

Town Mayors Annual Report May 2021/2022

The start of this report will sound similar to the others I have written, over the past 2 years but I do feel that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Mayor for the last 3 years and to represent the town at various functions across the county, and on numerous SALC committees.

As I write this I have just read that Ellesmere was been named in the Sunday Times best places to live in the Midlands guide list. The main criteria were the beautiful countryside with walks and the mini lake (or should I say Mere) district, and the amazing community spirit.

On 6th May 2021 council elections, were held a few of the previous councillors used this opportunity to step down, and I thank them for their many years of public service to Ellesmere. However, despite a huge publicity push by the Jo and her team we did not have a flood of people coming forward to stand for election to the town council and after the elections we were still 3 councillors short of a full council.

Over the following few months we co-opted 3 members of the public as new councillors.

I would like to remind everyone that all the town councillors are volunteers and give their time freely, it is estimated that the average time a town or parish councillor spends on council work is approx. 22 hour per week.

I would like to thank them all for hard work and their massive support over the year.

I would also like to reiterate how proud I am of the way the local community and businesses in Ellesmere have supported the town during the unprecedented times we have been living in. And Ellesmere must be one of the few towns where all the retail space is taken

During the past year, the council has continued to work together towards improving communication and accessibility with the residents and businesses in the town and help to move forward some of our many projects.

On 10th July to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Market Charter being granted to the town the town council organised a charity and craft market in the market hall and the street adjacent to it. After the months of lockdown and with the addition by local art group Fizzgigs of a re-enactment of the presentation of the charter to the town it proved to be a very popular event.

The town council agreed to employ TNS youth Foundation to carry out a youth engagement project in the town to find out what the youth of the town want. This was hampered a little by the Covid lockdown however, during a period of 6/8 weeks leading up to Christmas the TNS team carried out 6 scoping visits speaking to youths from 12 to 14 years of age at various sites in town plus various businesses in the town and involving the local PCSOs.

The scoping work has shown that Ellesmere does not have huge problems with youth, the main cause of problems appears to be boredom.

TNS recommended that another weekly youth café or club would complement the Tuesday youth club and enable the town council and the town to offer the young people the opportunity to grow, develop and express themselves in a positive setting with peer mentoring.

The town council continues to work closely other local organisations and this year worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce to organise the Winter Festival, which included a Ferris Wheel and small carousel all free of charge to the public.

The town council has continued to work closely with the Chamber of commerce to put a bid together to Shropshire council for the Welcome Back fund, this fund was to help to improve areas in

the town to help attract visitors. The bid has been successful and comprised of new tables and seating on the promenade in town plus a makeover of the Cross Street public toilets.

Over the past year the town council set up the following working Groups. The Queen's Green Canopy working group, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group, Restoring Shropshire verges working group, Shropshire Food & Fuel Poverty Alliance working group. on these groups are working hard to

The town council agreed for Futurama to hold 2 Family festivals in the Beech Grove Football Ground in 2022

The council are coordinating the events with local groups to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee over the 3 day Bank Holiday at the beginning of June this year.

The program will start on Thursday 2nd June with an evening church service at St. Mary's Church, followed by refreshments, a Piper a Beacon which will be lit a 9pm.

On Friday 3rd June the official opening of the Birch Road Pond Nature Reserve, unveiling the name plaque on the Oak Tree planted to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Saturday 4th June Picnic in the Cremorne Gardens starting at 4pm and ending with a firework display around 10pm.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to the Town Clerk Jo Butterworth and, Jean as they have kept the Town Council running efficiently, arranging and Clerking council and various committee meetings, interpreting the Governments Covid guidance for the town hall throughout the various lockdowns, and ensuring that the Town Councils finances continue to remain in a healthy position.

We have just heard some very good news - The four local people we nominated for outstanding community spirit during the Covid 19 pandemic have been selected to attend the Shropshire Lieutenancy Garden Party this year.

They are Ifran & Rosie Mukadam, Ellesmere newsagents, Julie Edwards from Mere Motors, and Mandy Byrne who at the time worked at the Coop.

Cllr Paul Goulbourne

May 2022.

On page 3 is the list of the many services the town council provide for all residents and visitors to the town.

Services Provided and Funded by Ellesmere Town Council

- **Town Hall** – Running & Maintenance Costs
- **Cross Street Public Toilets** - Running & Maintenance Costs
- **Swan Hill Cemetery** – 60% of Running & Maintenance Costs
- **Swan Hill Cemetery Chapel** - 60% of Maintenance Costs
- **St. Mary's Churchyard** – Grounds Maintenance Costs
- **Tuesday Market** - Running Costs
- **New Wharf Square** – Grounds Maintenance Costs
- **Town Benches** – Maintenance Costs
- **Cross Street & Oswestry Road Bus Shelters** – Maintenance Costs
- **Library** – Funding towards Running Costs
- **Town CCTV Cameras** – Running & Maintenance Costs
- **Public Flower Beds & Floral Displays** – Grounds Maintenance Costs
- **Kingfisher Walk Playground** – Maintenance Costs
- **Birch Road Recreation Ground** - Grounds Maintenance Costs
- **Football Ground Beech Drive** - Grounds & Play Area Equipment Maintenance Costs
- **Street Lighting** – Maintenance & Electricity for 85 Street Lights
- **Town Christmas Lighting** – Lease Costs
- **Town Street Furniture** – Maintenance Costs
- **Old Town Hall Clock** – Maintenance Costs
- **Ellesmere in Bloom** – Donation towards Plants.
- **Youth Provision** - Funding
- **Winter Festival** - Funds
- **Remembrance Day** – Hosting Costs
- **Grant Funding to Local Community Groups**