



Stocksbridge Town Council

Annual Report 2019/2020

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Well what a year this has been for us all and as Mayor I feel extremely proud and honoured to be part of it.

I firstly would like to say a special thank you to Richard, my Deputy Mayor for his support and kindness. Also thank you to Teresa and Karen for their hard work, Stocksbridge Town Council wouldn't run without them.

One of my many first events that I attended was Yorkshire Day at the lovely town of Whitby. Both Richard and I had a fantastic day meeting with all the dignitaries from Yorkshire.

Throughout most of the year I was asked to open shops and attend events, which I thoroughly enjoyed and got to meet so many people. Some of these were Stocksbridge Womens Institute, the Greyhound Trust and the Girls & Boys Brigade at the Christian Centre.

One of the special events that stand out for me was attending the 'Garden of Meditation' at the Christian Centre during their 60th Anniversary year. Another was joining the congregation at St Mary's Church, Bolsterstone for the Remembrance Day. I find days like these bring many thoughts of people that are no longer with us.

Every year Stocksbridge Town Council have organised a Christmas Lunch for the Senior Citizens in the area, at The Venue. The event is always booked up quickly and is very popular for everyone that helps and supports us on this day.

I got the chance as Mayor to turn on the Fox Valley Christmas Lights which in turn, turned on our High street lights too. I always like this time of year. I attended lots of Christmas fairs and a few Christmas lunches, not very good for my waist.

Everything changed in the coming year due to the Coronavirus (Covid 19). All celebrations were stopped, no gatherings and meetings could take place. People had to work from home and children had to be home schooled. A very strange time for us all without exception.

N.H.S and key workers were clapped and congratulated on their hard work. Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre and others organised assisted shopping for the vulnerable and seniors in our area that had to isolate. Local shops arranged delivery services and food banks worked harder than ever. People sewed masks for the N.H.S, Carers and key workers while others cooked food to help them while on duty, while teachers still taught key workers children in the area.

We all learned quickly on how to use the internet for meetings, get togethers and quizzes using different sites. Social networking becoming an everyday thing to do for families to stay in touch.

It is a strange time and I thank you for following the Government's guidance.

Our community came together supporting and caring for each other, which I am immensely proud to be part of.

I have thoroughly loved the year as Mayor and I hope I did it well. Thank you for everyone's support and good wishes.

Cllr. Catherine Ward
Mayor/Chairman 2019/2020

FINANCIAL REPORT 2019/20

The Town Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2019/20 of £170,362. The main items of expenditure being: - contribution to Stocksbridge In Bloom and Steel Valley Project; Environmental Projects; Christmas Illuminations contract and the refurbishment, maintenance and cleaning of the public toilet block at Bolsterstone. The Town Council also incurred expenditure on the hosting of the Senior Citizens Christmas Party. Grants of £16,968 were awarded to local groups for activities/projects in the area. The Town Council contributed £20,000 to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre for running costs towards the small pool. During the year £5,205 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been received from SCC. The Town Council engaged with the public in a Participatory Budgeting Scheme. CIL funding was awarded to 3 groups totalling £28,000. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £128,548. The balance was met from reserves, miscellaneous income and donations from local businesses towards the Christmas Illuminations. The Town Council are the facility managers of The ARC Town Hall building and income/expenditure for the building is also shown within the Town Council's accounts. The Town Council's accounts are subject to internal and external audit. The final audit report will be displayed after completion of the external audit. For the current year 2020/21, budgeted expenditure amounts to £148,507 with a precept of £132,628.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - FINANCE COMMITTEE AND RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2019/20 has been another busy and productive year for the Finance Committee, the work of which has helped to support the community in Stocksbridge, Deepcar and Bolsterstone. Cllr Law has continued to represent Stocksbridge Town Council on the Steering Group of Sheffield Lakeland Partnership Scheme, which funds work with environmental and landscape benefits in the Town Council area and surrounding areas. We have received a small amount of Community Infrastructure Levy funding, which has been put aside for allocation in a future Participatory Budgeting round to be determined by public vote. The Finance Committee has continued to support a number of local groups, clubs and societies through the ever-popular grants scheme, and has also continued to support the History Society, Community Care Group, Steel Valley Project and of course the Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre. Full details of the grants awarded, and the policies under which these were made, can be found on the Town Council website.

The Recreation and Environment Committee has had much to do over the last year, despite the recent disruptions to everyday life brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council has continued to support the community and Friends of Hollin Busk in opposition to the development of this important local site, having made written representations over the last few months and years as well as speaking at the recent Sheffield City Council Planning and Highways Committee meeting at which the decision was finally – and rightly – made to refuse permission to develop the site. We will continue to monitor the issue in order that we can continue to represent the community's interests in the event that an appeal is lodged. We have also continued to engage with the evolving plans for the Bloor Homes development at Deepcar, and with many other proposed developments in the area including at Wood Royd Road. The public toilets in Bolsterstone have been refurbished, and the Town Council has supported a community-driven request to seek government support for the reintroduction of a rail link in Stocksbridge. The main arterial route into Sheffield, the A6102 Manchester Road, has recently been resurfaced following the completion of utilities works, making for a much smoother and more comfortable journey. Further details of the issues raised and discussed at Recreation and Environment Committee meetings can always be found on the Town Council website. Stocksbridge is going from strength to strength and is a wonderful place to live, due in no small part to the many volunteers and community groups which the Council is proud to support.

Cllr. Alan Law, Chair of Finance Committee and Cllr. Richard Crowther, Chair of Recreation and Environment Committee
2019/20

ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020

East Ward – Cllr. Maximillion Milton and Cllr. Mark Whittaker
North Ward – Cllr. Richard Crowther and Cllr. Catherine Ward
South Ward – Cllr. Julie Grocutt and Cllr. Alan Law
West Ward – Cllr. Susie Abrahams and Cllr. Joe Staniforth

Clerk to the Council :- Teresa Bisatt
Town Hall, The ARC, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge, Sheffield, S36 2DT
Phone and fax :- 0114 288 7895
www.stocksbridge-council.co.uk E-mail:- admin@stocksbridge-council.co.uk