

Adlington Town Council Annual Report to Electors 2022-23

Town Mayor's Report

Cllr Bev Speers

Jubilee Celebrations 2022

Adlington Town Council with the adjoining Parish Councils of Anderton and Heath Charnock planned a series of local community-led events to celebrate the Adlington and District Queen's Platinum Jubilee from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022. We published a free Queen's Platinum Jubilee Trail Programme in May which was delivered to every property across the district. The response to the full programme of events was amazing and well attended with positive feedback from residents with something for every age group and interest. I managed to attend every event accompanied by my husband, John who has been my escort for the year.

Civic Sunday 26 July 2022

On Sunday 26 July 2022 Adlington Town Mayor, Bev Speers, 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 Pauls Church, our new vicar Fr Graeme Buttery, and the Church Wardens for organising a lovely church service. The service was accompanied by the Rivington and Adlington Brass Band. The Adlington Town Council Civic Awards for 2022 were presented in the club after the church service. These are awarded to residents of Adlington who have been nominated by someone in the community for something they have done, in or for the community, to contribute to our society and to make it all the richer.

Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2022

The Adlington and District Civic Remembrance event was blessed by excellent weather to remember those 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. The event was well supported by veterans and the public.

Carol Concert December 19 2022

The Adlington Town Council Christmas Carol Concert was held in the community centre which was filled with residents, councillors and local dignitaries and the event was full of Christmas cheer and where the free hotpot supper was well received. With help from Councillors and other volunteers and generous donations of hampers from local businesses, we ran a raffle which raised over £400 for the Mayor's Charities.

We enjoyed a lovely evening listening to Rivington and Adlington Brass Band and singing along to our favourite carols. I was delighted to be accompanied by the Mayors from Blackrod, Horwich and Westhoughton.

Other Events and Visits

It has been a great pleasure to take part in other events during the year, including visiting all five schools in the area to deliver Jubilee and Coronation gifts to the children, gifts which we extended

to the nursery schools totalling almost 1,000 children for each event. I have also attended the sad occasions of services dedicated to the late Queen Elizabeth II both in Adlington and Chorley and the Proclamation of King Charles III hosted by the Chorley Mayor.

The success we had experienced during the Jubilee events was repeated this year with our Coronation Celebration programme, events hosted by local groups supported by Adlington Town Council in conjunction with Anderton, Heath Charnock and Rivington Parish Councils. John and I again managed to attend every event and the response from the residents has been fabulous.

A lot of fund-raising and wise purchasing in the background enabled us to deliver events that were free at the point of entry, and, we were also able to support, with funds, some other voluntary groups in the district with their own coronation events.

My theme for the year has been "Community Spirit" which has been shown in abundance over the year, from many residents making substantial contributions to charity to small acts of kindness that have brightened someone's day, a lot of which have been captured and recorded on our Facebook pages.

My charities for this year have been two local good causes, The Rivington and Adlington Band and @sallycancer foundation both of which I was proud to present with cheques for £850 each.



For John and I this has been an exceptional year with the Platinum Jubilee starting my term as Mayor and the Kings Coronation ending it, I have been proud to lead the council during this period and as well as the extra events we have carried through our normal busy business agenda. The opening of the Adlington youth club and the food club have been of great satisfaction to me, and I thank whole heartedly those councillors and partners who have helped us to achieve this.

It is hard to list everyone I need to thank for making this year so special, but I do need to acknowledge the amount of voluntary work carried out across our village that make this place such a good place to live. I have listed many on our social media site but I am sure there will be many volunteers hidden from view who also deserve a mention, and I also need to mention the businesses who have contributed to our efforts.

