

Adlington Town Council

Annual Report to Electors 2020-21

Town Mayor's Report

Well what an interesting year! I was elected as Deputy Mayor in May 2020 and found myself taking over as Town Mayor in August, after the resignation of my predecessor, in the middle of lockdowns and pandemic restrictions.

From April 2020 Council meetings went on-line through our new friend ZOOM. Generally this has worked well, but it is just not the same as seeing people face to face. Sadly there has been very little in the way of public events where I can get out and about and meet people, but hopefully that is changing now as lots of people have been vaccinated and case rates are dropping dramatically at the time of writing in mid-April.

As a Council we've tried to do things to raise the spirits of people in Adlington, with, for example, the LIGHT ADLINGTON initiative brightening up the town at Christmas, well supported by local businesses and the community. We hope to repeat this for 2021. As a result I was asked to talk on Radio Lancashire about this and took advantage of the chance to plug Adlington as a lovely, friendly place to live and work.

For Remembrance Sunday we had great help from St Pauls Church and Father David, and together we recorded a service for people to follow. I also made an impromptu visit to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and said a few words and listened to a moving rendition of the Last Post by Faye Fairweather from Rivington and Adlington Brass Band.

As a Council we are trying to improve communications with residents and increasing our use of Social Media, so watch out on FACEBOOK for news, but of course don't forget our Website and the traditional noticeboards dotted around the Town.

On a Saturday in early April I met and assisted a group of volunteers from the Audacious Church, some of whom are local residents who had volunteered to do a litter pick around the Jubilee Recreation Ground. It was good to get out and about and meet people! Hopefully, as things ease, we can socialise more and enjoy the events that Adlington has to offer over the remainder of 2021.

Cllr Kevin O'Donnell, 12 April 2021.

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Clerk's Report

Finance

Chorley Council approved the precept for the 2020/21 financial year at £19,000, an increase of £500 on the 2019/20 financial year. This comprised £17,184 from the local "tax base" which was enhanced by a top-up grant of £1,816.

Expenditure in 2020-21 was comparable even though some of the Town Council's community initiatives could not take place in full or at all due to the social distancing measures required throughout much of the year. Grants totalling £2,450 were approved by the Town Council to five local organisations, who applied through the Community Awards scheme. Only £1,750 of this committed expenditure has been spent at the year-end.

The Town Council retained a total of £2,577.35 of Community Infrastructure Funding received in three payments since April 2017 from Chorley Council. This is intended to contribute towards Chorley Council's proposed upgrading of the grounds of King George V Playing Fields in Adlington. Plans are still in discussion about this investment. No date has yet been set for this work to commence on site.

In July 2020 the Town Council secured a £5,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Lancashire to provide weekly food parcel support for children whose family income has been adversely impacted by Corona virus. We partnered with Living Water's (LW) Church Storehouse and also contributed £970 from our reserves to deliver this project up to 31 March 2021. In that time LW Storehouse made up and delivered 171 weekly food parcels which helped to support 35 children and their families and, at Christmas, provided 37 food hampers which were distributed through the local primary schools. The Town Council is very grateful to LW Storehouse and the primary schools in the catchment area for their support in directing this funding to struggling families.

We took the opportunity to take a different approach to brighten the Village in December 2020. With the support of 34 local businesses and some community organisations, the Town Council subsidised the first 'Light Adlington 2020' initiative. This delivered the display of 38 small lit Christmas trees on shops, commercial frontages and on some facility buildings across both Upper and Lower Adlington. We also encouraged residents and other businesses to join in by lighting their own properties or gardens to make it a community wide initiative.

The Appendix gives a breakdown of the 2020/21 income and expenditure.

Councillors

During the 2020/21 year, two Town Councillors resigned in July and August respectively. As a result, Cllr Kevin O'Donnell as the Deputy Mayor agreed in August 2020 to act as Town Mayor to represent the Town Council, but without taking on the wider community role, which was not possible anyway under the circumstances. In September 2020, Cllr Beverley Speers agreed to accept the nomination of Deputy Mayor.

