



HANDFORTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2024



Welcome to the Handforth Town Council Newsletter Autumn 2024. We hope that you enjoy reading the content which covers the work of the council over the year.

Introduction and Welcome from the Chair of Handforth Town Council

My name is Sue Moore, and I am your west ward councillor and chair of Handforth Town Council.

Many of you will have met me alongside other councillors at the community skip day or in the paddock when we were getting your take on various issues at Cheshire East Council, the latest being the library consultation.



Your town council is here to support our community in a variety of ways by awarding grants to local volunteer groups, organising events, funding the Remembrance Sunday parade, the Christmas lights switch on, pantomime and the planters in the village. All these things we believe enhance the village and make it a better place to live. Our latest project has been to support the library opening hours by funding an extra half day a week on top of the 1.5 days that Cheshire East fund. We are also still engaged in taking on the lease for the community youth centre which is used by many local volunteer groups. We feel certain that if we do not take it over, Cheshire East Council will dispose of it as part of their ongoing financial challenges, and we need this centre for our community to use as there is nowhere else for them to go.

Most importantly we want to hear from you, our residents, about what you want for our community. You can do that in several ways, contact us via the website, e-mail us or come to one of our monthly meetings, usually the second Tuesday in the month at the community Youth centre (see website for details) We will make you most welcome and will listen to any suggestions you may have. This is our community, and we need to look after it as best we can.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our volunteer councillors who give up their time freely and help to make important decisions about our community. We could not do this without you. We look forward to hearing from you in the coming weeks and months.

This Newsletter is printed and published
On behalf of Handforth Town Council.

Handforth Christmas Lights Switch On 2024

Following a tendering process early in 2024 Handforth Town Council has renegotiated a new contract for Christmas lighting from this Christmas until 2028. this will include a brand new festive lighting display throughout Handforth!

We are pleased to announce that we are doing things a little differently with the Christmas market as well this year. We are hoping to have a new range of stalls and as well as the local school choirs we have booked some singing acts for the day as well. This year the Christmas light's switch on will take place from 1pm on Saturday 30th November. We are hopeful that a local celebrity will be able to join us on the day to help with the big switch on event.



Community Grants

Every year the council runs a community grants scheme which has assisted virtually every community group in Handforth over the past years; this includes both of the schools, the station, library, churches and other not for profit organisations.



Cheshire East Council Library Consultation 2024

Cheshire East Council launched their Library Strategy Consultation in August 2024, This proposes to reduce the opening hours of Handforth Library from 32 hours per week to 11.5 hours per week. Understandably the Town Council opposes any reduction in hours for the Library and launched their own residents survey. Over six weeks during August and September 736 paper copies of this survey were returned to the council along with 44 online responses. These surveys have formed part of the consultation response from Handforth and we would hope that Cheshire East Council change their minds in reducing these opening hours. However, alongside this, the Town Council have agreed to top-up funding if the opening hours are reduced. The top-up funding the council have agreed to amounts to circa £14,000.00 per year and will allow the library to open for a further 3.5 hours per week per year. The Town Council have chosen to invest these hours on a Monday afternoon, hopefully giving residents greater access to full library services and also allowing the library to open for 4 days per week as opposed to 3 days per week.



HANDS OFF HANDFORTH LIBRARY

Please complete the Cheshire East Council Consultation or the Town Council Consultation to have your say:
https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/v/Library_Strategy_Consultation_2024
<https://handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk/>