I THANK YOU ALL

Family affair

A special thank you to my husband and escort John for all the work he has put in behind the scenes from assembling jubilee badges and football medals and putting together over 1200 coronation magnets to putting up poppies on the village lamp posts, with my son in law Jonathan. Thank you to my daughter Lesli for her donations which have helped to provide refreshments at the youth club, one of the hampers for the Christmas raffle and the generous donation towards the Mayors Charity Fund and lending a helping hand wherever she has been. Also, to my granddaughter Amelia who on university breaks has acted as hostess to official guests and general labourer in the background, I couldn't have done this without them.

Bev Speers

Mayor 2022 – 2023

Adlington Town Council

Clerk's Report

Finance

Income

Adlington Town Council set its 2022/23 budget in November 2021. It chose to maintain the precept at £19,000, as it had for the previous two financial years on the understanding that it would use some of its own reserves to ensure income and expenditure was in balance at the 31 March 2023 year-end. By May 2022, the Town Council had already delivered on this commitment in an unforeseen way, using reserves to comply with Lancashire County Council's reduced weight restriction for hanging floral baskets on lamp posts. This necessitated the purchase of 80 lightweight half- baskets for display on 40 lamp posts in the Village just in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Chorley Council as the District authority paid the precept in April 2022 comprising £17,184 from the local "tax base", enhanced by a top-up grant of £1,816. The remainder of the Town Council's income (monies received) of £7,689 comprised:

- Local business or community organisations' contributions to pay for the small lit Christmas trees on their premises through the Light Adlington scheme which the Town Council has co-ordinated and contributed towards for the last three years
- The VAT reclaimed from HMRC as spent by the Town Council in the previous financial year
- A donation from a local business towards the cost of closing Railway Road to through traffic on Remembrance Sunday and pro-rata contributions from the other three Parish Councils in the Adlington District towards the remaining costs
- Pro-rata contributions from the adjacent Anderton and Heath Charnock Parish Councils towards the cost of promoting and enabling the district's joint council Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemorative celebrations from 2-5 June 2022
- A donation received in support of one of the Town Mayor's charities, and
- Three donations from local businesses towards the proposed purchase of a Chain of Office for the Deputy Mayor.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased again in 2022/23. The Town Council delivered its full civic calendar and invested in various environmental and community initiatives to reflect both national initiatives and local needs. During the year, the biggest expenditure was on the:

- Replacement of the floral lamp post baskets at just over £4k and a similar amount on the annual supply, display and maintenance contact with Chorley Council
- Backing of the community-led activities in the Adlington District to mark the unique national occasion of the Seventieth Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's reign. Through the hard work of many volunteers, this created a Trail Programme around the District, some special moments in the Village, and helped to bring people together again after isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Three editions of the Town Council's Update Newsletter were produced. This 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
- Community Grant Programme which the Town Council used to donate £1,000 to ensure the continuation of the two hour weekly session of the Adlington Youth Club, after a successful eight-week pilot in late 2022. The Town Council also asked for revenue funding contributions from other councils, local community facility providers and charitable trusts. As a result, the Youth Club is funded during 2023. Chorley Council will take on this fund-raising support role.
- Small Christmas tree initiative enjoyed growing support, with 51 lit trees sponsored by 41 organisations to brighten the Village on dark evenings and to hopefully bring more custom into Adlington. Residents and other businesses join in by lighting their own properties.
- 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,
- The Town Council had the Mayoral Chains cleaned, updated to carry the names of recent Town Mayors, and purchased a fitted case to better protect them.

A full breakdown of the 2022/23 income and expenditure is in the Appendix 1.

Councillors

The Town Council has maintained a full complement of 12 Councillors throughout the year. Each Councillor must decide whether to stand for re-election in May 2023.

