

HANDFORTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2023

Welcome to the Handforth Town Council Newsletter Spring 2023. We hope that you enjoy reading the content which covers the work of the council over the year.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

This has been a productive year for Handforth Town Council. (HTC) This is evidenced by the number of grants issued to Handforth groups. Also, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd Jubilee grants funding many street parties in Handforth. (See below for the details)

Discussions between Cheshire East Council (CEC) and HTC have been underway for some time, regarding the transfer of control of Handforth Youth Centre (HYC) from CEC to HTC. Although there will be running costs to be borne by HTC, there is also revenue coming from the various groups and businesses who use the building which will go towards offsetting the overheads. The current revenue is expected initially to meet 80% of the running costs. Once the building is under HTC control, the Clerk and council will be looking to improve the incoming revenue. Handforth currently does not have a community centre and it is hoped that by bringing HYC under HTC control, the facilities can be enhanced and secure a Community Centre for all residents to benefit from.

The 3 largest events on our calendar took place between 13th and 26th November. Remembrance Sunday Parade, Children's Pantomime and the Christmas Lights switch on. The numbers of Handforth residents supporting these events is increasing each year. Excellent support was also given to the Christmas Carols event in the Paddock organised by Steve Burmester of St Chad's Church.

THE KING'S CORONATION

On May 06th 2023 the coronation of King Charles III will take place. To mark the occasion in Handforth the Town Council will erect bunting along Wilmslow Road and has been offering an award to any community or residents group who wish to hold a street party or group activity to celebrate and mark the King's Coronation, so far 10 groups have applied.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Every year the council has a community grants budget which has assisted virtually every community group in Handforth over the past years including both the schools, station, library, churches and other not for profit organisations.

CHESHIRE EAST COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The CEC Governance Committee suggested that HTC amalgamate with Wilmslow and Chorley councils. At the council meeting of 16/3/2021 HTC voted against the merger. Consultation by CEC commenced online. HTC councillors canvassed Handforth residents via a form delivered to Handforth households requesting support in voting against this

proposal. Councillors also spent Saturday mornings for 6 weeks in the Paddock requesting the support of residents. There were 1128 responses from Handforth residents. Of the 510 direct to CEC online, 437/86% were against the merger. Of the 618 responses via the HTC leaflet, 591/96% were against the merger. To ensure propriety, signatures and postcodes were recorded on the leaflet. CEC Cllrs voted on the independence recommendations of the Sub Committee, in favour of Handforth maintaining independence. Of our 2 CEC Ward Cllrs, Cllr Julie Smith voted for Handforth to remain independent. Of the 4800 total responses received by CEC, 1128 submitted by Handforth residents represent 23.5% of the total. The size of the vote by Handforth residents for independence made it impossible for CEC to ignore.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

Chaplin's Gold Pantos came along to the Youth centre and gave us an afternoon and evening performance of Aladdin. We had lots of families come along to watch and enjoy the show, which was great to see! At £1 per adult and 50p per child this has always been a very well attended event as we keep the ticket costs so low. Any money made from ticket sales is used to purchase drinks and a goody bag for each child which we source from one of our local shops. It's an ideal cheap Christmas panto treat for all the family, and we have already planned the next pantomime for 24th November 2023, which we hope to see you all at. A big thank you to the volunteers from Wilmslow High School & CE Youth Services who helped to set up and serve on the day, it was much appreciated!

NEW FLOODLIGHTS INSTALLATION

In August 2022, in partnership with both Onward Homes and the Cheshire Police Crime Commissioner, HTC secured funding for the installation of new floodlighting on the sports pitch at Handforth Youth Centre. We encourage anyone who wishes to use this facility to contact the clerk or centre manager.

ACCESS TO HALL WOOD

£106 million from the Sanctuary Development, Coppice Way was paid to Cheshire East to fund local infra-structure projects in 2014. It was designated for a new path to be laid and projects for local schoolchildren in Hall Road wood. £106 million has now been superseded by CIL which is now paid directly to local town & parish councils who have a neighbourhood plan in place and Handforth is in this fortunate position. Cllr Susan Moore became aware in 2019 of this sizeable amount of money and began conversations with the Parks & Recreational department to try to get the project off the ground. Before any work could commence the area around the path had to be made safe and this work finally took place in the summer of 2022 when a number of trees were felled. Cheshire East have also suggested there may be sufficient money for a children's learning area within the wood for 'green projects' and two lecterns will be installed explaining the historical significance of the wood. Funds for the path are available and it will be completed before the end of this financial year. This will provide a much improved link, through our beautiful wood, in all weathers, linking the Village, Stanley Green, Spath lane estate and St. Benedicts school.

THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

Handforth Town Council agreed to help the residents of Handforth celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. An amount of £5000 was set aside to enable groups to apply to assist in supporting the celebrations. Twelve groups applied for varying amounts and the process was set ready for the 3 days of celebrations. Red, white and blue bunting festooned many of the streets and roads and the flags were out in the village and the displays were fabulous.

The community came together to support this wonderful milestone, no monarch had reigned longer than our Queen Elizabeth II being on the throne for 75 years. Handforth should be proud of all that they achieved to make the many events so successful.

HANDFORTH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

We had another successful event in the Paddock which saw the community come together to watch the switch on of the Christmas Lights in November. We were honored to have Dorothy Anderson, one of Handforth's oldest residents, press the big button. Father Christmas visited with his Grotto and there were lots of happy children delighted to see him! The donkeys were a hit with young and old and there were plenty of stalls selling a variety of Christmas goodies as well as Charity raffles raising money for local good causes. Not forgetting our fabulous PCSOs who were on hand to offer advice / support. Thank you to all the children from the local schools who came along and entertained us with their amazing carol singing, you were all brilliant!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There are usually 15-20 different groups or organisations which take part in the parade from the Youth Centre to the War Memorial. Both sides of Wilmslow Road are well attended all along the route, which demonstrates the importance of the parade to all ages. The estimates of the numbers of people present around the memorial are c2000.

As of 2021, Cheshire Police no longer perform traffic management for Remembrance Sunday to facilitate a safe parade. HTC consider the parade to be the most significant event for which it has responsibility. For that reason, HTC has now taken responsibility for the costs incurred for the services provided by a traffic management contractor, in order that this important event continues to take place in a safe manner.

HTC has taken overall responsibility for the War Memorial, which is now listed as an asset of Handforth Town Council. This responsibility includes insurance and maintenance etc. of the War Memorial.

YOUR CHESHIRE EAST WARD COUNCILLOR – JULIE SMITH

I was elected as a Cheshire East Independent Ward Councillor for Handforth in May 2019. I represent our community at Cheshire East dealing with issues such as Highways, Planning, Youth Services and Open Spaces. During the Cheshire East Governance consultation period regarding the question of Independence for Handforth, I lent my support to the stay independent group and cast my vote at Cheshire East in favour of Handforth remaining independent.

In my Cheshire East Councillor role, I can often be found in my hi-vis supervising community skip days and litter picks

I volunteer on a weekly basis at all 3 youth clubs in Handforth, Juniors, Seniors and Sensational Stay and Play, a mixed age youth club for children with Special Needs, which I was pleased to be involved in setting up. I am very proud to represent Cheshire East Council and Handforth Town Council at the Remembrance Sunday Parade. Groups I have worked with include Time Out Group, Hope Central Food Bank, Friends of Handforth Station and the Colshaw Estate Tenants and Residents Association, CETRA.

In the run up to the first lockdown, I asked on social media for volunteers to form a Neighbours Helping Neighbours group. The response was unbelievable with 86 volunteers. This would not have been successful without Handforth Town Councillor Sue Moore who coordinated the group, resulting in most roads in Handforth having at least one neighbour willing to collect prescriptions, shopping etc., on behalf of those who were shielding from the Covid19 virus. Many of the friendships resulting from this group are still ongoing.

I frequently get asked about highways issues and the best way for residents to report these is via the Cheshire East Council "Fix My Street" website:

www.fixmystreet@cheshireeast.gov.uk

THE HANDFORTH POLICE TEAM

Your Local officers PCSO Harding & PC Rowbotham are encouraging residents to complete the Residents Voice survey. This survey is used to record residents' opinions on local policing. There are empty text boxes within the survey which give residents the opportunity to tell Cheshire Police and partner agencies what it is exactly that we need to be focusing on. Go to www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoicemacclesfield or find the survey on the Cheshire Police website or alternatively complete one in person with a local PCSO or PC at a surgery in the village. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and analysis from completed surveys identified these following areas which your local policing team have been focused on. Parking Complaints, Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs & Speeding. If you would prefer a paper questionnaire, please contact PCSO Harding 07989 653022 or Gareth.Harding@Cheshire.Police.uk

Contact Details:

Town Clerk: Ashley Comiskey Dawson Tel: 01625 523330, email:

clerk@handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Web address: <https://handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk> Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/102337730239175>