



Northwich Town Council

2019-2020 Annual Report

Town Clerk Chris Shaw—Year Overview

Northwich Town Council have had another busy year improving our services for residents, businesses and visitors with partnership working playing an essential part in this. This year partnership working has brought the NOW! Festival back to Northwich for the second year running, secured Northwich awards at both the In Bloom and Great British High Street competitions. It is also through partnership working that we have been putting plans in place to bring Krazy Races to Northwich with teams building their own soap box cars to race down Castle Hill.

For Christmas this year a 4th tree was installed in the Town Centre, this time in Barons Square where, instead of at the library steps, the light switch on took place on the Saturday of a 3 day Christmas Extravaganza. Northwich looked amazing over the festive period and we continue to improve our displays each year with additional lights.

Our parks, cemeteries and play areas continue to improve with funding secured for stage 1 of Verdin Park play area improvements. Work will begin this year on installing new play equipment and removing the old. Victoria Street play area also received a dramatic transformation from an underused site to a play area to be proud of.

Finally the subject that is on everyone's lips at the moment: Coronavirus. Covid-19 has affected everyone's lives in the way that no one would have ever expected but the residents of Northwich have all banded together to ensure that those most vulnerable within the community have all they need and are well protected. People are talking to those who they may have never have spoken with in the socially distanced queues outside of the essential shops. Despite being physically further apart than we have ever had to be (2m or more), community spirit is at its highest and for this we are extremely proud to be part of our community.



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A few words from the Town Mayor,

Cllr Kevin Rimmer

Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to my fellow Councillors for allowing me the chance to serve a second term in Office, a role in which I have thoroughly enjoy.

I have attended some memorable events throughout my year in Office, including , the opening of several new businesses in Northwich. Visiting the Friends of Greenbank Station who have done magnificent work to both platforms and which led to an award recognising this as one of Cheshire's Best Kept Stations, and well deserved. It is always a pleasure to have visited our local residents in our local Care Homes during their Open Days, and even to have shared the 100th birthday celebrations for one lady. It is always a great honour to take part in Northwich Town Council's Remembrance Parade. This year again, saw very large crowds attending the Service of Commemoration at the Cenotaph on a bright and sunny November morning. These events make being a Town Mayor such a privilege being able to attend so many great community events taking place.

Many of the town's events go from strength to strength each year which is testament to the hard work from everyone involved. Summer and Winter, these are so much enjoyed and looked forward to by so many people far and wide. It is most unfortunate and a great disappointment to many, that several events planned for the summer have had to be postponed due to the current COVID19 pandemic. It is sincerely hoped these events and many more will be enjoyed by our townsfolk when happier days come.

Unfortunately this year we have experienced the sad loss of some of our friends and colleagues. Councillors Terry Murphy and Tony Lawrenson— people who will be greatly missed within our Town Council members and the wider communities. In addition Mrs Dee Cooke passed away, who had served as one of our valued Councillors for many years in the past.

During the year we have held some fund raising events, such as the Tree of Lights evening and an Indian Meal, and I am delighted with the total reached. All proceeds will be shared among some local charities. It is again, unfortunate that other Charity fundraisers planned will not now be able to take place .I have thoroughly enjoyed the Year and would like to especially thank Theresa for her help, Chris, Liza, and Steph for all their support.



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Cllr. Kevin Rimmer

Town Mayor of Northwich May 2019-May 2020

During the Term of Office, the Town Mayor attended 103 events/functions.

The list below provides details. Events marked in red denotes those that were carried out by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mrs Linda Nelson, events marked blue were carried out by other Councillors.

80% of all Civic Engagements were deputised.

Within the current Civic Handbook are descriptions of the points scoring system for each event according to its type. They are as follows:-

Events promoting the Town	5 points	Local community groups promoting	5 points
Civic Hosting	3 points	Council/Statutory/Traditional	3 points
Business openings inside the Parish	3 points	Charities	2 points
Social	1.5 points	Business openings outside Parish	1 point
Civic Circuit (The Chain Gang)	1 point		

The Town Mayor's points totalled 289.5 points.

Due to the outbreak of COVID19, no further events were attended after 11th March 2020.