Cllr Kevin O'Donnell stood down as the Town Mayor after 20 months of leading the Town Council. Cllr Beverley Speers, who was appointed as the Deputy Mayor in September 2020, was elected as the Town Mayor on 10 May 2022. Cllr Nina Buckley was elected as the Deputy Mayor. Both have led the Town Council during the busy 2022/23 financial year

The Town Council was pleased to be able to re-start its traditional annual programme of civic events and community initiatives. The Town Mayor was able to invite the dignitaries of neighbouring local councils to take part in the Town Council's civic programme. Both the Town Mayor and the Deputy Mayor have accepted a variety of invitations to attend other civic events and have attended a wide range of local community group activities. They also attended ceremonies to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and sadly to mourn her passing. The Town Council set up a Book of Condolence for the late Queen in Adlington Library where it has been kept.

Village Matters

The annual Village litter pick and local environmental clean-up day was jointly arranged with Adlington & District in Bloom in September 2022. 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 positive with some items going for recycling rather than to landfill.

Cllr Lowe again put forward the Town Council's entries into the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition to great success. In October 2022, Cllr Lowe confirmed that Adlington had won the large village category and was presented with the Certificate. Several locations in the Village and some of its features were also named or commended as Outstanding.

Cllrs Robinson and O'Donnell informally assessed different sections of the Adlington Circular Walk to examine the condition of the footpath, the boundary fencing and the signage to identify any maintenance requirements along the route.

The Town Council has supported the opening of two successful new amenities for Adlington residents:

- The Adlington Youth Club 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 antisocial behaviour in the area and,
- The weekly Adlington Good Food Club as a collaboration between Adlington Town Council, Chorley Buddies and St Pauls Church. The ethos of the food club is to reduce the amount of good food going to land fill, with a non-means tested membership. It has also met the needs of some families who have benefitted from the help in this difficult economic climate.

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.

On behalf of the community, the Town Council has voiced local concerns to Northern Rail, to Lancashire County Council and to Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport through the support of our MP, Sir Lindsay Hoyle to ask for the re-instatement of the hourly stopping train service at Adlington Station as a minimum. The implementation of the revised timetable from December 22 has achieved this.

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 gives the Local Planning Authority an indication of local opinion and may suggest changes or conditions for the benefit of existing residents and/or to protect the environment for Chorley Council to consider in deciding on each planning application.

Two major planning applications were submitted to Chorley Council during the year. Neither has yet been determined. The Town Council has made comments on both. The Open Forum at the start of the Town Council's monthly meeting was used to give the opportunity for residents to collectively express their opinions on both applications. Open Forum discussion took place in respect of a proposed supermarket in the centre of the Village at each of the Town Council's monthly meetings from May to August 2022. At the August meeting an application to build 139 new homes was considered by the Town Council and in September 2022, was discussed again with residents from an adjacent residential development. The Town Council forwarded their comments and suggestions made at the meeting on to the Planning Authority

Meetings

The Council meets every month, and the meetings are well-attended. All meetings take place in Adlington Library. The Town Council has continued to invite 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 Town Council monthly meeting to speak directly to the Town Council.

The Town Council completed a series of joint meetings in July 2022 which had been held with Anderton and Heath Charnock Parish Councils to plan for and to review the Queen's Platinum Jubilee activities. These meetings also engaged with a diverse range of local community, church and voluntary groups, youth engagement, sports clubs and facility providers which worked very well.

A similar approach has been followed in planning for the District's King's Coronation celebrations by the local councils in the district, this time including Rivington Parish Council, working with representatives from the Church, community organisations and the schools. A similar, but smaller in scale, series of community-led events is all arranged. Each will be open to the public to take part in, to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on 6, 7 and 8 May 2023.

The Town Council invited the Manager of Chorley Council's Street Scene Team to discuss how the Service delivered the grounds maintenance and street cleaning service to reach a better understanding of the Town Council's expectations and quality standards.

Events

Civic Sunday was held on 26 June 2022. It was well-supported by the Civic party, local groups, and individuals. The informal social gathering after the Civic Service was successfully used again as the opportunity to present the Town Council's 2022 Citizen and Junior Citizen Awards.

The Civic Remembrance Sunday service and procession held on 13 November 2022 was well supported by both participants and members of the public who gathered to watch the proceedings at the Adlington and District War Memorial.