In September 2020 Chorley Council advertised the two mid-term Councillor vacancies in line with Section 87 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972. This determined that a local election was not required. Instead we advertised the two vacancies to be filled by co-option until the next local election in 2023. As a result Cllr Stuart Clewlow was co-opted for the Central Ward at the 7 December 2020 Town Council meeting. The vacancy to represent the West Ward remains open. The Town Council will continue to advertise this vacancy periodically on its Website, through social media and in the Noticeboards.

Village Matters

2020/21 has been a difficult year as many of the Town Council's traditional community initiatives and gatherings have not been possible at all, or, like the Civic Remembrance Event had to take place on a much reduced scale and without the involvement of the public.

Due to the timing of the first corona virus lockdown from late March 2020 Chorley Council's contractor was unable to fulfil the district-wide hanging basket contract. Many residents said that they missed their colourful displays on the lamp posts. We continued to fund the bulbs and plants for six of the planters around the Village on Market Place, under the Notice board on Park Road and at the War Memorial which the Adlington in Bloom volunteers successfully continued to maintain.

The Civic Sunday Event, the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition, the presentation of the 2020 Annual Citizens' and Junior Citizen's Awards, the annual Village litter pick and local environmental clean-up campaign normally arranged with Adlington & District in Bloom, the Remembrance parade, the Carol Concert and the production of the printed Town Council's Update newsletter were all cancelled in 2020/21. Cllr Speers did produce a Winter 2020 on-line edition of Update.

Between them Cllrs Hart and O'Donnell informally assessed different sections of the Adlington Circular Walk to examine the condition of the footpath, the boundary fencing and the signage to identify any maintenance requirements as this Walk and other public footpaths were more heavily used throughout the year.

The Town Council continues to do its best to respond to **problems** reported by residents. As appropriate the Council refers matters to either Chorley or Lancashire County Councils for their assistance to address the issues that residents have identified. In 2020/21 Lancashire County Council has been asked to consider the potential for conflict between pedestrians and parked vehicles, particularly where these are in part parked on the public footpath and to remove out of date road repair signage and other unauthorised advertising on lamp posts. Chorley Council has been asked about concerns that owners are not picking up after their dogs in the grounds of Fairview Community Centre and about the amount of litter and plastic waste left behind on the Jubilee Playing Fields following Junior Football League matches. The Town Council has also followed up complaints from a resident about repeat fly-tipping and has secured the co-operation of the business who leases this land to clean it up and to carry out some preventative measures.

We have continued to progress the agreed Neighbourhood Priorities Project with Chorley Council to install an electricity supply and permanent lighting at the War Memorial and to monitor and maintain three **Automated External Defibrillators** which are in place around the Village.

This year the Council's **website** www.adlingtontowncouncil.co.uk and in particular its Facebook page have been used to keep residents informed. Cllr Speers has regularly updated the Council's Facebook page to provide an impartial and a reliable source of information on corona virus and notification of the Government's changing legislation and guidance in respect of social distancing measures and other actions required to keep people safe. Cllr Buckley has updated the Council's website to include the annual meeting programme, the Agendas and minutes, and the Council initiatives that have taken place during the past year. In addition the Town Council is also on **twitter** and updates on Council meetings at [@AdlingtonTC](http://www.twitter.co.uk)

Planning

Chorley Council is the Local Planning Authority and carries out a formal consultation procedure on each application which includes notification to neighbours and stakeholder organisations. Chorley Council decides whether planning permission should be granted or not.

The Town Council continues to monitor all planning applications in Adlington, and welcomes representations from all interested parties. The Town Council's comments as a consultee give an indication of local opinion and may suggest changes or conditions for Chorley Council to consider for the benefit of existing residents and to protect the environment.

