

ANNUAL REPORT OF NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

2020 – 2021

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Nantwich Town Council Mayor Councillor Pam Kirkham

When I was elected Mayor on 5 May 2020, I could never have anticipated the year ahead! No one could have predicted a global pandemic, Covid-19, would disrupt the lives of everyone around the world as it has done. Nantwich Town Council held its final face-to-face meeting on 19th March 2020 and then moved to a remote method of working.

My mayoral year has been like no other with the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm sure I will be known as the virtual Mayor in the years to come.

The Civic Hall office operations had to quickly move on-line with some staff working from home whilst others unfortunately had to be placed on furlough. Our council meetings were held remotely via Zoom from April 2020. During the year as lockdown restrictions eased COVID-19 secure working arrangements were put in place so that staff returning to work were safe.

Although I have not been able to attend the usual events our town usually hosts, nor have I been able to meet as many residents as I had hoped, it has been very inspiring to see how the communities have pulled together, helping those in need at such challenging times. I did have the privilege to acknowledge and reward the remarkable work of the Nantwich Community over the past 12 months through the Town Council's Community Hero Awards during the Annual Town Meeting in April.

For the events that I was able to attend I have enjoyed them greatly. It was lovely to meet new people and see their valuable work and how the various organisations operate. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and organisations who have done so much for one another, and the town, during the pandemic. I would also like to thank our brilliant local NHS workers.



Town Council

The Town Council has 12 Councillors who are elected to represent one of the two wards in the town. Councillors are elected to service a period of four years.

The Councillors serving from May 2019 to May 2023 are:

North & West Ward

Pam Kirkham (Mayor)
Stuart Bostock (Deputy Mayor)
Penny Butterill
Arthur Moran
John Statham
Carole Thomas
Stephanie Wedgwood

South Ward

David Marren
David Greaves
Peter Groves
Andrew Martin
Philip Staley

Officers for the period of the annual report were:

Town Clerk – Samantha Roberts
Facilities Manager – David Thomas
Deputy Facilities Manager – Paul Maren
Marketing Manager – Sheryl Birtles
Civic Hall Assistant Manager – Ben Clarke
Duty Manager – Electrician – Nigel Timmis
Duty Manager – Technical – Ken Southern
Halls Assistant – Joshua Galloway
Markets Supervisor – Mike Elsby
Markets Assistant – Jordan Marsh
Tourist Information Officers – Katie Shard and Ceylon Hinett
General Assistants – Angela Minshull and Pat Allman



Council Meetings

The Town Council has a number of committees, the dates for the meetings in 2020/21 were:

Council: 15 May 2020, 11 June 2020, 16 July 2020, 10 September 2020, 8 October 2020, 5 November 2020, 10 December 2020, 14 January 2021, 4 February 2021, 4 March 2021, 22 April 2021.

Finance: 24 September 2020, 29 October 2020, 19 November 2020, 28 January 2021, 18 February 2021, 18 March 2021.

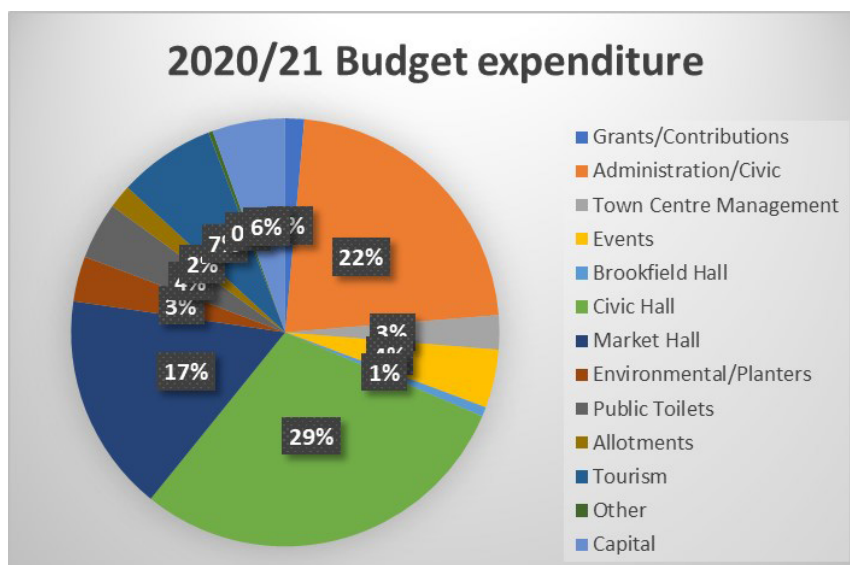
Policy: 15 October 2020, 21 January 2021, 11 March 2021

Staffing: 12 November 2020

How is the Town Council Financed?

In 2020/21 approximately half of the Town Councils expended funds came from a precept which is added to the Council Tax levy set by the Principal Authority. In 2020/21 the precept was £673,005.

