

Adlington Town Council Annual Report to Electors 2024/25

Town Mayor's Report

Cllr Kim Snape

Town Mayor of Adlington Town Council from 13 May 2024 to 12 May 2025

Civic Sunday 30 June 2024

On Sunday 30 June 2024 Adlington Town Mayor, Kim Snape, 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 the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Chorley, and the Town Mayor and Mayoress of each of the neighbouring townships of Horwich, Blackrod and Westhoughton in Bolton. The service was accompanied by the Rivington and Adlington Brass Band.

The Adlington Town Council Civic Awards for 2024 were presented in the club after the church service to residents of Adlington who have been nominated by someone for their contribution or service to the local community.

Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2024

The Adlington and District Civic Remembrance event was held to remember the local people who had fallen in the service of this country. We also welcomed the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Chorley, Cllr Alistair Morwood and Mrs Jane Morwood. The parade set off from Adlington Community Centre to St Paul's Church for the memorial service and then to the Cenotaph on Railway Road for the outdoor dedication, laying of wreaths and the sounding of the last post. The event was well supported by veterans and the public.

Carol Concert 16 December 2024

The Adlington Town Council Christmas Carol Concert was held in the community centre which once again was full of residents and the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackrod and the Deputy Mayor of Horwich and her Consort attended to represent two of the neighbouring Town Councils. We enjoyed a happy evening listening to Rivington and Adlington Brass Band and singing along to our favourite carols, followed by a free pasty supper. Thank you to Councillors and volunteers for making it such an enjoyable night. We also received generous prize donations for the raffle. The raffle raised £550 for the Town Mayor's chosen local charitable cause to support the continuation of the two hour per week sessions of the satellite Adlington Youth Group.

Other events and visits

I have attended a number of meetings at the Town Hall to represent Adlington Town Council along with the Deputy Mayor Cllr Stuart Clewlow. These meetings have included the Eastern Parishes neighbourhood meetings and Chorley Liaison. I also had the pleasure of attending Lancashire County Council Parish and Town Council conference with Councillor Rennison at County Hall.

It has been a privilege to attend a number of other events in the village including opening Adlington Community Food Club, attending Adlington Luncheon Club Christmas Meal, Rivington & Adlington Brass Band Christmas Concert and several visits to Adlington St Paul's Players for some incredible performances. I also attended Adlington Mothers' Union to talk about the role of Mayor.

In Chorley I represented Adlington Town Council at the Civic Sunday for Councillor Gordon France the Mayor of Chorley. With the Mayoress of Chorley I attended the Mayor of Burnley's Ladies Lunch where we had a really interesting talk from John McArdle who was previously in Brookside. I also attended the Mayoress of Chorley's Ladies Sparkling Afternoon Tea at Astley Hall where we had an incredible tour of Astley Hall and the Walled Garden and raised funds for the Mayor's charities. In November I had the pleasure of being invited by Chorley Fairtrade Group to their Parliament Week event at the town hall. I sat on a panel with our MP, the Mayor of Chorley and Councillor June Molyneaux and we had a great afternoon with young people from schools across Chorley including Adlington Primary and Adlington St Paul's. They came up with some really good suggestions!



Outside of Chorley I attended a diversity of events: the Civic Sunday service for the Mayor of Blackrod and Mayor of Westhoughton; the Christmas Light Switch on in Blackrod; the Community Eco Festival in Horwich; the Festival of Horwich and I was also really pleased to attend the Mayor of Westhoughton's fundraising dinner which again raised an incredible amount for some brilliant charities. Recently I attended the 40 years of Westhoughton Town Council celebration and had the opportunity to meet other Westhoughton Town Councillors and former Mayors along with looking at lots of interesting photos.

My two final events of the year were to lay a wreath Adlington War Memorial to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and to attend the County Service at Blackburn Cathedral.

My Mayor's Charity this year has been Adlington Inspire Youth Group, held on a Friday evening at Fairview Youth and Community Centre which offers a range of activities aimed for children and teenagers.



A big 'thank you' to everyone for making our bingo evening such a success in March! This includes: the brilliant volunteers who run bingo on a regular basis; to St Pauls Club; to those who donated prizes, and to everyone who supported this event. We raised a tremendous £738 from the bingo. In total during the year we have raised a brilliant £2,158.29! This will provide a significant contribution towards the annual costs of running the Group led by Inspire's youth workers who give such positive support to the young people in Adlington.

I have been really proud to lead the council. It has been an incredibly interesting year.