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Monday 20 th May	Knutsford Town Council	Mayor making
Thursday 23 rd May	Sandbach Town Council	AGM & Mayor making
Sunday 2 nd June	City of Chester	Lord Mayor's Annual Civic Service
Thursday 6 th June	Barnton Primary School	75 Year commemoration service to affiliate them as first School in Cheshire West with RBL.
Friday 7 th June	High Sheriff of Chester	Mayor's Summer Drinks Party
Tuesday 18 th June	Northwich Schools Singing Festival	Memorial Court
Friday 7 th June	Relate Cheshire & Merseyside	Charity Concert Memorial Court
Thurs. 20 th June	Mid Cheshire Scouts	District AGM
Friday 21 st June	Art Trail	Weaver Hall
Tuesday 25 th June	South Cheshire Housing Associ	Ribbon cut at Lilac Drive Greenbank
Thursday 27 th June	Cheshire West Voluntary Arts Network	Community and Voluntary Arts Awards 2019
Friday 28 th June	HC-One	Care Home Open Day Daneside Mews
Thursday 4 th July	Petty Pool College	Opening of the Music Festival
Friday 5 th July	Visual Arts Cheshire	Launch Artists Art Trail Barons Quay
Saturday 6 th July	Northwich Carnival Committee	Northwich Carnival
Sunday 7 th July	146 Squadron Northwich ATC	Graduation at Memorial Court
Sunday 7 th July	Northwich Scooter Club	Annual Scooter Day
Saturday 13 th July	Northwich River Festival	Annual River Fest
Sunday 14 th July	Cheshire Police & Fire	Blue Light Community Engagement Day
Monday 29 th July	Age UK Cheshire	Falls Prevention awareness
Thursday 1 st August	Cheshire West and Chester	Barons Quay Social Opening
Saturday 3 rd August	Lostock Lodge Care Home	Summer Fair
Saturday 10 th August	Transition Northwich	Festival of film for Climate Emergency
Sunday 11 th August	Northwich Town Council	Mayor's Civic Parade and Service



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Friday 16th August	Hays Travel North West	Official Opening of Hasys Northwich
Monday 19th August	Greenbank Station	Visit to Volunteers—Friends of Greenbank Station
Thursday 22nd August	Northwich Festival	Guest of Northwich Festival Committee
Thursday 5th September	Northwich Leg Club	1st Anniversary meeting
Saturday 7th September	High Sheriff of Cheshire	High Tea and Garden Party
Monday 9th September	Mid Cheshire Rail	Reinstate Station Clock at Northwich
Sunday 15th September	Royal British Legion	Battle of Britain service
Friday 20th September	Rotary in Northwich	Beer and drinks Festival
Saturday 21st September	Wincham Parish Council	Unveiling Jet commemorative stone
Sunday 22nd September	Cheshire Royal British Legion	Service of Commemoration and thanksgiving.
Friday 27th September	Daneside Court Care Home	Harvest Festival
Friday 27th September	Mid Cheshire Rail Users	Dedication of Peace and Reflection at Greenbank Station
Friday 4th October	Castle Community Church	McMillan Coffee Morning
Saturday 5th October	Cheshire Dance	NOW! Northwich reception
Sunday 12th October	Soroptimist International	70th anniversary Charter dinner
Saturday 19th October	Wincham Parish Council	Wincham's Unsung Heroes
Wednesday 23rd October	Yours Housing Group	Sod Cutting at Waters Cross Development
Thursday 24th October	The County High School Leftwich	Presentation evening
Saturday 26th October	Ryl British Legion Bikers Group	Launch of 2019 Poppy Appeal
Saturday 26th October	The Grange Theatre	The Addams Family musical production
Saturday 2nd November	Rotary/Round Table	Charity bonfire and fireworks
Thursday 7th November	Silk Radio 106.9	Local Hero Awards
Sunday 10th November	Northwich Town Council	Annual Remembrance Parade and Service
Sunday 10th November	Rudheath Parish Council	Wreath laying at Rudheath Cemetery
Sunday 17th November	Northwich Rowing Club	Award and Boat naming ceremony
Saturday 23rd November	Northwich Town Council	Christmas Extravaganza and light switch on.



