, and Westhoughton Town Council. We also attended their Christmas light switch on, along with any charity events they held. It has been lovely building and maintaining the local friendships. We also attend the Mayor of Chorley charity event in December. On Remembrance Sunday we attended the service in Chorley in the morning, before our own in Adlington. Within Adlington it has been wonderful watching shows that were put on at Adlington and District Community Centre.

My charity for this year was Chorley Women's Centre who provided an amazing service to women in Chorley and surrounding area including Adlington. They are an independent charity run by volunteers, who are dedicated to supporting women of all ages and regardless of circumstances. Thanks to your support I donated £600 in cash and 230 toiletry items.

I have been proud to lead the council and although it may not be exciting to residents, one big change that certainly helps behind the scenes is that Adlington Town Council are now signed up for online banking, meaning we no longer must pay for services with cheques, which also helps the environment in a small way! It also means small businesses we deal with can be paid quicker.

A special thank you to my consort Graham for all the work he has put in behind the scenes helping to put up poppies on the village lamp posts, attending the litter pick giving equipment out, and attending all the events with me.

Thank you to everyone for making it a lovely year to serve being Mayor of Adlington Town Council.

Nina Buckley
Mayor 2023 – 2024
Adlington Town Council

Clerk's Report

A newly appointed Town Council

11 of the 12 Town Councillors in the previous administration stood for election for a four year term in May 2023. All were appointed unopposed with one vacancy. This was advertised and filled by co-option. Cllr Lynne Rennison was appointed at the 21 August 2023 meeting.

Cllr Bev Speers stood down as the Town Mayor at the Town Council's Annual meeting on 15 May 2023. Cllr Nina Buckley, as the Deputy Mayor, was elected the new Town Mayor. On the basis of length of service, it was proposed that Cllr Kim Snape be nominated as the Deputy Mayor. This was approved at the 22 May 2023 Town Council meeting.

The Town Council was pleased to deliver its traditional annual programme of civic events and community initiatives. During the year, the Town Mayor hosted dignitaries from Chorley Council and the neighbouring Town Councils of Blackrod, Horwich and Westhoughton in Bolton at the Town Council's civic programme. The Town Mayor and her Consort, Mr Graham Buckley represented Adlington Town Council throughout the year as guests of these Councils at their civic events.

Meetings

The Town Council met every month. The meetings are well-attended. All meetings take place in Adlington Library. The Town Council invites residents who wish to raise an issue of local concern to do so with the Clerk and/or by attending the 30-minute Open Forum at the start of each monthly meeting to speak directly to the Town Council.

A consultation took place during the Town Council's Open Forum at the start of its 22 May meeting to discuss Chorley Council's proposals to improve the Jubilee Recreation Ground which 18 residents attended. As a result of concerns expressed, Chorley Council revised the plan for further public consultation. The agreed proposals are currently being carried out on site.

The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

The Town Council worked with the three Parish Councils in the Adlington District, St Paul's Church and local community groups to agree and promote a programme of community activities delivered on the 6, 7 and 8 May 2023 to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. These were part funded by a £1k grant secured by the local councils from The Big Lottery Community Fund.

From their own resources, the four local councils bought a small commemorative gift for pupils attending one of the nursery or primary schools in the Adlington District which were presented by Adlington Town Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and a representative from Anderton, Heath Charnock or Rivington Parish Councils. Each council publicised the Coronation activity programme in their Newsletters, website, and notice boards and on social media

Village Matters

The annual Village litter pick and local environmental clean-up day on 8 July 2023 was jointly arranged with Adlington & District in Bloom. The Town Council was grateful to both Chorley Council and Jigsaw Housing Association who each paid for a large skip for household refuse items, and for the assistance of Chorley Council's Street Scene team.

The public response was very positive. Some items brought to the skips were, with the owners' consent, recycled via St Catherine's Hospice Adlington Charity Shop and bicycles and mobility aids were passed on to the Chorley Ukraine Appeal rather than go into landfill.

The litter pick was well supported and took place before the second round of judging of the Village entries in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition which Cllr Lowe had submitted. Although the Village was not as successful as in 2022, Deighan's Funeral Parlour won the Outstanding Features Industrial and Commercial Premises category. The Town Mayor presented Mr and Mrs Deighan with their Certificate at the Town Council's Carol Concert on 18 December 2023.

Cllrs Robinson and O'Donnell informally monitor the condition of the Adlington Circular Walk, its boundaries and signage for health and safety reasons and to maintain public access. The Town Council reports identified repairs or concerns to Lancashire County Council's Public Right of Way Team.

