

Adlington Town Council - Annual Report to Electors

2019-20

Mayor's Report

When I took over as Mayor of this Village I did not know how busy a year it would be from day one up until March 2020! Then unfortunately, the social distancing measures led to the planned activities and events of the last weeks of my Mayoral year, having to be cancelled or re-arranged. However, it has been a really interesting experience which I and my wife, as Mayoress, have thoroughly enjoyed.

I have attended many functions and events in and outside of the village to represent both the Town Council and the residents of Adlington Village. On a personal note I was delighted to have been involved with our local communities. The kind words said will stay with me for a long time.

Adlington has always been a caring and friendly place to live. This has been shown by the way that the whole community has come together to support the vulnerable and others in the lock down situation during the current Corona Virus Pandemic. There have been many groups set up using social media to keep people informed of what is happening, as well as offering support. For others not able to access such platforms, there was an action taken by the Adlington Covid-19 group, which involved people putting small notes through the letter boxes offering help for: shopping, prescription pick-ups or even a friendly phone chat. I was involved with this scheme and received many kind comments from grateful residents of the community.

I would like to thank residents from the Village and nearby for their donations and help with the Christmas Carol Concert, the hotpot supper and the raffle . The charities supported this year were: Foal, Project Perform and The Adlington Area Friendship Group. The total amount raised so far is £1,000, with additional donations still to come. However, the big event was to have been the VE Day Charity Event, run in conjunction with Foal, which has been postponed.

I would also like to thank our Deputy Mayor Cllr Ainsley Ball for all his support this year and wish him well for next year as Mayor.

Cllr Peter Walken

Mayor of Adlington 2019/20

Clerk's Report

Finance

As in previous years, the precept requested in 2019 was £18,500. Chorley Council again provided additional grant funding for the Town Council so that the charge to individual residents was in fact reduced due to the increase in the "tax base" for the area from the building of additional properties. Grants totalling £1,500 were awarded by the Town Council to local organisations who applied through the Community Awards scheme. Expenditure in 2019-20 included the purchase of high visibility jackets for the Event Marshalls for use during the 2019 Annual Remembrance Service. The Council, in conjunction with the other local councils, decided to appoint an experienced traffic management company, following a detailed investigation of the traffic management requirements that it would become responsible for in the event that the Police were not available to manage the closure of Railway Road for the Remembrance Event. The Town Council was fortunate this year to secure a £500 donation through Adlington and District Heritage Society which largely offset the additional costs incurred in the commissioning of a private traffic management company.

Another Community Infrastructure Funding payment of £884.68 was received in April 2019. It was agreed that this money would be used with the two previous payments received in April and October 2017 respectively totalling £1,692.67 as a contribution towards the improvements planned by Chorley Council to King George V recreation ground. Discussions took place in June 2019 about the possibility of also providing a meeting room for sports and other community activities. This has not proved to be a feasible option. Plans are still in discussion for investment to improve number and type of sports pitches. No date has yet been set for this work to commence on site.

The Appendix gives more details of the 2019/20 income and expenditure.

Councillors

During the 2019/20 year, the Town Council has maintained its full complement of 12 Councillors although with change in its membership. An election was held on 2 May 2019 in the four Parish Wards with 9 Councillors re-elected. Ten applications were received to be considered for co-option to fill the 3 remaining vacancies on the Town Council. Each applicant was asked to respond to two questions followed by an interview. The three successful candidates were formally accepted onto the Town Council at the August 2019 meeting.

Village Matters

Hanging baskets were again provided in central areas of the village during the summer, erected and maintained by Chorley Council but paid for by the Town Council. Funding was also allocated to the provision of bulbs and plants for planters around the village which volunteers from Adlington in Bloom maintain.

In June 2019, Adlington in Bloom, the Town Council and Chorley Council jointly arranged a household refuse skip and a litter pick event as part of a local environmental clean-up initiative.

The Annual Adlington Circular Walk arranged by Cllr Hart, took place in July 2019, to assess the condition of the footpath, the boundary fencing and signage.

The Open Forum at the July 2019 meeting saw the attendance of the Chorley North neighbourhood sergeant and two Police Constable Support Officers (PCSOs) for Adlington and Chorley Town Centre to explain how the service is now being delivered.

The Town Council continues to do its best to respond to **problems** reported by residents. Where necessary the Town Council has asked either Chorley or Lancashire County Councils for assistance to address the issues that residents have identified. This has included concerns about the speed of traffic in parts of Adlington; the potential for conflict between pedestrians and parked vehicles, particularly where these are in part parked on the public footpath; the impact of inconsiderate parking on neighbouring residents and pedestrians when for example the Adlington Station car park has exceeded its capacity, which seemed to happen frequently in the weeks leading up to Christmas 2019; and Chorley Council was asked to replace bulbs to improve the lighting of the Station carpark and to cut back the surrounding overgrown vegetation.

The Town Council has continued to express its concerns during 2019 about the disruption to the **rail service** following the introduction of a new national timetable. This has led to significant and regular complaints from rail passengers about disruption to the published service for Adlington; regular cancellation of the Sunday service due to a lack of rail staff; buses which were used to replace some trains but without this being properly advertised at the station platform. All of this meant that rail passengers could not rely on the service. In November 2019 two representatives from Northern gave a presentation and answered questions from a group of seventeen residents who attended the Town Council's Open Forum. Northern have responded assuring the Council that the disruption is temporary, however the Council has contacted LCC Cabinet to ask when the promised improvements to the Adlington service will be in place.