The 2022 Carol Concert led by Rivington & Adlington Brass Band was back to its usual level of popularity being very well attended.

Representation

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 has achieved:

- A joint agreement for Speed Indicator Devices to be displayed in agreed locations in the district to encourage drivers to slow down
- Revenue grants and funding to deliver the two hour per week Adlington Youth Club, run by Youth Workers from Inspire, accommodated at Fairview Youth and Community Centre, and delivered with the help of the Police, in particular, PCSO Fern Jones, and
- Collaborative working to bring together a suitable local venue, the expertise of Chorley-based voluntary organisations, sufficient start-up funding, a food supply chain, and volunteer helpers to set up a much-needed Food Club which both the Adlington Town Mayor and Chorley Ward Councillor June Molyneaux have been instrumental in progressing to its launch on 17 April 2023

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.

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, to offer various contact options, and it updates its four Noticeboards across the Village twice monthly.

The Council's website www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk is updated on a regular basis.

The Town Council regularly adds information on its annual meeting programme, meeting Agendas and minutes, and on the Town Council initiatives as they take place during the year.

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

Both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the recent King's Coronation events 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: www.twitter.co.uk @AdlingtonTC

Members of Adlington Town Council in 2022/23

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
Peter Wilson	01257 474678	North
Alan Robinson	01257 752112	West
Kim Snape	07868 327395	West
Amanda Cross	07812 413854	West
Beverley Speers	01257 481321	East
Peter Walkden	07777 606726	East
Nina Buckley	07568 733129	East

Appendix 1 - Financial Summary 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Expenditure	
Clerk's Gross Salary (net and PAYE to HMRC)	6800.56
Clerk's mileage costs	159.30
Administrative & Telephone Costs	840.22
Insurance	1094.42
Audit	396.00
Subscriptions	100.00
Mayor's Allowance	850.00
Civic Sunday (venue hire, Band & refreshments)	510.00
Mayor's Inauguration	170.00
Remembrance Sunday	1,535.70
Carol Service (venue hire, refreshments & Band)	673.13
RBL Wreath and Large Poppies for Lamp Posts	85.00
Streetscene Enhancement (annual maintenance contract floral baskets, small lit christmas trees, planters & minor repairs to Noticeboard, Community Noticeboard revarnish & repaint a bench)	9,118.99
Training costs	-
Newsletter – Printing & Production	670.00
Newsletter - Distribution	791.80
Community Awards Scheme: payments in 2022 and 2023, including Adlington Youth Group	2,130.00
Community Asset & Service Support (purchase of 80 lightweight lamp post floral baskets)	4,010.40
Automated External Defibrillators - consumables	120.00
Room Hire Charges	342.00
Other Projects & Contingencies – comprises LBKVC entry fees; £500 donation to internal restoration of Astley Hall; valuation & cleaning of the Mayoral chains; certificate frames & condolence flowers	1,026.50
King's Coronation	603.40
Queens Platinum Jubilee and legacy of a fitted case for the Mayoral Chains	4,781.92
LCC Lampost Inspections	-
CIL Expenditure	-
TOTAL	36,809.34
<i>The above figures includes VAT which will be reclaimed in 2023/24</i>	
Income	
Precept	17,184.00
Precept Top-Up Grant	1,816.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	
Bank Interest	45.85
Credit Union Dividend - net of fees	-
Contributions from local organisations towards Community Initiatives (Light Adlington 22)	3,130.00
Donation and Parish Council contributions towards Remembrance Sunday	796.36
Contributions from other parishes towards the District Queen's Platinum Jubilee	1,630.55
Donation received for the Town Mayor Charities	300.00
Donations received and held towards Deputy Mayor's Chain	225.00
VAT (2021/2022) reclaimed	1,561.27
TOTAL	26,689.03
Reserves used to meet expenditure during 2022/23 financial year	- 10,120.31