The Town Council has made comments as a stakeholder on several **planning applications** during the year. These have included support for a series of applications to modernise both the premises and operational practices at Fairport Engineering and for the reuse of the vacant former bank premises on Market Street for commercial purposes and, to object to the outline application to build 25 new homes at Carrington Street, Lower Adlington due to concerns about the suitability of the site, which is safeguarded land, the creation of additional traffic and pressure on local public services.

Meetings

During 20/21, the Town Council has continued to meet monthly on-line and has offered that residents wishing to raise an issue of local concern could also join in the on-line Open Forum at the start of each meeting or ask the Clerk to keep the Council updated on relevant issues.

Events

The Town Council **assisted by St Paul's Church** was fortunately able to host a shortened on-line **Civic Remembrance Event** which was pre-recorded inside St Pauls' Church, Adlington. This was followed by a restricted pre-recorded wreath laying Ceremony at the

War Memorial limited to one representative of each of the local councils in the South-East Chorley area. Members of the public and representatives of other organisations were able to pay their respects at the War Memorial on an informal basis to comply with social distancing measures then in force or by joining in the national doorstep clapping at 11am on Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2020.

Representation

The opportunity to represent the Town Council on external bodies has been very limited this year with only one on-line Chorley Liaison meeting being held in February 2021. The Town Mayor did raise Adlington's profile by speaking on the BBC Lancashire's local radio Breakfast Show in early December to promote the Village, its residents and the small lit tree initiative.

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 as well as regularly updating its four Noticeboards across the Village.

Members of Adlington Town Council 2019/23

Councillor	Phone	Ward
Kevin O'Donnell	01257 482107	Central
June Molyneaux	01257 481184	Central
Stuart Clewlow	07866 925602	Central
Clive Hart	01257 483194	North
Jeanette Lowe	01257 481415	North
Peter Wilson	01257 474678	North
Alan Robinson	01257 752112	West
Kim Snape	07868 327395	West
Vacancy		West
Beverley Speers	01257 481321	East
Peter Walkden	07777 606726	East
Nina Buckley	07568733129	East

Appendix – Financial Summary 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Expenditure	
Clerk's salary costs and mileage for council business	£5,282.22
Information and Communication Technology, including Zoom	£808.32
Insurance	£483.37
Independent Audit	£120.00
Subscriptions	£76.00
Mayor's Allowance (paid out and subsequently returned)	£750.00
Civic Sunday	£0.00
Mayor's Inauguration	£0.00
Remembrance Sunday	£0.00
RBL Wreath	£25.00
Streetscene Enhancement: (hanging baskets/planters/notice boards)	£116.23
Streetscene enhancement: Community initiative (Light Adlington 2020)	£3,264.54
Training costs	£0.00
Newsletter - Printing & Production (Spring 2020 issue debited in 2020/21)	£330
Newsletter - Distribution (Spring 2020 issue debited in 2020/21)	£250.00
Community Awards Scheme (£700 approved has not yet been paid out)	£1,750.00
Carol Concert	£0.00
Automated External Defibrillators - (replacement of pads and batteries)	£648.00
Room Hire Charges	£0.00
Contingencies & Other Projects - hazard warning tape	£5.65
Election expenses	£0.00
CFL weekly food parcels and Christmas food hampers	£5970.00
TOTAL , including £261.06. VAT to be reclaimed from HMRC in 2021/22	£19,879.33
Income	
Precept	£17,184.00
Precept Top-Up Grant	£1816.00
Bank Interest (as at 29 May 2020)	£11.45
Credit Union Dividend (net of annual fee)	£8.08
VAT reclaimed from 2019/20 financial year	£912.43
Community Foundation for Lancashire Covid 19 Grant	£5,000.00
Contributions towards Light Adlington 2020 lit trees	£1,780.00
Mayors Allowance repaid	£750
TOTAL	£27,452.47
Excess of Income over Expenditure	£7,573.14

