



Stocksbridge Town Council

Annual Report 2021/2022



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I became the Mayor of Stocksbridge, taking over from my predecessor Catherine Ward. I'd like to start out by thanking the Deputy Mayor Councillor Joe Staniforth for his steadfast support over the last year. I'd also like to say a particular thank you to Teresa Bisatt and Karen Lindley for their unshakable work over the last year – the work done in the Town Council office supports not just the Council, but contributes so much to ensuring the Town itself works well and shouldn't be underestimated. That's to say nothing of the monumental task of keeping me organised!

I think at the start of her report last year, Catherine said that it had been a funny old year. I think the same can be said about the last 12 months! When I became Mayor schools had only reopened for a few weeks, and mixing of households indoors was still prohibited in the shadow of Covid-19. Much of the year has been characterised by the penumbra of the gradual 'unlocking' process, restoring bit by bit the ability to gather and carry out the activities that are part of the fabric of normal life – both pre-Covid and, I hope, that will remain part of the 'new normal'.

Some of my first duties as Mayor were to present the Awards of Appreciation to those groups that had contributed so much to bringing our Town through the pandemic; the Stocksbridge Community Care Group, Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre and of course our two Medical Centres. I was also delighted to visit local schools to present each with a certificate and book vouchers to help replenish books in the schools' libraries, in recognition of the incredible job they had managed to do not just in terms of the crucial job of educating our young people, but also in providing childcare for key workers during the tightest restrictions of lockdown.

The end of June saw the culmination of a campaign which has united the Town for some time; the campaign to save Hollin Busk. We had previously been successful in our long-standing and robust defence of this treasured local landscape and had convinced Sheffield City Council's Planning and Highways Committee that the land should not be developed. After a Public Inquiry at which I and many others spoke, we unfortunately lost the case, however despite the outcome I remain proud of the campaign we united behind and pleased with the part we as a Town Council played in it.

As restrictions eased and new arrangements permitted it, the Town started to come to life again. I was particularly pleased to host both the Royd Nursery Infant and St John's School Council in September and the Cubs more recently in this Chamber. Seeing the kids so interested in their local community was a real privilege.

There have been so many highlights to my term in office in addition to those already mentioned – the Sheffield Lord Mayor's Civic Service, the WI Christmas Party, the judging of the Christmas Card Competition (and handing out the prizes to the winners!), and more recently the reopening of the Housing Office and the return of the Northern Birman Cat Club Cat Show at The Venue, and of course the Easter Bonnet competition at St Ann's Primary School. And many many other highlights besides.

Some things remain unchanged in our community – it's supportive, caring nature and the commitment of local residents to their Town are perfect examples of this and as we drift back toward normality it's been wonderful to see the activities of our community groups resume.

It's also that time of year where we're reminded of things that are changing – the weather is rather warmer than it was only a few weeks ago, and with it the Town is buzzing with activity. As of last week we have a new City Councillor and South Yorkshire Mayor, and although we haven't had Town Council elections this year we will shortly have a new Mayor ourselves. I wish them all the very best in their new roles – particularly to our new Mayor, to whom I wish every success and happiness!

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for your support and your hard work during my time in the Chair. It has been a singular honour to have been the Mayor of my hometown, a place that is very special to me and to everyone at the Town Council.

Cllr. Richard Crowther
Mayor/Chairman 2021/2022

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021/22

The Town Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2021/22 of £141,241. The main items of expenditure being: - contribution to Stocksbridge In Bloom and Steel Valley Project; Christmas Illuminations contract and maintenance and cleaning of the public toilet block at Bolsterstone. Grants of £2,167 were awarded to local groups for activities/projects in the area. Grants under the Sheffield Lakeland and Landscape Partnership scheme totalled £1,250. The Town Council contributed £20,000 to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre for running costs towards the small pool. During the year £7,979 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been received from SCC. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £128,124. 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 2022/23, budgeted expenditure amounts to £172,361 with a precept of £130,171.

GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2021-22

Schools Awards – book tokens for hard work and efforts during the Pandemic	£ 607.45
Steel Valley Beacon Arts – performance of radio plays via Zoom and YouTube	£ 700.00
Valley Recreational Activity Project – Transport Grant	£ 260.00
Strideout Stocksbridge Running Club – training for two new run leaders	£ 500.00
Stocksbridge Branch Royal British Legion – Rowan tree to commemorate 100 th Anniversary of the RBL 1921-2021 planted in the Clock Tower Memorial Gardens	£ 100.00

CHAIRMAN FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2022/2023



At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 10th May 2022 it was resolved that Councillor Joseph Staniforth be elected as Town Mayor and Chairman and Councillor Mark Whittaker was elected as Deputy Mayor/Chairman.



ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

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

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