



Northwich
town council

2025 Annual Report



www.northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk



Chief Officer, Chris Shaw

"It's been another incredible year for Northwich."

The Town Council officers and staff, alongside our dedicated partners, have worked tirelessly to deliver an outstanding calendar of events and meaningful community improvements.

Through strong partnerships with Northwich BID, Rotary, Barons Quay, Cheshire West & Chester Council, and many other local organisations, we've been able to combine resources and budgets to bring a variety of vibrant events to the town. These have included the NOW Festival, Piña Colada Festival, River Festival, multiple music festivals, and of course, our much-loved Christmas Extravaganza.

Very few towns in Cheshire can boast such a packed events programme. It's this spirit of collaboration that enables us to continue delivering high-quality experiences for our businesses, residents, and visitors.

Community Improvements

This year, we've also made significant strides in improving community spaces:

Belmont Road Play Area has undergone a complete £200k refurbishment, funded through Section 106 agreements, Members' Budgets, the FCC Communities Grant, and Rudheath & Witton Together. The play area is now fully accessible, shaped by feedback from local user groups, and has received glowing praise since reopening.

Our allotment sites have seen upgrades including new car parks, fencing, and gates—enhancements warmly welcomed by our plot holders.

In partnership with Northwich BID, our floral displays remain among the best in the borough. Huge thanks go to our dedicated parks team for their continued efforts in keeping Northwich beautiful.

Additional improvements across the town include the installation of wildflower meadows, upgrades to cemeteries, new CCTV, and public benches in various locations.

Public Safety Initiatives

We now have 26 accessible AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) installed throughout the town centre. This year, we've also introduced blood loss control kits in five of these cabinets, all registered with the NHS—further enhancing public safety.

Looking Ahead

We understand that towns across the country are facing challenges. However, Northwich stands out because of the united effort from partners and the community. By continuing to stage events, maintain high standards in cleanliness and appearance, and enhance our public spaces, we're building a town that attracts new businesses, welcomes visitors, and inspires people to live and work here.

Thank you for supporting our work, attending our events, and taking part in consultations. Together, we are making Northwich a wonderful place to be.

Best Wishes

Chris Shaw



Northwich Town Mayor 24-25 Cllr. Kate Cernik

**"A Year of Pride, Progress
and Community Spirit."**

Reflections from the Northwich Town Mayor, Cllr Kate Cernik

It has been a great privilege to serve as Mayor of Northwich over the past 12 months. As my term comes to an end, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly rewarding and inspiring year.

From opening new businesses and play areas to attending concerts, musicals, the Northwich Literature Festival, and numerous arts projects, I've been fortunate to witness the vibrancy and creativity that pulses through our town. I've also had the pleasure of visiting schools, clubs, care homes, and meeting local veterans — gaining a deeper appreciation for the people and organisations that make Northwich a truly special place to live.

One of Northwich's greatest strengths is its sense of community and collaboration. Our town is powered by the dedication of Northwich Town Council, Northwich BID, local Rotary groups, and many other committed organisations. Together, they create events that are now renowned across Cheshire.

Indeed, Northwich has earned a reputation for putting on some of the best events in the county. The (now famous!) **Pina Colada Festival** was more popular than ever last year, while **The River Festival**, **The Music Festival**, and **Now Northwich** all brought thousands of people together in joyful celebration.

This year, I was especially proud to introduce the **Mayor's Award for Volunteering** – a small way of honouring the unsung heroes whose time, passion, and selflessness make such a difference in our community. The very first recipient, **David Lanham**, was a long-serving volunteer who dedicated years to supporting organisations in and around Northwich. It was an honour to present him with the award shortly before his sad passing, and his legacy continues to inspire.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the incredible staff at Northwich Town Council. Their tireless work behind the scenes has made my year as Mayor not only successful but truly enjoyable.

As I prepare to pass on the role, I look forward to welcoming the new Mayor and have every confidence that they will have a wonderful year ahead, just as I have.

Thank you, Northwich. It has been an honour to serve you.

Town Mayor Cllr Kate Cernik



EVENT ATTENDANCE

During the Term of Office, the Town Mayor attended various events and functions in 2024 – 2025.
The following list provides details.