The Town Council has continued to support two successful, much needed services for Adlington residents:

- The Adlington Satellite Youth Club which began in October 2022, as a joint venture between Fairview Youth and Community Centre, Inspire Youth Zone, and the Police. Early indications have been positive in the reduction of anti-social behaviour in the area. The local councils in the Adlington District and community groups have helped to keep this essential local facility open throughout the year by volunteering to assist at each session, by fund-raising, or being active within the Steering Group which was set up to oversee and support the Club's continuation, and
- The weekly Adlington Good Food Club, launched on 17 April 2023 as collaboration between Chorley Buddies, St Pauls Church, local volunteers who run it and the local

councils and community organisations who helped to secure start-up funding. The ethos of the Food Club is to reduce the amount of good food going to land fill, with a non-means tested membership. The Club has been able to help residents, often in desperate financial circumstances due to the cost of living crisis, who have been supported with food and other household goods, and where required, have been referred for advice from other specialist voluntary organisations and/ or for help to Chorley Council's Household Support Fund. 3,045 shopping visits have been supported in the first year of the Food Club's operation.

The Town Council continues to do its best to respond directly to problems reported to it by residents either by replying directly and /or referring matters on to either Chorley or Lancashire County Councils, or other relevant agencies for their assistance to address the identified concerns.

The Town Council maintains three **Automated External Defibrillators** which are in place around the Village.

Planning

Chorley Council is the Local Planning Authority. It carries out a formal consultation procedure for each planning application, which includes notification to neighbours and stakeholder organisations. Chorley Council decides whether planning permission should be granted or not.

The Town Council continues to monitor all planning applications in Adlington and welcomes representations from all interested parties. The Town Council comments as a consultee. This, together with the views of residents, gives the Local Planning Authority an indication of local opinion. In some cases, the comments expressed may help the Local Planning Authority to suggest changes or conditions for the benefit of the community and/or to protect the environment when deciding each planning application.

Civic Events

Civic Sunday was held on 25 June 2023. It was well-supported by the Civic party, local groups, and individuals. The informal social gathering afterwards in St Paul's Church Social Club was successfully used again as the opportunity to present the Town Council's 2023 Citizen and Junior Citizen Awards.

The Adlington District Civic Remembrance service and procession held on 12 November 2023 was well supported by both participants and members of the public who gathered to watch the wreaths being laid at the Adlington and District War Memorial.

The 2023 Carol Concert led by Rivington & Adlington Brass Band was back to its usual level of popularity, with a packed Adlington and District Community Centre.

Representation of Adlington

The opportunity to represent the Town Council on external bodies has included: the quarterly Chorley Liaison meetings, where the Town Mayor represents the Town Council. These continue to be held as hybrid events allowing attendance either in person or by participation on-line.

Several issues which affect the Adlington District have been discussed and resolved by joint working with other local councils, Chorley Council and as appropriate with Lancashire County Council. This includes the agreement on the setting up of a Speed Indicator Device, initially on

Railway Road, which will be moved to agreed locations in the District to encourage drivers to slow down.

In this way, Adlington Town Council continues to address local issues and problems and welcomes the involvement of all members of the local community in ensuring a positive future for the Village.

Finance Income

Adlington Town Council received the annual precept in May 2023 from Chorley Council comprising £19,084 from the local “tax base”, enhanced by a top-up grant of £1,816. The remainder of the Town Council’s income (monies received) in the 2023/24 financial year of £5,272.42 included:

- A National Lottery Fund grant of £1,000 to support the community-led Coronation activities.
- The VAT reclaimed from HMRC by the Town Council which had been incurred on some expenditure in the previous financial year
- A £250 donation from a local business towards the cost of closing Railway Road to through traffic on Remembrance Sunday and pro-rata contributions from each of the local councils in the Adlington District to pay for the rest of the costs
- Lancashire County Council awarded the Town Council a £300 bio-diversity grant in both for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial year. The Town Council offered £150 to the two Primary Schools in Adlington Village, to the Second Adlington St Paul’s Guides and the Adlington Scout Group to each carry out projects to enhance nature and the environment in the Village. This has included making and hanging bird boxes, bird seed feeders and a bug hotel.

Expenditure

The Town Council managed its expenditure as efficiently as possible to operate within the income received and to retain some reserves as a contingency if needed in the future. During the year, the Town Council paid for:

- Its full civic calendar and community initiatives
- 80 floral hanging baskets on 40 lamp posts in the Village. This contract is supplied, maintained and taken down annually by Chorley Council
- Four editions of the Town Council’s Update Newsletter, as the Spring 2023 edition was delayed to be able to advertise the District Coronation activities. The Town Council believes the Newsletter is a valuable means of letting people know, ‘what’s-on’, particularly for those who do not have access to social media. The Town Council pays Adlington Scout Group to deliver the printed copy to each household in the Village
- The Community Grant Programme. This was advertised. This year, only Adlington Luncheon Club applied for a grant towards the cost of a day’s outing by coach for its members.
- Plants for its own planters located at Market Place, under the Notice board on Park Road and at the War Memorial, which the Town Council like many other local businesses and organisations, sponsor to support the Adlington in Bloom volunteers who splash colour wherever they can, and,
- Although the Town Council did not make any financial contribution this year, it was very grateful to individual businesses and community organisations who continued to support the

small lit Christmas tree initiative in 2023 to light up their premises during the darker winter nights. This year the Town Council helped by advertising the Scheme, co-ordinating the with the lit-tree supplier and by encouraging residents and other businesses join in to light their own properties.

