



Stocksbridge Town Council

Annual Report 2022/2023



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Some may say it is hard to believe that it's been a year since I became the Mayor of Stocksbridge, but for myself my extremely enjoyable tenure as Mayor has flown by since taking over from my predecessor Cllr. Richard Crowther. I'd like to start off by thanking the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mark Whittaker for his steadfast support over the last year. I'd also like to say a massive thank you to Teresa Bisatt and Karen Lindley for their excellent work over the last year – the work done in the Town Council office supports not just myself and the Council, but also contributes greatly to ensuring that all elements of the Town in which the Council are involved run smoothly. Their work again this year has been exemplary. I would also like to thank my wife, Jennifer, and my children for their ongoing support in allowing me the time to undertake my various Mayoral duties and accompanying me to various events throughout the year.

My year in post has certainly been a historical one with three Prime Ministers having had tenure in No.10 and also the Jubilee celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II before her passing and the Coronation of our new sovereign, Charles III. Jubilee and Coronation celebrations have added to what is for any Mayor an already busy schedule, but although not everyone in the community will agree with the UK continuing to have a monarch, it was lovely to see so many people across the community coming together during these events to enjoy themselves in the sun and eat cake.

Like many of my predecessors I was invited to visit all six local schools over the course of the past year. This was for a variety of reasons, ranging from presenting Jubilee/Coronation flag banners with the children's wonderful designs on through to judging Easter bonnets, not an easy task at all. I also had the honour of judging the children's Christmas Card competition, again a difficult task due to the number of excellent entries from local children. Hosting School Councils in the Town Hall was also another highlight with questions ranging from 'What is happening with the buses' to 'Will Britain send troops into the Ukraine' illustrating that local children have their fingers on the pulse of both local and global issues.

My tenure also saw some lively Town Council meetings, especially on the occasions where a Stagecoach representative was in attendance along with Mayor of South Yorkshire, Oliver Coppard and Miriam Cates MP. It was lovely to see on these occasions that although the public in attendance were passionate about the topic and largely disgusted by the current bus service they were prepared to debate in a civil and restrained manner which allowed all to speak in turn and for the Stagecoach representative to listen and answer their questions as well as taking away the points he had heard. This sort of lively debate reflects exceedingly well on the local community, illustrating how well we as a community can band together with one voice in civil debate.

My position as Mayor also led me this year to take up the fight against further development of the Hollin Busk area. I personally believe we should not build any more houses in our area. This is because services including GPs, dentists and schools amongst others are already over subscribed and the infrastructure, including public transport and roads, is not sufficient to deal with the increased population that any further developments, big or small, will bring to our community. On this basis I attended the Planning Committee at Sheffield Town Hall when they were looking at the application to build on the south-western section of Hollin Busk, across from the Youth Centre. I, along with other local residents and representatives explained how detrimental to the local community and environment this new development would be, but unfortunately our logical and passionate arguments fell on deaf ears. The City Councillors, all representing other wards of Sheffield decided that Deepcar, far away from their own wards, was the ideal place to build even more houses to help Sheffield's burgeoning population.

Away from ill-judged planning decision though, many of the things which make our community a great place to live have continued and thrived this past year and I have been delighted to attend so many wonderful fayres, galas, festivals and events run by so many hard-working community groups and people throughout the Town. Our community continues to be one that is caring and supportive and one that I am proud to call my home.

As the outgoing Mayor I would also like to congratulate the new Mayor, Mark Whittaker and his new Deputy, Alan Law a happy and joyful year in post. I hope they enjoy their positions as much as I have.

Finally, I'd like to thank you, the community for all your support and hard work during the last twelve months. It has been a great honour to have been selected to serve as Mayor of my hometown and I thank you all for this privilege.

Cllr. Joseph Staniforth
Mayor/Chairman 2022/2023

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022/23

The Town Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2022/23 of £246,505. 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 £20,324 were awarded to local groups for activities/projects in the area. Grants under the Sheffield Lakeland and Landscape Partnership scheme totalled £2,199. The Town Council contributed £20,000 to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre for running costs towards the small pool. During the year £13,747 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been received from SCC. A Participatory Budgeting event was held with £60,000 allocated from the CIL fund. This was awarded to a total of 7 local groups. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £130,171. 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 2023/24, budgeted expenditure amounts to £159,775 with a precept of £130,921.

GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2022-23

Cornerstone Café (Stocksbridge Christian Centre)	£ 1,000
Friends of Oxley Park x2 (June 2022 £2,000 and March 2023 £1,000)	£ 3,000
Greave House Farm Trust (transport grant)	£ 300
Monday Art Group Stocksbridge	£ 500
Stocksbridge & District History Society (office rent)	£ 4,368
Stocksbridge & District History	£ 460
Stocksbridge & District Pentaqua Swimming Club	£ 1,000
Stocksbridge Christian Centre Lunch Club (transport grant)	£ 300
Stocksbridge Food Bank	£ 4,180
Stocksbridge Gymnastics Club	£ 1,000
Stocksbridge Junior School	£ 300
Stocksbridge Photographic Society	£ 500
Stocksbridge 3 rd Scouts Group	£ 1,000
STEP Development Trust	£ 1,000
Upper Don Arts Community	£ 250
Upper Don Renewable Energy	£ 1,000
Valley Music Festival	£ 850

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Town Council invited each school in the area to submit a design to be incorporated onto a flag to fly from the Town Hall, with each school being given a banner which replicated the flag to display on their premises.

The local schools and senior citizens facilities in the Town were also given a rose bush to plant in their grounds to commemorate the occasion.

The Town Council also offered a small pot of funding, up to £200 to local constituted groups/senior citizens facilities to apply for to hold their own celebratory lunch/afternoon tea event or similar. Funding was given to the following:-

Newton Grange	£ 200
Belmont House Care Home	£ 200
Balfour House Housing Care	£ 200
Helliwell Court Housing Care	£ 200
Early STEPS Nursery	£ 200
The Meeting Place – Christ Church	£ 150
Bolsterstone Community Group	£ 200
Valley Recreational Community Activity Project	£ 200
Hazey Dayz Childminding	£ 50
Stocksbridge & District Womens Institute	£ 200
Stocksbridge 3 rd Cub Group	£ 160
Bolsterstone Village Hall Trust	£ 165
Inman Pavilion Craft Club	£ 180
St Ann's RC Primary School	£ 200
Stocksbridge 3 rd Scouts Group	£ 210
Stocksbridge 3 rd Beavers Group	£ 95

CHAIRMAN FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2023/2024



At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 11th May 2023 it was resolved that Councillor Mark Whittaker be elected as Town Mayor and Chairman and Councillor Alan Law was elected as Deputy Mayor/Chairman.



ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

East Ward – Cllrs. Mark Whittaker and K Davis; North Ward – Cllr. Richard Crowther and Vacant Post; South Ward – Cllrs. Julie Grocutt and Alan Law; West Ward – Cllrs. Susie Abrahams and Joseph Staniforth

Clerk to the Council :- Teresa Bisatt

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