Outgoing Mayor 23/24 Cllr. Jane Thomas

02.05.2024 Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, Year 13 Awards Evening

Town Mayor 24/25 Cllr. Kate Cernik (*and Deputy Mayor*)

23.05.2024 KMTC "Rock of Ages"

31.05.2024 Rotary Club of Northwich Vale Royal "Francesco Attesti – Piano Recital"

07.06.2024 National Shopmobility Awareness Day

14.06.2024 Middlewich FAB Festival

21.06.2024 Evening of Health and Wellbeing (*Attended by Deputy Mayor*)

26.06.2024 Scouts Annual AGM (*Attended by Deputy Mayor*)

28.06.2024 Daneside Mews – Open Day

05.07.2024 Launch of the Visual Arts Cheshire Art Trail and Northwich LitFest

07.07.2024 Northwich Musical Theatre Choir



EVENT ATTENDANCE CONTINUED

10.07.2024	Townbridge Court
11.07.2024	Dementia Friendly Meeting
20.07.2024	Northwich River Festival
06.08.2024	Dementia Friendly Meeting
25.08.2024	Creative Crafters Family Fun Day <i>(Attended by Deputy Mayor)</i>
05.09.2024	The Daniel Adamson
07.09.2024	Super Box Boxing Club
14.09.2024	Davenham RBL Veterans
20.09.2024	Northwich Beer Festival
22.09.2024	Northwich Rowing Club Awards
26.09.2024	St. Lukes Open Day
06.10.2024	Town Mayors Annual Civic Sunday
15.10.2024	Police Community Cohesion Group
18.10.2024	Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership/Northwich Station Schools Art Project
18.10.2024	Penrhyn Male Voice Choir
24.10.2024	Omoda & Jaecoo Showroom Launch Event
26.10.2024	Poppy Appeal Launch
06.11.2024	Purple Poppies - Animals in War
10.11.2024	Northwich Town Council – Remembrance Sunday
10.11.2024	Rudheath Parish Council – Remembrance Sunday <i>(Attended by Deputy Mayor)</i>
11.11.2024	Northwich Town Council – Remembrance Service
14.11.2024	Sir John Deanes College – Musical Soiree
23.11.2024	Christmas Extravaganza
01.12.2024	St. Lukes Hospice Christmas Light up Life Service <i>(Attended by Deputy Mayor)</i>
03.12.2024	Kingsmead Primary School Mini Police
06.12.2024	Tree of Lights ceremony
17.12.2024	Grozone Christmas Pizza Day
18.12.2024	Sir John Deanes College, Spirit of Christmas
20.12.2024	Victoria Road Primary School, Christmas Celebration Assembly



EVENT ATTENDANCE CONTINUED

21.01.2025	David Lanham, Mayors Award presentation
24.01.2025	David Roberts Funeral
31.01.2025	Community ReAwards
13.02.2025	Davenham Mini Police Attestation
14.02.2025	Goodoaks Homecare, Valentines Coffee Morning
14.02.2025	Legally Blonde, Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College
18.02.2025	Beauty and the Beast, The Grange Theatre, Hartford
22.02.2025	Northwich Rugby Club, 60th Anniversary Pre-match Meal
27.02.2025	Official opening of New Block 10 Learning Centre, Sir John Deanes College
11.03.2025	Northwich Town Mayors Charity Night
14.03.2025	Thinking Place, Mid Cheshire
21.03.2025	Belmont Road Play Area Opening (<i>Attended by Deputy Mayor</i>)
22.03.2025	Northwich Swimathon
28.03.2025	Storengy UK Responsible Business 2024

Town Mayor Cllr Kate Cernik held her annual fund raising event at Kanya Bistro and raised £580.00 for her chosen charities which were Tiny Steps and Down Syndrome Cheshire.



Thank you to everyone that supported the event. Special thanks to Kanya Bistro who provided excellent service and delicious food.

Additional funds raised for the Mayors Charity through the Easter event and Tree of Lights.