A full breakdown of the 2023/24 income and expenditure is in the Appendix 1.

Information about the Town Council's Activities and local public information

The Council has a Website, Facebook and is on Twitter. It uses all three to give out information and updates the website and its four Noticeboards across the Village twice monthly.

The Council's website www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk lists the Town Councillors, the meeting schedule, and information on local events. Each month, the Town Council adds its meeting agendas and minutes as they take place during the year.

The Council's Facebook page is updated every week with local news and public information and achieves between 2000 and 3000 views <https://www.facebook.com/AdlingtonTC>

The King's Coronation events in May 2023 used the Town Council's Facebook as a central and up to date point of contact.

The Town Council is on Twitter where Council meetings are also advertised at [@AdlingtonTC](http://www.twitter.co.uk)

How to Contact Adlington Town Council

Please contact Adlington Town Council through the Town Clerk: Ms Christine Bailey

Address: 12, Berry Square, Blackrod, BL6 5DU

Telephone: 07896 729646

Email: clerk@adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk

Website address: www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AdlingtonTC>

Twitter: [@AdlingtonTC](http://www.twitter.co.uk)

Members of Adlington Town Council in the 2023/24 year

Councillor	Phone	Ward
Kevin O'Donnell	01257 482107	Central
June Molyneaux	01257 481184	Central
Stuart Clewlow	07866 925602	Central

Alison Rothwell	07549 532689	North
Jeanette Lowe	01257 481415	North
Lynne Rennison	01257 485080	North
Alan Robinson	01257 752112	West
Kim Snape (Deputy Mayor)	07868 327395	West
Amanda Cross	07812 413854	West
Beverley Speers	01257 481321	East
Peter Walkden	07777 606726	East
Nina Buckley (Town Mayor)	07826 819117	East

Appendix 1 - Financial Summary 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Expenditure	
Gross Clerk's Salary	7,775.04
Clerk's mileage costs	137.70
Administrative & Telephone Costs	1,134.83
Insurance	529.79
Audit	468.00
Subscriptions (Data protection licence)	40.00
Town Mayor's Allowance	850.00
Civic Sunday	580.75
Election Expenses	623.52
Town Mayor's Inauguration	234.75
Civic Remembrance Sunday	1,197.50
Carol Concert	720.00
RBL Wreath	25.00
Streetscene Enhancement (hanging baskets/planters/community initiatives)	5,236.46
Newsletter – Print (4 issues paid for in this year due to King's Coronation, May 23)	1,580.00
Newsletter distribution - 5 deliveries (one cheque presented from 22/23 year)	1,250.00
Community Awards Scheme	250.00
Community Asset & Service Support	0.00
Automated External Defibrillators - consumables	0.00
ATC's own meeting room hire charges	299.00
Other Projects & Contingencies: Purchase aprons and name badges for Adlington Food Club volunteers	64.00
King's Coronation: support for community-led activities in the Adlington District	1,062.12
CIL Expenditure (no CIL monies awarded/held by ATC)	0.00
LCC Bio Diversity Grants- allocated to two primary schools and the Uniformed Youth Groups	600.00
22/23 Town Mayor's Charitable Donation received in March 23 for the Brass Band	300.00
UTB Fees & Charges	37.16
TOTAL	24,995.62
<i>The above figures includes VAT which will be reclaimed in 2023/24 of £1,288.84</i>	
Income	

Precept (received from Chorley Council with top-up grant of £1,816)	20,900.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	0.00
Lancashire County Council bio-diversity grants received for 22/23 and 23/24 years	600.00
Bank Interest	259.55
Credit Union Dividend: net of fees	184.55
Contributions from Local Organisations towards Community Initiatives:	
External donation (£250) and Parish Council contributions towards Remembrance Sunday	655.19
Adlington District King's Coronation community events, May 2023	369.55
National Lottery Community Fund Grant for Adlington District Coronation activities	1,000.00
VAT (2022/2023) reclaimed	2,203.58
TOTAL	26,172.42
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,176.80
Based on ATC's financial records as submitted for Independent Audit on 27.4.24	