The Town Council has considered a series of Issues and Options proposals specifically for Adlington and has submitted responses in February 2020 to the first stage of the public consultation for the Central Lancashire Local Plan. This is aimed at agreeing a new 15 year Strategic Plan for the three Council districts of Chorley, Preston City and South Ribble.

The Town Council continues to submit proposed Neighbourhood Priorities to Chorley Council. It has agreed to make a financial contribution towards the costs of providing an electric supply and permanent lighting at the War Memorial.

At the request of a resident the Town Council has begun to assess the interest from local businesses in supporting an initiative to 'Light Adlington' during December 2020 in part to

brighten the Village, to attract more shoppers, and after the social distancing restrictions to probably give everyone a bit of a boost!

The Town Council was keen to encourage a new group to start to replace the closed Adlington Senior Citizens' Group. The Friendship Group has held regular meetings since it was formed during mid- 2019 as a way to bring people of all ages together to reduce isolation.

The Town Council continues to monitor and maintain three **Automated External Defibrillators** which are in place around the village.

The Village was once again entered for the **Lancashire Best Kept Village** competition in 2019. The Retreat Restaurant was awarded a 'Highly Commended' Certificate as an Outstanding Feature in Lower Adlington. In December 2019 two staff were presented with the Certificate.

The **Update** newsletter is produced and edited by Cllr Speers three times a year as spring, summer and winter editions. The Newsletter contains contact details for the Town Council, local news of interest to the community, and information about local activities and community events. The Newsletter is distributed across Adlington by the Adlington Scout Group.

The Council's **website** www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk has been completely updated and streamlined this year by Cllr Buckley. This gives access to the Town Council's meeting programme, an archive of minutes and newsletters for the past year and links to other websites of local interest.

The Town Council has a Facebook page. This is designed to give out information and to keep the Village up to date with local news on Facebook.com/AdlingtonTC

In addition the Town Council is also on **twitter** with regular updates on Town Council matters available at [@AdlingtonTC](https://www.twitter.co.uk)

Planning

Several **planning applications** have been considered by the Town Council this year and objections and comments raised with the planning authority. These have included application to replace the Warehouse which was destroyed by fire at Fairport Engineering and to agree a temporary building where the Town Council has tried to balance considerations of residential amenity with the need to ensure a large local source of employment can function properly.

In many cases planning permission is granted, but the Town Council suggests changes or conditions to be considered for the benefit of existing residents. The Town Council continues to monitor Planning Applications which affect the residents of Adlington, and welcomes representations from all interested parties.

Meetings

The Town Council meets every month and the first part of each meeting starts with an Open Forum where residents can attend to have their say or to voice a concern.

Change of Clerk

In November 2019, there was a hand over month due to the change of Town Clerk. Linda Crouch retired after 10 years' service and I, Christine Bailey, was appointed in her place.

Events

Civic Sunday was held in June 2019 and was well-supported by local groups and individuals, as was November's **Remembrance Sunday** service and procession. The Town Council was grateful to receive a series of overhead photographs that had been taken by Heath Charnock Parish Councillor Cllr Cornes who is a licenced drone operator. The weather was clear. The photographs did give us a very different perspective on this annual Event.

The 2019 **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, 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. The Council has a website Facebook and is on twitter, which it uses to give out information and to offer various contact options.

Adlington Town Council Members 2019/23

Councillor	Phone	Ward
Ainsley Ball	01257 485007	Central
June Molyneaux	01257 481184	Central
Kevin O'Donnell	01257 482107	Central
Clive Hart	01257 483194	North
Jeanette Lowe	01257 481415	North
Peter Wilson	01257 474678	North
Timothy Summers	01257 483543	West
Alan Robinson	01257 752112	West
Kim Snape	07868 327395	West
Beverley Speers	01257 481321	East
Peter Walkden	07777 606726	East
Nina Buckley	07568 733129	East

Town Clerk: Christine Bailey, 12, Berry Square, Blackrod, BL6 5DU Telephone: 07896 729646

Email: clerk@adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk

Website address: www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk

Facebook.com/AdlingtonTC and on Twitter @AdlingtonTC

Appendix – Financial Summary 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Expenditure	
Clerk's Salary	£5,485.89
Administrative & Telephone Costs	£303.50
Insurance	£478.61
Audit	£60.00
Subscriptions	£734.88
Mayor's Allowance	£750.00
Civic Sunday	£400.00
Mayor's Inauguration	£148.80
Remembrance Sunday	£516.27
RBL Wreath	£120.00
Streetscene Enhancement (hanging baskets/planters/notice boards)	£4,723.16
Training costs	£200.00
Newsletter – Printing & Production	£1,175.69
Newsletter - Distribution	£700.00
Community Awards Scheme	£1,500.00
Carol Concert	£494.40
Automated External Defibrillators - consumables	£87.60
Room Hire Charges	£262.00
Contingencies eg traffic management, new Website, subscriptions.	£870.90
Election	£947.56
TOTAL , includes £912.43 VAT for reclaim from HMRC in 2020/21	£19,959.26
Income	
Precept	£16,684.00
Precept Top-Up Grant	£1,816.00
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 19/20 payment	£884.68
Bank Interest	£47.26
Credit Union Dividend (less dormant fee)	£20.97
Donation (via Adlington and District Heritage Society)	£500.00
VAT reclaimed from 2018/19 financial year	£819.98
Contributions from other parishes for Remembrance Sunday	£248.67
TOTAL	£20,102.56