A FEW SPECIAL MOMENTS OF 2024/25 IN PICTURES





Office



Chris Shaw
Chief Officer



Cath Kirwan
Deputy Chief Officer/ RFO



Paul Davis
Public Realm and
Contracts Manager



Liza Clansey
Cemetery Registrar/
Well-being Manager



Steph Astbury
Public Realm Officer

Ground Maintenance



Pete Stanway
Public Realm Officer



Ian Clarke
Public Realm Officer



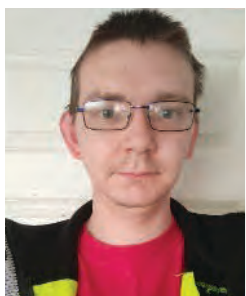
Simon Ashbrook
GM Operative



Chris Rowe
GM Operative



Kevin Spruce
GM Operative



Mike Munnerley
GM Operative



Matt Gannon
GM Operative



Andy Holmes
GM Operative



Aidan Herrett
GM Operative



George Senior
GM Operative



Jordan Clarke
GM Operative

Park Staff



Wendy Harrison
Leisure Attendant



Robert Buck
Leisure Attendant



Yat But
Leisure Attendant



Ruben Alcazar
Leisure Attendant



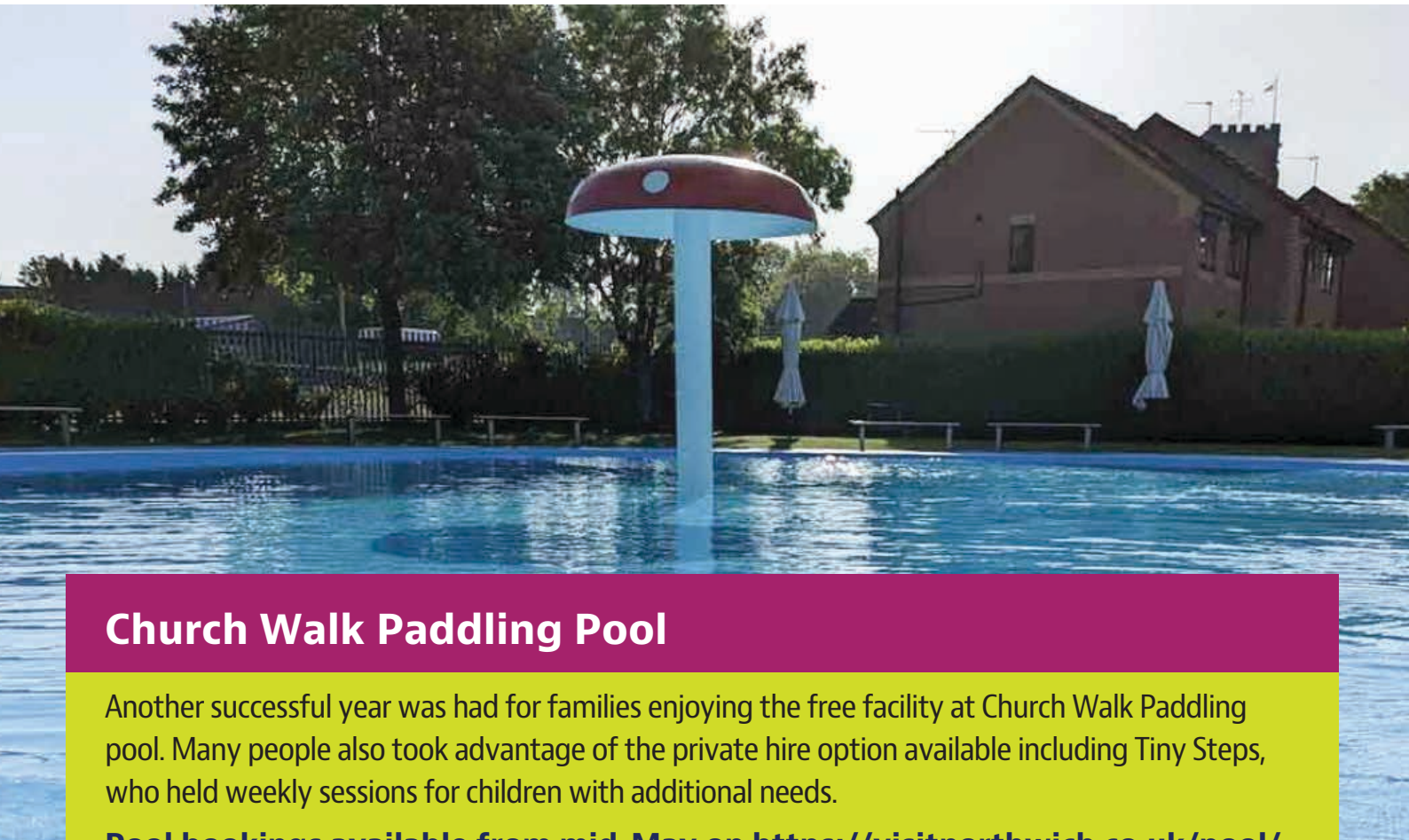
Eilidh Purves
Leisure Attendant



Lauren Hulse
Leisure Attendant



EVENTS AND INITIATIVES



Church Walk Paddling Pool

Another successful year was had for families enjoying the free facility at Church Walk Paddling pool. Many people also took advantage of the private hire option available including Tiny Steps, who held weekly sessions for children with additional needs.

Pool bookings available from mid-May on <https://visitnorthwich.co.uk/pool/>

Vickersway Park

Vickersway Park is enjoyed by adults and children alike throughout the year. During the summer months, many families came down to make the most of the mini golf, tennis courts and play area before indulging in an ice cream and coffee. Improvements were made to the Crazy Golf fencing and old wooden sleepers were removed and replaced with recycled plastic.





AED Install

This year we were able to install 2 additional defibs into Northwich funded by Northwich Rotary, Northwich BID and members budget from Sam Naylor, Arthur Neil and Felicity Davies. These are located at Northwich Methodist Outreach Centre on Witton Street and Northwest Performance on Navigation Road and take the total amount of defibs in Northwich to 26. We also installed 5 blood loss kits throughout the town centre which are also installed within the AED Cabinet.



Allotments

Thanks to Section 106 funding we were able to carry out much needed works on Queensgate, Vickersway and Winnington Allotments.

Winnington Allotments works included:

- Brand new 6ft high security fencing and double gates
- New tap
- Clearance of brash pile – creating a new allotment plot

Queensgate Allotments works included:

- Car park retarmacked