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Saturday 23rd November	Northwich Town Council	Christmas Extravaganza and light switch on.
Saturday 23rd November	Castle Community Church	Induction of new Minister
Sunday 24th November	Vale Royal Lions	44th anniversary lunch
Sunday 24th November	St Helen's Church	Induction of Rev. Andrew Ridley
Thursday 28th November	Redrow Homes	Hartford Happy Christmas
Saturday 30th November	Visual Arts	Cheshire calendar launch
Thursday 5th December	Rudheath Senior Academy	Awards Evening
Friday 6th December	Northwich Town Council	Tree of Lights ceremony
Sunday 8th December	St Helen's Church	Community Christmas Tree festival
Tuesday 10th December	The Grange Senior School	Christmas Celebration of Performing Arts
Friday 13th December	Church Walk Community School	Lunch with the pupils
Tuesday 17th December	St Wilfrid's Scout Group	Christmas Scout Meeting
Wednesday 18th December	Sir John Deane's College	The Spirit of Christmas production
Friday 20th December	Daneside Court	Christingle Service.
Saturday 21st December	Redwalls Care Home	Christmas visit with residents
Saturday 21st December	The Grange Theatre	Aladdin production
Friday 24th January	Community Awards	Awards evening Vale Royal Abbey
Tuesday 28th January	Cheshire Best Kept Station Awards	The Grange Theatre
Wednesday 29th January	Rotary Club Northwich Vale Royal	Annual Charter dinner
Saturday 1st February	Parkrun Northwich	100th Parkrun anniversary
Saturday 1st February	Northwich Town Council	Music festival in support of Market Traders
Monday 3rd February	Children's Art Trail	Walabout
Monday 3rd February	Photoshoot at Verdin Park	Launch of Krazy Races
Monday 10th February	Daneside Court	Celebrate 100th birthday of a resident
Tuesday 18th February	Northwich Town Council	Mayor's Charity meal at 'The Indian'
Friday 28th February	Sticky Paws	Opening of new business in Barons Quay
Sunday 1st March	146 Sqdn ATC Northwich	Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday 11th March	Hope 52—Zac's House	Official Opening



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Meet the Team

Office



Chris Shaw
Town Clerk



Liza Clansey
Asst. Clerk/
Registrar



Theresa Cash
Mayors PA/Council
Secretary



Steph Astbury
Contracts Co-
Ordinator



Cath Kirwan
Finance Officer

Grounds Maintenance



Pete Stanway
Team Leader



Simon Ashbrook
Cemetery



Jack Bailie
GM Operative



Charlie Swift-
Simpkin
GM Operative



Amanda
Hayhurst
GM Operative



Kevin Spruce
GM Operative



Chris Yeadon
GM Operative



Darren Prest
GM Operative



Simon Edgerley
Gardener



Jacky Blake
Attendant



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2019-2020 Updates

Christmas Extravaganza

2019 saw Northwich's biggest Christmas Extravaganza yet brought together through partnership working. Stretching out over the whole weekend many crowd favourites returned including the fun fair, Santa's grotto and Artisan market to entertain and get the town in the festive spirit. One of the most popular attractions of the weekend was the ice rink set up in Baron's Quay. Families, friends and couples all had a go at zooming around the rink.

The annual lantern parade on the Saturday evening was led by the Batala Mersey Samba Band through the town and into Baron's Square where the main tree had been positioned this year for the light switch on. A firework finale filled the skies signalling the beginning of the festive period for Northwich.



Defibrillators

Defibrillators have been shown to significantly increase the chances of survival for those experiencing cardiac arrest, and over the past couple of years 24 hour accessible defibrillators have been installed throughout Northwich, this year was no different. Two new accessible defibrillators were installed in Northwich, one at Greenbank Hub and the other at Victoria Road Primary School. Contributions for these were made by Northwich Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Northwich and Vale Royal, Rudheath and Witton Together and Weaver Vale Housing Trust.





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Lighting of St Helen's Church and Witton Cenotaph

We have been working closely with SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) to install a Children's section within Danevalley Cemetery, and it is through this charity that we were made aware of Baby Loss Awareness Week taking place in October with the aim to get as many buildings and monuments lit in pink or blue for the duration of the week. With permission and assistance from St Helen's Church Northwich we were able to illuminate both the Church and Witton Cenotaph.