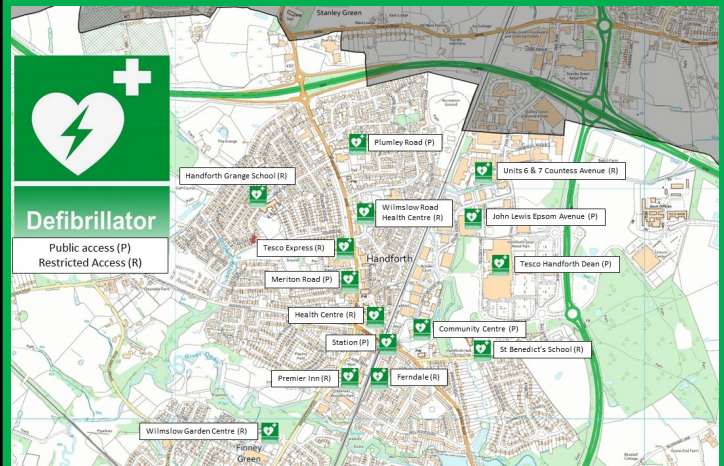
Cheshire East Council have now launched their Library Strategy Consultation for 2024. The proposals for Handforth Library will see a reduction in opening hours from 32.5 hours per week to 11 hours per week staffed by CEC with an additional 3.5 hours per week funded by Handforth Town Council.
 To respond to the Cheshire East Council Survey please go online to https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/v/Library_Strategy.
 (Paper forms can be found in Handforth Library)
 To respond to the Town Council Library Survey please go online to <https://handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk/>
 Town Councilors will also have copies and will be out and about asking residents to complete in the coming weeks.

CEC have agreed to accept copies of the Town Council survey and they will be included in the feedback to the CEC survey.
 The Survey will run until Sunday the 15th of September.



New Defibrillator Installations

Since January 2024 the Town Council have installed two new defibrillator units and cabinets with the assistance of some central government funding. These cabinets are located at the Go Local at the Plumley road shops and at the Handforth Youth Centre. A cabinet has been donated to the Waggon and Horses PH and we have been donated another defibrillator which we are hoping to install by the end of 2024. Below is a defibrillator map for Handforth which we will be displaying in all the noticeboards.



Christmas Pantomime

As in previous years, the Town Council will be holding the Children's Christmas Pantomime at Handforth Youth Centre. This year it will be held on Friday the 29th of November with two performances, one at 4:30pm and one at 7:30pm. This years performance is Jack and the Beanstalk. Tickets are on sale now £1.50 per adult and 50p per child. To purchase tickets, please contact the clerk to the council via email: clerk@handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

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. This

years Remembrance Sunday parade will take place on Sunday 10th of November.

Poppy Display at the War Memorial



During the spring the Town Council purchased a large number of poppy seeds, these along with compost and pots donated by Oak Nurseries were given to the children at both Handforth Grange and St Benedict's. The children carefully grew the poppies from seeds and then during the summer, these were planted around the Handforth War Memorial to provide a beautiful poppy display for years to come.

Light at the end of the tunnel: Access for All at Handforth Station

The Friends of Handforth Station (FoHS) were founded on 30th November 1996. Right from the outset, founder member (now President of FoHS) Mike Bishop viewed the flights of 35 steps leading down to each of the platforms of Handforth station as a formidable barrier to rail travel, both for physically disabled persons and for those encumbered by pushchairs or awkward luggage. Mike therefore began a campaign to provide alternative means of access to the platforms.

Over the last eight years, Mike's campaign has been supported by members of Handforth Parish/Town Council and by the local MP. The campaign reached a successful conclusion in April 2019 with the award of a grant (then estimated at around £2 million) under HM Government's Access for All scheme.

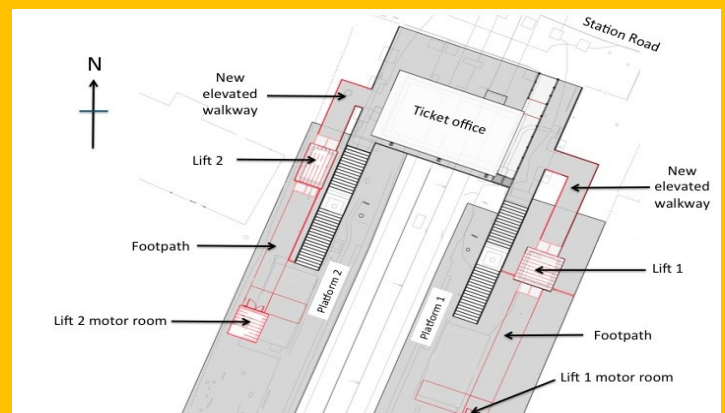
On Wednesday 11th September, officers of FoHS attended a status update meeting chaired by Rory Kingdon, Senior Sponsor with Network Rail. Rory presented a draft plan (see below) for lift installation at Handforth station. New elevated lift access walkways will be constructed as side branches from the existing walkways that lead to the platform staircases.

