



Stocksbridge Town Council

Annual Report 2018/2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been my great privilege to be the Stocksbridge Town Mayor for the past 12 months working alongside a group of dedicated Town Councillors. It would be remiss of me not to say a special thank you to Catherine my deputy and our professional and hard working staff Teresa and Karen. Stocksbridge is a great place to work, live or visit. At the start of my tenure we reinstated the Civic Service. St Matthias Church packed with so many local residents of all ages, many of whom volunteer at a wide range of community and charitable groups across the Town. At that service, I set out how I would like to support our local groups and spread the word of the hard work and opportunities that are available for the whole community to enjoy. Be that through attending and engaging in the activities on offer, or as a volunteer. Sadly this was one of the last services to be held in the Church as in July it was deconsecrated. St Matthias has a special place in the life of many local people and I know I speak for everyone when I say that I hope the Church will continue to play a special part in our community life once it's future is resolved. Looking back, the summer months were particularly busy, attending the many local Summer Fayres and festivals that took place in the Town. As the Town Councillor for Bolsterstone, I was delighted to open their Summer Fayre, which saw the village packed with people enjoying a wonderful summer day. The Valley Music Festival which took place in venues across the Town saw, a wide range of musical talents from our community & beyond, including the world renowned Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir and local School choirs and musicians. Throughout the year our Town has looked blooming marvellous thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Valley in bloom volunteers. I had the pleasure of volunteering with them in the summer on a glorious day. I can't say the same about the weather when I volunteered with the Steel Valley Project, it was cold & icy but very rewarding work. Both groups were welcoming and are always on the lookout for more volunteers. As we moved towards the autumn our energy turned towards the memorial to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1. It was humbling to see the Town come together to produce a hand-made poppy garden on the Clock Tower Gardens. From School children to senior citizens everyone got behind the call and made their own poppy tribute which was displayed on the garden. The Remembrance Day service was held in Christchurch and the extended parade marched proudly through the Town to the Clock Tower for the minutes silence and naming of the fallen. Autumn also saw the 21st anniversary of the Stocksbridge Navel Association, I had the pleasure of joining the group as they celebrated with veterans from across the region. I was delighted to be invited to present the awards to students at Stocksbridge High School on their presentation evening. It was reassuring to see so many young people achieving so much. Throughout the year I have also enjoyed working with all our local primary schools overseeing visits by their school councils to the Town Council Chamber to hold their meeting and discuss local democracy. I spent the Christmas festive season attending the Christmas fayres across the Town. I enjoyed switching on the Christmas lights at Fox Valley and the Carols around the Tree on the Town Centre Precinct. Sadly this event was not well attended, but it was none the less special. The highlight was as always the senior citizens Christmas lunch at the venue, which as in previous years was fully booked and a great Christmas time was had by all who attended. Having been approached by local people who want to develop the outdoor activities on Oxley Park, I have been delighted to help and support the formation of the friends of Oxley Park group. This group is still in its infancy but has lots of energy and ideas to transform the park into a great open space that will compliment and work well alongside the Leisure Centre. I have enjoyed working with the Parish Chair from Bradfield and together our two parishes have commissioned a piece of work to look at the feasibility of opening up the Trans-Pennine trail to provide safe cycling onto the Sheffield Lakelands. As a rural community we need to look for safer cycling routes, to encourage healthier lifestyles, appreciation of our beautiful countryside, to protect our environment and to boost our local economy. More recently funding has been made available for local High Streets to help with regeneration. I was delighted that Sheffield City Council agreed to submit a bid working in partnership with the Town Council and Dransfield Property Ltd to the Future High Street Fund to redevelop our High Street. The bids are to be considered nationally by Government and we will have to wait to see if we have been successful with our expression of interest. I have been fortunate over the last 12 months attending over 200 meetings or events in my Year as Mayor. I have been made welcome and enjoyed the company of all I have met, learning so much about our Town and what goes on as a result. I shall continue to support this wonderful Town and its community during my second term on the Town Council. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this Towns community spirit.



Cllr. Julie Grocutt
Mayor/Chairman 2018/2019

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018/19

The Town Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2018/19 of £139,827. The main items of expenditure being: - contribution to Stocksbridge In Bloom and Steel Valley Project; Christmas Illuminations contract and the 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 and events to commemorate the ending of WW1. Grants of £12,745 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 £25,188 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been received from SCC. The Town Council are to engage with the community in a Participatory Budgeting Scheme utilising the CIL funds. Expenditure will be aimed at benefit to the local community. Criteria for projects being – Recreational Facility Improvements, Access Works, Road Safety Measures or Environmental projects. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £124,242. 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 2019/20, budgeted expenditure amounts to £139,291 with a precept of £128,548.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - FINANCE COMMITTEE AND RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee of the Town Council has had another productive year supporting the communities of Bolsterstone, Deepcar and Stocksbridge.

We continue to be involved with the Sheffield Landscape Partnership Community Grant Scheme, giving your Town Council say on environmental funding in our area. Cllr. Alan Law continues as our representative on the Steering Group. Regarding our receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money, some £28k spending on projects has been agreed following our decision to spend this money under the Participatory Budgeting Scheme. This was decided by public vote. The Finance Committee continues to support local groups and clubs through our grant scheme. We continue to support the Community Leisure Centre, History Society, Steel Valley Project and the Community Care Group. All the grants we have made and the associated policy can be viewed on our website together with meeting dates and agendas. The Recreation and Environment Committee continues to report that Fox Valley goes from strength to strength attracting ever increasing visitors into our area. With even more special events taking place, it's become a massive attraction for people, some living some considerable distance away. The 'Bloors' development off Station Road has now commenced building the road access and new traffic lights etc., shortly to be followed by the house building. The 118 new homes just behind the Fox Valley development is completed and properties quickly sold. The main arterial road (Manchester Road) from Deepcar to the City is still experiencing road works and temporary traffic lights as part of the transfer of the sewage plant to the site near Wharnccliffe Side. The new Water Treatment Plant at the bottom of Morehall Lane is nearing completion and following commissioning we are confident that the current traffic problems will be at an end. The saga of the Hollin Busk proposed development continues, with no decision yet. Your local representatives will continue to strongly represent your views on this development. The Town continues to bloom, brought about by the 'In Bloom' volunteers, who continue to do a magnificent job in showcasing the Town. We should be very proud of their contribution. The Clock Tower Memorial Gardens have been dedicated as a Centenary Field in Trust. We took an active part in the Centenary events for the end of World War 1. This included various poppy displays, a commemorative bench and installation of soldiers on the Clock Tower itself. Many thanks to the local citizens and schools that helped.

We believe our Town goes from strength to strength and we should be proud of where we live as it is rapidly becoming a very desirable area to reside.

Cllr. Alan Law, Chair of Finance Committee and Cllr. Catherine Ward, Chair of Recreation and Environment Committee 2018/19

ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2018/2019

East Ward – Cllr. Jack Clarkson and Cllr. Joe Staniforth
North Ward – Cllr. Richard Crowther and Cllr. Catherine Ward
South Ward – Cllr. Julie Grocutt and Cllr. Keith Davis
West Ward – Cllr. Alan Law and Cllr. Max Milton

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