I want to say: a special thank you to my family who have been incredibly supportive, particularly my Grandma Sheila, who has been to lots of events with me; a massive thank you to our Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stuart Clewlow. Stuart kindly covered for me at the beginning of my mayoral year, when I had a broken ankle and he also laid the Adlington Town Council wreath at the 80th anniversary of D-Day memorial event in Adlington. A big thank-you too, to Cllr June Molyneaux, who has attended a number of events with me and a thanks to Christine Bailey our Town Council Clerk.

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

Kim Snape, Town Mayor 2024 – 2025
Adlington Town Council

Clerk's Report

Adlington Town Council

Cllr Nina Buckley stood down as the Town Mayor at the Town Council's Annual meeting on 13 May 2023. Cllr Kim Snape, as the Deputy Mayor, was elected the new Town Mayor. On the basis of length of service, Cllr Stuart Clewlow was nominated as the Deputy Mayor at that meeting. Cllr Clewlow accepted this role.

Cllr Buckley resigned at the 24 June meeting as she was moving away from Chorley. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy which was filled by co-option. Cllr Denise Jones was appointed at the 21 October 2024 meeting.

The Town Council hosted its traditional annual programme of civic events and community initiatives. Cllr Snape as Adlington Town Mayor and her Consort represented Adlington Town Council throughout the year as guests of neighbouring councils at their civic and charity fund-raising events, at remembrance and other community occasions.

Meetings

The Town Council met every month. 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.

During the year, the Open Forum has included attendance by PC Cross then the lead officer in the Neighbourhood Police team and Kelly Barton of Lancashire Sight Loss Council.

Issues of local concern that were raised included:

- The planning application for the proposed Anaerobic Digester plant at Wigan Lane
- Discussion of the potential interest in and opportunities to provide allotment facilities in the Village, possibly within the future proposed Central Lancashire Local Plan
- Heavy Good Vehicles unsuccessfully trying to access Wigan Lane via Park Road and Common End and having to turn round
- The need to retain a post office facility in Adlington

Village Matters

The annual Village litter pick and local environmental clean-up day took place on 15 June 2024 arranged jointly 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 on the day.

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. Bicycles and mobility aids were passed to the Chorley Ukraine Appeal to avoid landfill and to put them back into good use.

The litter pick took place before the second round of judging of the Village entries in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition which Cllr Lowe had submitted for Higher and Lower Adlington. Although the Village was not as successful as in 2022, the general feedback was positive and the following outcomes were achieved:

- Higher Adlington – joint winner for its Community Notice Board
- Higher Adlington - runner up in the Large Village category
- The Library Canal Boat - runner up in the Heritage Feature category
- St Paul's bowling green – runner up in this category
- St Paul's Primary School was highly commended in the schools category, and
- Deighan's Funeral Parlour was highly commended in the Commercial Premises category.

The Town Mayor presented the Certificates at the Carol Concert on 16 December 2024.

During the year, Cllrs Cross, Robinson, O'Donnell have informally monitored the condition of the Adlington Circular Walk, its boundaries and signage for health and safety reasons and to maintain public access. They have reported dangerous or fallen trees on or close to the Walk and other minor repairs and maintenance concerns. The Town Council reports identified concerns to Lancashire County Council or Chorley Council departmental teams to be addressed.

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. These sessions remain popular with young people aged from 9 and up to 18 and have led to a significant reduction of anti-social behaviour in the area. The local councils and community groups in the Adlington District have helped to keep this essential facility for young people 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
- Relunched in April 2024, the weekly Adlington Community Food Club is run independently by its volunteers on a not for profit basis from St Pauls Church. The Food Club aims to reduce food that is fit for human consumption from going to land fill. The Club accepts donated foods, household goods, cleaning products and toiletries and has 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, and where required, some residents have been referred for advice to other specialist voluntary organisations and/ or to Chorley Council's Household Support Fund.

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 and it decides whether planning permission should be granted or not. Chorley Council carries out a formal consultation procedure for each planning application. This includes notification to neighbours and stakeholder organisations, which includes local councils, who are invited to make comment in the interest of the area they represent.

The Town Council monitors 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 30 June 2024. 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 to present the Town Council's 2024 Citizen Awards.

The Adlington District Civic Remembrance service and procession held on 10 November 2024 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 2024 Carol Concert led by Rivington & Adlington Brass Band was a traditional occasion again filling 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 and the bi-annual Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area meetings, where the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor have represented the Town Council.

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 setting up of the Adlington Youth Group Steering Committee to support the weekly two hour per week free of charge youth session run by Inspire at Fairview Youth & Community Centre. This has helped to build relationships within the community with young people and has led to a significant drop in anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the venue.