Below is a summary of the income and expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021. The funds are spend providing services and representing the people of Nantwich. In broad terms, in 2020/21 the Town Council spent the money raised on the following:



Grants/Contributions: £14,209.00, Administration/Civic: £220,714.00, Town Centre Management: £25,553.00 Events: £43,612.00. Brookfield Hall: £7,094.00, Civic Hall: £291,105.00, Market Hall: £163,617.00, Environmental: £33,821.00, Public Toilets: £42,608.00, Allotments: £17,679.00, Tourism: £72,664.00, Other: £3,219.00, Capital: £54,559.00

Grants Given

The Town Council has supported local voluntary and community groups with £14,209 in grants and support give in 2020/21, including:

Name		£
Nantwich in Bloom	Various floral displays	3,000
Nantwich Museum Trust	Revenue contributions	7,000
Nantwich First Responders	Vehicle insurance	1,369
Nantwich Foodbank	Annual grant	1,000
Virtual school Santa show	All primary schools	1,140
Redshift Radio	COVID Thank You boards	200
Redshift Radio	Nantwich Buddies	500
Total:		£14,209





Services Provided

Nantwich Town Council is one of the largest of the 108 town and parish councils in Cheshire East. The Town Council provides the most local tier of government for Nantwich.

It serves the local community by:



- Providing an essential link between town residents and Cheshire East Borough Council to ensure grass roots views are heard and considered;
- Encourages economic development and regeneration of the town;
- Examining Planning and Licensing applications and giving opinions to the Borough Council on behalf of local residents;
- Providing financial support to a variety of community groups and organisations which support the well-being of Nantwich residents.
- Managing a range of local services and facilities to benefit Nantwich including:

* CCTV – The Town Council pays for the provision and upgrade of the CCTV around the town which is managed by Cheshire East Council.

* Allotments – The Town Council provides four allotment sites at Brookfield 1, Brookfield 2, Wellington Road and Welshman's Lane.

* Indoor Market – Which operates from the Market Hall on Market Street, and is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

* Seasonal outdoor markets – Including regular Farmer's Market, Artisan markets, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter markets throughout the year.

* Brookfield Hall Community rooms – Large and small rooms for hire.

* Civic Hall – Since the transfer of the Civic Hall from Cheshire East Council in 2012, the Town Council has worked hard to upgrade the fabric and facilities and now has a thriving community venue. As the Town Council supports community use for a large proportion of available hire, financially the Civic is running at an operational loss. However, since 2012 until the pandemic of 2020 the loss has reduced year on year due to a busy events calendar most weekends with sell out shows and a licensed bar to ensure it provides good value for the residents of Nantwich.

* Public Conveniences, Market Street – Provision of male and female toilets, and a changing place facility for disabled users. The toilets are cleaned and maintained by the Town Council and are considered a key service to the visiting and local community.

Key Achievements

Some of the memorable achievements and progress on the Town Council's Corporate objectives of 2020-21 were:

THEME ONE: Planning a sustainable future for our town

- Public consultation on the Town Council's first Corporate Plan
- Approved the new Corporate Plan for 2020-2023
- Developed a town promotional video to help the town's recovery after the first lockdown
- Revised the Allotment Management Policy
- Approved the Town Council's Plastic Reduction Policy and supported the objectives of Plastic Free Nantwich
- Responded to Cheshire East consultation on local transport and parking plans
- Responded to Cheshire East's Corporate Plan consultation
- Considered and gave feedback on xxx planning applications
- Representation of the Town Council on the Area Highway Group to discuss the winter maintenance service.

THEME TWO: Work with others to preserve and promote local arts

- Continued financial support of the Museum
- Funded the coverage of CCTV in the town and supported Pub Watch
- Reviewed the current provision of public toilets and began feasibility study on the former Snowhill site
- Refurbished the War Memorial
- Looked for opportunities to enhance Nantwich Market through promotional video, and Christmas competition.

THEME THREE: Continuing to develop and learn as an organisation

- Introduced new HR policies and appraisal system
- Worked towards the Local Council Award Gold accreditation
- Developed a 3/5-year maintenance plan for current street furniture and council owned land (including allotments)
- Developed and launched a new look, accessible website
- Encouraged the engagement of the public in Council meetings (through attendance and public speaking) with increased attendance through the medium of Zoom.

THEME FOUR: Supporting people, groups and organisations to help create and maintain a thriving community

- Delivered the Community Grants Scheme for local organisations within Nantwich
- Worked with volunteers and stakeholders to create a therapy community garden, donating an allotment at the Brookfield site and having councillor representatives on the working group.
- Supported the work of Nantwich in Bloom
- Worked in partnership with the NHS to create a COVID-19 vaccination centre at the Civic Hall

THEME FIVE: Delivering more services locally to meet the needs and aspirations of our community

- Worked with Market Traders to develop an agreed market stall pricing policy
- Worked with Allotment Holders to develop an agreed allotment rent Policy

Key Priorities for 2021/22

- Help Nantwich community recover from the pandemic through partnership enabling and working
- Seek to extend and improve our floral display through continued support of Nantwich in Bloom
- Ensure the cleanliness of the town centre remains at a high standard by
- Investing in additional resources with the introduction of a Town Ranger
- In areas where there is a high percentage of take away restaurants to work with the owners to ensure that surrounding streets are regularly patrolled, and extraneous litter is collected, working with Cheshire East ensuring they meet their obligations
- Carry out repairs and improvements to The Pillory
- Seek to extend the CCTV provision
- Work with community organisations to support events, activities and volunteer programmes across the town and continue to develop the Town Council's events programme, including street entertainment
- Promote small grants scheme within Nantwich sports clubs and community groups and associations
- Review how tourism can be better supported through partnership working
- Consider the development of a Tourism Strategy
- Increase awareness of Comfort Scheme
- Investigate feasibility to introduce live stream meetings
- Complete feasibility study on the former Snowhill site