Vickersway Allotments works included:

- Car parked retarmacked
- New fencing between Vickersway Park and the Allotments





Verdin Park Woodland Walk

Thanks to CWAC volunteers, the woodland walk through Verdin Park was given a significant upgrade, brand new edging boards were installed the entire way along the path and the path was extended to meet the road through Verdin. This was then filled with wood chips and finally, 2 benches were installed, allowing people the opportunity to sit and appreciate the wildlife.





Dane Valley

Dane Valley Cemetery is a beautiful tranquil area that is maintained to a high standard by our own staff, this year has seen additional plinths installed for full burial and cremations along with a new tap.

We have also installed some additional drainage to enable the cemetery to be accessed even through the wet Winter months.



Dane Valley Children's Section

An area in the Cemetery at Dane Valley has been set aside for Children's Cremations, plinths have been laid for headstones, this is in a very peaceful section of the Cemetery.



Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Parade and Service is always well attended by residents and local organisations coming together to pay their respects. This year was no different and on Sunday 10th November many gathered at Crum Hill to take part in the parade, marching to St Helen's Church before attending the service at the Cenotaph.



Christmas Extravaganza

Once again, Northwich Christmas Extravaganza was one of the highlights of the year, attracting many visitors to the town. Taking place on Saturday 23rd November, many familiar attractions returned for another year including fairground rides, Christmas themed games, hot food, games and a special guest visiting from the North Pole.

The lantern parade, headed by the Bataala Mersey Samba Band, included children from local schools, the snow queen sculpture and the cast of the Christmas Pantomime at Brio Leisure Centre. The finale of the event was a spectacular fireworks display and ultimately, the turning on of the Christmas lights throughout the town.





Ice Rink

The ice rink returned to Northwich on the weekend of the 30th November to extend the festive fun following the Extravaganza.

The rink provided multiple sessions and ensured that whether visitors were novice to skating or a seasoned pro they could all enjoy the thrill of skating.



Tree of Lights

Our annual Tree of Lights Ceremony held in December is always well attended, with this year being no different.