Due to space constraints imposed by the site, the lift on the north-bound platform (lift 2) will be slightly smaller (capacity 13 persons standing) than lift 1 on the southbound platform (capacity 16 persons). New footpaths at platform level will provide access routes between the platforms and the lifts.

Network Rail also provided a draft timetable for the lift project. It is hoped that the outline design of the works will be complete around the end of December 2024. A daytime/evening public information meeting is planned for early in 2025. The detailed project engineering will be available around May 2025, with construction work commencing later in the summer. It is anticipated that lift installation will be completed in the Spring of 2026.

While FoHS have been the main proponents of the lift project, they gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Handforth Parish/Town Council. This took the form of a grant of £5000 towards the costs of a Grip 2 study (an essential prerequisite for any application to the Access for All scheme), and £150 for an assessment of station accessibility by disabled persons.

As the updated cost of lift installation is currently estimated at around £4.5million, Handforth Parish/Town Council seems to have made a very wise investment in facilitating procurement of substantial infrastructure that will be much valued both by Handforth residents and by visitors to our town.



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 resident's 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



Resident's VOICE

Have your say on policing in your area...

It is important to us that we know about the issues that cause you concern. We have set up a survey where you can tell us about the things you would like us to focus on in your area.



Open the camera or a dedicated QR code reading application on your phone and hover over the QR code to scan it.

You will be taken to a page where you can complete the survey.

If you can't scan the code you can go to www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoicemacclesfield



How to report crime:
On our website: www.cheshire.police.uk
Telephone: 101
In an emergency dial 999

Cheshire East Council Services

Waste and Recycling / Bins: For problems with bins, visit their Recycling and Bin Collections page.

Roads and Highways Issues: To report potholes, fly-tipping, streetlights, etc., contact Cheshire East online and get a tracking code for your report: Fix My Street.

Road Improvement Programme: To see the road improvement plans for this year, check their Road Condition and Repairs page.

Planning Applications: To view and comment on planning applications, go to: Planning Search <https://tinyurl.com/3unusnvt>

Stray or Dangerous Dogs: Report stray or dangerous dogs here: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/community_safety/lost-or-stray-dog-service.aspx

Report a Crime: For reporting crimes, road traffic incidents, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, lost or found property, visit the Cheshire Police Website or call 101.

For Queries About: Handforth Youth Centre or the Town Ranger Services see below:

Your Councillors for

Handforth Ward



Councillor Julie Smith

13 Ferndale
Station Road
Handforth
Cheshire
SK9 3AB
Telephone: 07967 210007
Email: Julie.Smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk



Councillor John Smith

Flat 13, Ferndale
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Email: John.Smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Not sure which Ward you live in?
Visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk enter your postcode in 'Find My Nearest' and go to 'Community Information'.



Contact Details:

Town Clerk: Ashley Comiskey Dawson Tel: 01625 523330, email: clerk@handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Web address: www.handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/groups/102337730239175

HANDFORTH TOWN COUNCIL RESIDENTS SURVEY

The Town Council would like to hear your views on what you would like to see the Town Council achieve in the coming years, so please put your comments in this box, tear it off and drop it into the postbox at Handforth Youth Centre or Moore Secures offices on Wilmslow Road, or fill in the online survey on the Town Councils website:

www.handforthtowncouncil.gov.uk