Following this, Northwich Rotary Club approached us regarding a similar project for Polio awareness and we were only happy to oblige illuminating the Church and Cenotaph again, this time in purple to raise awareness.



Northwich Cycle Route

Following on from last year's annual report, we are pleased to say that the cycle route connecting Winnington Village and to Northwich Town Centre, linking Moss Farm, Winnington Primary School and Verdin Park, is well underway. Verdin Park has installed a new path with a designated cycle route at one side.





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Northwich in Bloom

For the second year in a row Northwich entered into the In Bloom awards and came away with Silver Gilt in the Best Large Town category. This year provided better growing conditions than the year before ensuring that the plants looked their best when it came time for judging.

Great British High Street

For the second year running Northwich was shortlisted for the 'Rising Star Award' in the Great British High Street Competition. The Rising Star category highlights towns that are committed to creating a better future for its residents and visitors. Unfortunately Northwich missed out on winning this award but will continue to enter in future years.





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100th Park Run

Saturday 1st February marked the 100th Northwich Parkrun with 424 participants donning their trainers to complete the 5k course around Carey Park. Northwich Town Mayor, Cllr Kevin Rimmer, officially opened the event by thanking those involved in bringing the event to Northwich, we then provided a huge celebratory cake for the occasion to be enjoyed with a brew provided by the Royal British Legion.



Victoria Street Play Area

With a grant received from Pocket Parks and financial contributions from Oakmere Toyota and JP Ceramics this year we were able to completely transform Victoria Street Play Area from a run down play area to a colourful area filled with equipment to provide essential play provisions for children. Natter tubes, a toddler multi-play and a trim trail are just some of the pieces of equipment which can now be found at the play area.



Give and Gain

Northwich Town Council often gets involved in or organises various clean ups throughout the town and last year was no different. Before the refurbishment of Victoria play area we removed a variety of litter and fly tipping from the riverbank, we have also cleared up behind the shops in the town centre and cleared paths in Leftwich in which the grass banks had encroached on the paths.



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Remembrance Sunday

Last year Remembrance Sunday took place on Sunday 10th November beginning with a Parade from Crum Hill to St Helen's Church. Many people attended to pay their respects with various groups and individuals from Brownies Guides, Cubs and Scouts to Northwich Veterans and active servicemen laying their wreaths at the Cenotaph. Also the 146 Squadron (Northwich) ATC who provided the music.



Tree of Lights

Our Tree of Lights service is well attended every year and this year was no different. The rain held off for the night as people gathered around the tree adorned with lights and memorial stars containing names and messages to those no longer with us. Following the service, refreshments of mulled wine, tea, coffee and biscuits were served in the condote room.





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Verdin Park Music Festival

Verdin Park Music Festival grows in popularity every year with visitors flocking to the area to enjoy the music provided from a variety of musicians including Take This, Golty, Ivan Kingsley and many more. A licenced bar and hot food stalls were also on site providing all in attendance with much needed refreshments.



Northwich Town Council COVID 19 response

At the time of writing, the spread of the Coronavirus ,(COVID19)which is presently affecting the entire global population is a very serious matter . A UK Lockdown is presently in operation, in a bid to prevent the spread of this disease which is claiming tens of thousands of lives. We are all adjusting our lives to adhere to strict Government restrictions in a way that could not have been imagined; bars, restaurants and non-essential shops closed, people remaining in their houses unable to visit friends and family. Despite all of this key workers have been continuing to go to work as normal, hospital staff continue to provide care for those who need it, all involved in the supply of food have been working to ensure that we can get supplies when needed, school workers are providing emergency childcare for key workers whilst sending work out for pupils staying at home to provide some sense of normality. There are many more key workers and we could not possibly mention them all, so what we as a council have done is to put symbols throughout Northwich to show that we support and are grateful for them all. There is a banner on the banner stand at Verdin Park, the once Golden Balls located near Brio Leisure Centre are now rainbow coloured and Town Bridge was illuminated blue on the evening of Thursday 8th May.