Celebrating a life at Christmas appeals to so many who have lost a loved one and the simple, quiet service draws people in, providing them a safe space to remember those they have lost. The holly tree is adorned with stars dedicated to those past, with readings from Rev. Andrew Ridley, Father Paul and our Town Mayor, the Tree of Lights Ceremony touches the hearts of many.



"Christmas is an opportunity to reflect on the past year"

Town Mayor 24/25 – Cllr. Kate Cernik



Redesigned Lion

You may have noticed, some of our Lions have had a makeover and have been placed around the town, this work has been kindly carried out by Jim Stanley.

Verdin Park lion is currently having a Pina Colada themed make over and will be placed back for all to admire once completed!



Wildflower Meadows

This year, once again we have planted out wildflower meadows to encourage biodiversity in Verdin Park and Witton Cemetery. Look out for the beautiful displays again later this summer.





Crazy golf improvements to fencing

Our very popular Crazy Golf area in Vickersway Park has had some repairs made ready for the summer months.



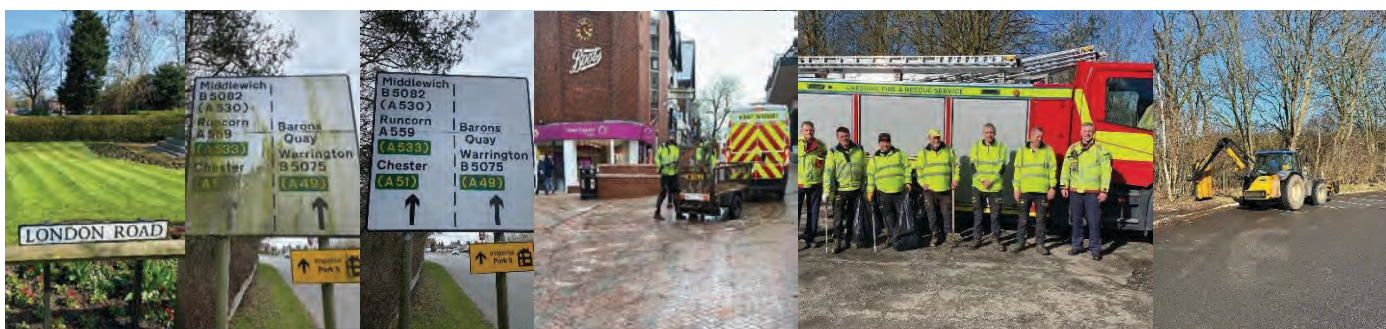
Floral Displays

Northwich Town Council have been working in partnership with BID and Cheshire West and Chester to supply and maintain the beautiful summer and winter bedding around town.



Town Centre Cleaning

Working in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester to cleanse and maintain the areas in and around the Town Centre.





Many thanks to Cheshire West and Chester Council members for using their members budget to fund/contribute towards:

- 2 new 24-hour accessible AED's
- 5 x Blood loss kits
- Additional floral displays at Greenbank
- Bike rack and dog hooks at Greenbank shops
- Environmental improvements throughout the town
- CCTV at Belmont Road Play Area
- Christmas Trees at Witton Church Walk Primary School, Victoria Road Primary Schools and Victoria Infirmary
- New grit bin on Kingsley Drive
- New handrail on link path from Old Hall Road to A556 Shurlach Road
- Improvements to Blue Barrel site, Castle

Belmont Road Play Area

Northwich Town Council took over the management of Belmont Road Play Area from Cheshire West and Chester a number of years ago, and since then it has been in need of improvements. The play area has now been completely revamped, the old tired equipment has been removed and replaced with new exciting equipment and was ready just in time for the Easter half term (2025). Local residents with children with additional needs were involved in the design process, meaning that much of the equipment is accessible, allowing as many children as possible to enjoy the site.





Cenotaph

Following the improvements made to the Cenotaph located on Church Road, this year has seen further works carried out. A pillar was reset and the paving was re-grouted as this had begun to fail. This work and care will ensure that the site is ready for Remembrance services and simple daily acts of Remembrance for those who wish to attend.



Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt, held in Vickersway Park on Easter Sunday, was well attended, the BBQ keeping people fed with burgers and hot dogs whilst children ran excitedly throughout the park trying to locate the hidden word and win an Easter Egg.

