



Annual Report of the Chair of the Parish Council

2024-2025

- Thanks to Councillors for their hard work and commitment. In particular to the outgoing Chair Mike Chantler for his tireless efforts and dedication in representing the Parish Council in the ongoing course case.
- In the last 12 months the Council has welcomed several new councillors Tony Gilfillan, Tom Gouldburn, Mark Drabble and a new Vice Chair – Andrew Foreshew-Cain.
- Court proceedings around the MUGA are still ongoing, so due to sub-judice the Council is prohibited from discussing issues relating to it. However, the Council is awaiting the outcome of the judicial review and 2 dates 8th & 9th July have been scheduled for the Manchester Magistrates Court.
- A consultation is planned about the future developments of recreational spaces with the parish.
- Thanks to Borough Councillors Sally DePee and Kath Sizeland for their support. The multi-agency workshop to provide support to pensioners, particularly those experiencing difficulties following the removal of their winter fuel payments, was well received. It is hoped that similar workshops can be arranged in partnership again.
- The new Clerk Gill and Assistant Clerk Emma have worked extremely hard to improve the Council's financial systems and the way this is communicated to the community.
- As part of the improvements in communications and transparency a Parish Council newsletter has been developed and is put together by a volunteer. If any local organisation has an upcoming event they should contact the Parish Office with details so that it can be included in the newsletter. Please also contact the office if you would like to be included on its email distribution, there is also a QR code which you can use to sign up to digital copies.
- The newsletter is only one small part of good communication, residents are encouraged to look at the Parish Council's website, read the agenda/minutes and observe meetings, to gain an understanding of what is happening.
- Our parks and flower tubs are looking great and thanks to Phil, Dave and Neil for their hard work. As part of our biodiversity plan, which is in its infancy, the tubs this summer will include native pollinating plants to encourage insects. Plus a 2-metre strip around the park will be left uncut to encourage pollination of wildflowers.
- Thanks also to the Town Hall caretakers Debbie and Stewart who work behind the scenes to ensure the Town Hall is welcoming to all who attend.
- Councillors are all local residents, who volunteer as they value and appreciate our Town. We come from diverse backgrounds and bring different skills and experiences to the role. The golden thread that binds us together is our desire to work together as a team, not in isolation, but with the community to make a difference. We have experienced some challenging times over the last few years and sometimes despite our hard work and commitment the outcome is not what we wanted. Despite all the challenges, councillors remain determined to improve how we work together and engage with the community.
- An audit of Councillors skills is being carried out which will maximise how the council can take advantage of transferable skills and experience. A programme of training has begun for new and current councillors, so we have a team who fully understand the operating framework.

- There are often lively discussions on the actions of the Parish Council on social media. We would encourage residents who have ideas to bring their skills to the Council by looking out for councillor vacancies which when they occur are posted on the Parish Council website.