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 2024 from Chorley Council comprising £20,129 from the local “tax base”, enhanced by a top-up grant of £1,816, totalling £21,945. The remainder of the Town Council’s income (monies received) in the 2024/25 financial year of £3,708 included:

- The VAT reclaimed from HMRC by the Town Council which had been incurred on some expenditure in the previous financial year of £1,327.49
- £600 as sponsorship of a pair of floral hanging baskets displayed from a lamp post. This was the first year that the Council had invited such support. Contributions were gratefully received from three community organisations and two individuals towards the cost of the annual contract in 2024/25 and an early donation of £100 has been received in advance of the 2025/26 year.
- A £580 donation from a local business to pay the traffic management cost associated with the closure of Railway Road to through traffic on Remembrance Sunday and pro-rata contributions from each of the local councils in the Adlington District towards other costs, including Rivington and Adlington Band, venue hire and light refreshments
- Lancashire County Council again awarded the Town Council a £300 bio-diversity grant which the Town Council split, offering £100 to each of the two Primary Schools in Adlington Village and to the Second Adlington St Paul’s Guides to extend their nature projects in the Village. These have included environmental initiatives within the School grounds involving the pupils and making and hanging bird boxes and bird seed feeders.

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
- Three editions of the Town Council’s Update Newsletter. 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’s delivery arrangements have changed. Anderton St Joseph’s Scout Group now distribute the printed copy of each edition to just over 3,000 households in the Village
- The Community Grant Programme. This was advertised. This year, a total of £1,450 was awarded to Adlington Bowling and Social Club, Adlington Luncheon Club and Rivington and Adlington Band.
- 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 again this year, it was very grateful to individual businesses and community organisations who continue to support the small lit Christmas tree initiative in 2024/25 to light up their premises during the darker winter nights. The

Town Council helped by advertising the Scheme, co-ordinating interested participants with the lit-tree supplier and by encouraging residents and other businesses join in to light their own properties.

A full breakdown of the 2024/25 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 X (which used to be 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. During the year the Town Council began to discuss its decision to transfer to a .gov.uk web site and email address which it hopes to realise by September 2025.

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 Town Council is on X where Council meetings are also advertised at @adlingtontc

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>

X: @adlingtontc.

Members of Adlington Town Council from May 2024 to May 2025

Councillor	Phone	Ward
Kevin O'Donnell	01257 482107	Central
June Molyneaux	01257 481184	Central
Stuart Clewlow (Deputy Mayor)	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 (Town Mayor)	07868 327395	West
Amanda Cross	07812 413854	West
Beverley Speers	01257 481321	East
Peter Walkden	07777 606726	East
Nina Buckley (till 24 June 2024)	07826 819117	East
Denise Jones (from 21 October 2024)	07789 473186	East

Appendix 1 - Financial Summary 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Expenditure	
Gross Clerk's Salary	6,501.23
Clerk's mileage costs	120.15
Administrative & Telephone Costs	1,289.74
Insurance	558.09
Audit	492.00
Subscriptions (annual data protection licence)	40.00
Town Mayor's Allowance	850.00
Civic Sunday	596.46
Election Expenses	0.00
Town Mayor's Inauguration	27.50
Civic Remembrance Sunday	1,114.36
Carol Concert	767.90
RBL Wreath	25.00
Streetscene Enhancement (hanging baskets/planters/community initiatives)	6386.06
Newsletter – Print (3 issues – summer, autumn/winter and spring)	1,139.80
Newsletter distribution - 3 deliveries	750.00
Community Awards Scheme	1,450.00
Community Asset & Service Support	0.00
Automated External Defibrillators - consumables	361.14
Town Council meeting room hire charges in the Library	300.00
Other Projects & Contingencies: £25 for a pin repair in the Mayoral Chain	25.00
CIL Expenditure (no CIL monies awarded/held by ATC)	0.00
LCC Bio Diversity Grants- allocated to two primary schools and to Second Adlington St Paul's Guides	300.00
UTB Fees & Charges	71.40
TOTAL	23,165.83
<i>The above figures includes VAT which will be reclaimed as income in the 2025/26 year of £1,327.49</i>	

Income	
Precept (received from Chorley Council with top-up grant of £1,816)	21,945.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	0.00
Lancashire County Council bio-diversity grant	300.00
Bank Interest	608.37
Credit Union Dividend: net of fees	89.38
Floral basket contributions from community organisations and individuals:	700.00
External donation (£580) and Parish Council (£172.09) contributions towards Remembrance Sunday	752.09
VAT (2023/2024) reclaimed	1,231.26
Capital gain from sale of a former asset - scrap value of old metal flower baskets	27.20
TOTAL	25,653.30
Excess of Income over Expenditure	2,487.47
Based on ATC's financial records to be submitted for Independent and External Audit	