Northwich Lions Walk

There was also a gentle 30 minute walk with our Town Mayor on the Easter Sunday that left Northwich Memorial Court at 11.15am finishing in Vickersway Park for the Easter Egg Event.



**We look forward to
seeing you all next year!**



Partnership Working

Over the course of the year, we have been working in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester, taking on some of the tasks in the town centre to ensure that this is appealing to both residents and visitors. This has included car park clean ups, litter picking, cutting back growth over the footpaths, gritting, cleaning signs and road sweeping. Many have commented on the hard work and the improvement it has made to the town centre and surrounding areas.





Summary of Accounts 2024/2025

Opening Balance (Inc E-Mark Res) **442,781**

Income

Precept	590,000
Cemetery	69,088
Allotments	2,970
Outside Contracts	539,609
Funding/Projects	204,720
Parks & Leisure	27,396
Room Hire	14,144
Income Sub Total	1,890,708

Expenditure

Central Establishment Wages	354,255
Parks & Cemetery Wages	166,577
Contract Work Wages	42,661
Events Wages	4,200
Parks & Cemetery	176,854
Grants & Donations	7,540
Central Establishment	288,322
Allotments	34,499
Events	49,894
Projects	195,000
Contracts Costs	240,565
Expenditure Sub Total	1,560,367

Closing Balance (Inc E-Mark Res) **330,341**



Grants

Northwich Town Council Grants Committee meet twice yearly in January and July to consider applications from voluntary organisations, local charities and community groups within the Northwich area.

**Grants are awarded up to a maximum of £1500.
Application forms are available via our website,
or in paper form from our Office at 78 Church Road,
Northwich CW9 5PB.**

Grants awarded 2024/2025

Leftwich Primary School	£500.00
Superbox Northwich (CIC)	£500.00
No Limits – Disability Awareness Event	£791.00
Free Cakes for Kids	£300.00
Little Lions go Wild	£736.00
Cheshire Without Abuse (Known as MyCWA)	£620.00
Cheshire 7s Cup	£225.00
Total Grants awarded	£3672.00



Your Councillors by Ward

BELMONT

Olwyn Dean	olwyndean@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07886 964369
------------	--	--------------

GREENBANK

Emma Guy	emmaguy@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07538 322201
Patricia Parkes	patriciaparkes@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07903 394869

LEFTWICH

Stephen Harcombe	stephenharcombe@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	
Catherine Fox	catherinefox@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07766 055986
Rachel Waterman	rachelwaterman@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07814 890869
Andy Kent	andykent@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07970 386436
Catriona Stewart	catrionastewart@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07487 695007

WINNINGTON & CASTLE

Joanne Callagan	joannecallagan@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07766 238897
Bob Cernik	robertcernik@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	01606 854768/ 07885 863266
Kate Cernik	katecernik@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	01606 854768/ 07736 979511
Graham Emmett	grahamemmett@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07840 144468
Janet Illidge	janetillidge@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	01606 74827
Tom Melville	tommelville@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07794 488603
Arthur Neil	arthurneil@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07393 328473
Lee Siddall	leesiddall@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07813 029141

WITTON

Alison Gerrard	alisongerrard@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	01606 41515
Julie Macdonald	juliemacdonald@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07931 302024
Sam Naylor	samnaylor@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07772 611274
Andy Stott	andystott@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	07870 404679
Jane Thomas	janethomas@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk	01606 41510



Contact Your Council

Council Officers

Chief Officer :

Chris Shaw: chrisshaw@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Deputy Chief Officer / Responsible Finance Officer (RFO):

Cath Kirwan: cathkirwan@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cemetery Registrar / Well-being Manager:

Liza Clansey: lizaclansey@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Public Realm and Contracts Manager:

Paul Davis: pauldavis@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Public Realm Officer:

Stephanie Astbury: stephanieastbury@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Northwich Town Council



01606 41510 (Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm)



www.northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk



78 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 7QR



@Northwich Town Council



Services

- Play Areas
- Allotments
- Events
- Outdoor spaces
- Councillors
- Outside Contracts
- Cemeteries and Bereavement Services
- Northwich Town Mayor