



Neston
Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a busy and challenging year for the Council, starting with one less member of staff following the moving on of our Assets and Events Manager to continue her career in other areas.

Councillors wish to acknowledge the additional effort from the staff in ensuring that the work of Council continued to operate smoothly.

We are dependent on our staff to ensure the decisions made are carried through and are fortunate in the commitment they show. We are therefore wish to record our thanks for all the work they do.

Our Committees have continued to look at ways in which they can, either directly or indirectly, improve aspects of the town for the benefit of residents.

Neston Town centre is changing with new businesses choosing to open here and Council staff, with the support of Councillors, have worked extremely hard over the past 12 months to re-invigorate the weekly market and develop special event days. The Resources Committee has overseen, encouraged and facilitated a rejuvenation of Neston's much loved Friday market. Special markets at Halloween, Christmas and Good Friday have been very popular and well attended.

The Town Council continue to work in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council, and via a Management Agreement continue to manage the Town Hall, Market and Market Square.

One other major partnership project that has come to fruition this year and has been led by Cheshire West and Chester Council, was to improve the play area at Sytchcroft. Contributing funds and Councillor input on the joint working group were key. The result is an amazing transformation of that area, bringing pleasure to many families.

Credit is due to Cllr Lloyd, who took the lead on behalf of Neston Town Council.

Public Transport is a significant issue for local residents and the Transport Working Group, working with the Places Committee, has maintained a steady pressure that is now resulting in a slow improvement to local services.

Visually, favourable comments have been received about the floral displays around the Parish, following the Council's decision to appoint a new contractor to take a fresh approach to our greening scheme.

Neston Town Council has been privileged this year to be involved in 2 major commemorations: – The Centenary of the awarding of the VC to Lieutenant Colonel Bushell, and the Centenary of the 1918 Armistice marking the end of WWI.

The Council chose to take the lead for the Parish in both these events and we had distinguished guests and visitors from a wide area who came to join us on these unforgettable occasions.

Whilst honouring the people concerned at these events, it also offered Neston an opportunity to draw attention to other aspects of the Parish to neighbouring communities and a wider area.

Several Councillors have chosen, for personal reasons, to stand down this year and so we start 2019/20 with a mix of longer serving and newer Councillors. We hope this will bring new ideas and enthusiasm that will help the Council continue to achieve the best possible benefits for residents.

I would like to say a personal thanks to all of the Councillors who through the year have stood to represent the people of Neston and, in some cases, chaired our committees. They have also supported me during my time as Council Chairman and without this I would have found the position more difficult to fulfil.

I hope that they have found this time rewarding and I look forward to a new Council year.

Cllr Pat Kynaston
Mayor, Neston Town Council Chairman

GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2018/19

Neston Town Council's grants scheme is open to voluntary and community groups and organisations operating within the Neston area and is intended to

- enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities
- help the Neston area's voluntary and community groups improve their impact on the community
- ensure the provision of services needed by the residents of the Neston area, via the voluntary sector
- support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties
- ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Neston residents to the services it provides and funds
- improve or enhance the local environment.

Hip & Harmony CIC	Ladies Day Entertainment 2018	£3,996.82
Age UK Cheshire	Canal boat trips	£300.00
Parkgate & Neston URC Community Hall	Defibrillator	£500.00
Little Actors Theatre Company	InterAct 18-19 repertoire	£2,000.00
Amber Button	Neston Work Club	£3,000.00
Little Actors Theatre Company	WWI commemorative play	£500.00
Neston Players	WWI centenary project - display	£200.00
Friends of West Vale Park	Family Fun Day 2019	£1,370.00
Hinderton Art Group	Room hire costs	£250.00
Neston Branch Cheshire Rural Touring Arts	WWI commemorative play	£120.00
Willaston Phil Supporters' Group	Publicity in Neston	£390.48
Neston & District Art Society	2019 Art Exhibition	£446.00
Little Actors Theatre Company	Theatre Club & Drama Tots	£2,500.00
Friends of Stanney Fields Park	Refurbishment of park gates	£1,000.00
Heath Lane Nurseries	Community gardening for health	£500.00
Neston Village Fair Committee	Village Fair 2019	£1,200.00
Neston Community Cybercentre	Cost of broadband x 12 months	£780.60
Neston Community Cybercentre	Purchase of inkjet printer	£500.00
Neston Riverside WI	Purchase of wool	£100.00
Hip & Harmony CIC	It's Not OK project	£4,500.00
Train to Change	Neston's Lift Up 2 Work IV	£4,779.00

TOTAL £28,932.90

This Annual Report will be formally presented at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting being held at Neston Town Hall at 6.30pm on Tuesday 14 May.

The Annual Meeting of Neston Town Council will take place on Tuesday 21 May at 6.30pm at Neston Town Hall.