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Northwich Town Council COVID 19 response continued

Northwich's COVID-19 response has also seen multiple volunteer groups be co-ordinated to ensure our most vulnerable are looked after and get all they need. In order to assist with this Northwich Town Council have donated a freezer, sanitiser and gloves to Northwich Isolation Support Group. Sanitiser and gloves were also donated to Deli-Thyme, stock from our park shops was donated to staff at Victoria Infirmary, Northwich and Leighton Hospital and we are co-ordinating pick-ups from Roberts Bakery for volunteers.

We continue to work with partners including CW&C, Northwich Rotary Club and the Snow Angels ensuring that we do all we can. Northwich Town Council have also been able to successfully use technology to our advantage in order that our Office staff can carry on Council business work from their homes, and our Grounds staff can continue to fulfil our contracts with adjustments to their working patterns outdoors.

Our scheduled Council meetings have had to be postponed in accordance with Government guidelines, to respect everybody's health, safety and well-being. In order to support resident's right to daily exercise our open spaces remain open with signs reminding users to follow the social distancing guidelines currently in place.

Our play areas, are currently closed and will remain so until we are advised by the government that it is safe to reopen.

In spite of the many hardships that are currently being experienced by many local business, shop owner and residents, the hope is that some return to normality will come in time over the next few months and for the remainder of this year.





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Summary of Accounts 2019/2020

Opening Balance (inc E-Mark Res)	109,568
<u>Income</u>	
Precept (incl. empty homes bonus)	527,090
Cemetery	67,173
Parks & Leisure	3,975
Allotments	1,950
Outside Contracts	238,987
Central Establishment	4,974
Funding/Projects	63,400
Parks & Leisure shops	29,238
Community Events	25,152
Room Hire	707
Income Sub Total	1,072,214
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Central Establishment Wages	208,238
Parks & Cemetery Wages	162,775
Contract Work Wages	71,285
Events Wages	3,298
Central Establishment	49,646
Parks & Cemetery	141,815
Grants & Donations	16,217
Parks & Leisure shop	14,257
Events	42,796
Contracts Costs	71,605
Expenditure Sub Total	781,932
Closing Balance (Inc E-Mark Res)	290,282



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Your Councillors by Ward

WITTON WARD		
Alison Gerrard	AlisonGerrard@northwichtowncouncil.org	01606 41515
Jane Thomas	JaneThomas@northwichtowncouncil.org	07951516241
Sam Naylor	SamNaylor@northwichtowncouncil.org	07772 611274
Andy Stott	AndyStott@northwichtowncouncil.org	07870404679
Shelley Eastwood	ShelleyEastwood@northwichtowncouncil.org	07597 666 458
GREENBANK		
Mitch Rowley	MitchRowley@northwichtowncouncil.org	07920046629
Kevin Rimmer	KevinRimmer@northwichtowncouncil.org	07947977585
LEFTWICH		
Derek Bowden	DerekBowden@northwichtowncouncil.org	01606 75224
Andrew Cooper	AndrewCooper@northwichtowncouncil.org	07801951310
Catherine Fox	CatherineFox@northwichtowncouncil.org	07766055986
Amy Lockett	AmyLockett@northwichtowncouncil.org	07827221088
Linda Nelson	LindaNelson@northwichtowncouncil.org	01606 212446
BELMONT		
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WINNINGTON & CASTLE		
Janet Illidge	JanetIllidge@northwichtowncouncil.org	01606 74827
Graham Emmett	GrahamEmmett@northwichtowncouncil.org	07840144468
Tom Melville	TomMelville@northwichtowncouncil.org	07794488603
Gillian Edwards	GillianEdwards@northwichtowncouncil.org	07876633263
Michael McNamee	MichaelMcnamee@northwichtowncouncil.org	07745203245



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Contact your Council

Council Officers:

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Theresa Cash (Council Secretary/Mayors PA) - theresacash@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Stephanie Astbury (Contracts Co-Ordinator) - admin@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

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Northwich Town Council Services

Play Areas

Allotments

Events

Outside spaces

Councillors

Cemeteries

Town Centre Maintenance

Northwich Town Mayor

Northwich
town council