

Bollington

TOWN COUNCIL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

Youth Council

Young people do matter..



Toby Platt

Watch this space in the coming months to see how the engagement with our young people progresses.

Young people are an integral part of any growing and thriving Community. We recognise this in our Corporate Plan, since they are a key to the future of our Town, as it continues to expand. We would like to consider how Bollington Town Council might enable the voices of young people to be heard more effectively.

It was recommended to Council that we should explore the options for establishing a Youth Council, made up of representatives from our Primary and Secondary school pupils who live in Bollington. Councils that run Youth Councils demonstrate their commitment to young people in their area, who are not able to vote, but whose voices should be heard. Young people are passionate about a wide range of issues including climate change, ending child poverty, mental health and wellbeing, and voting at 16 to name but a few.

It would require significant dedicated resources to set up and run a Youth Council. For example, we would need:

1. An active working relationship with all the schools and existing youth organisations in the area
2. A key member of the BTC staff who would maintain continuity and coordination
3. The organisation of a Youth Council to be considered carefully, to ensure that it is able to progress ideas and recommendations in a timely manner
4. Safeguarding for all young people, which would be of paramount importance.

So, it was agreed with the support of the Mayor's newly appointed Youth Consort for 2022/23 Toby Platt, we should first visit Primary and Secondary schools and Youth organisations in September to listen to and seek to understand what our young people would like from their Community. We would then know how they would like to contribute to it and once we understand these needs, we will act accordingly.

Bollington Town Council has invested in twelve hanging baskets through the town along the main road for the first time this year. The photograph shows our town warden watering the basket near Coronation Gardens.

Let us know if you would like us to add more next year and where.

enquiries@bollington-tc.gov.uk

Hanging Baskets





Bollington Neighbourhood Plan: It is time for change!

Our Community VISION

Bollington 2010-2030

Bollington will continue to be a picturesque working town with industrial heritage roots. It must capitalise on its gateway location to the Peak district to support a high quality, vibrant and inclusive community life. It must retain a level of services and facilities appropriate to the size and mix of its population.' **Bollington Neighbourhood Plan 2018.**

Bollington Town Council is always looking for opportunities to improve life for our residents by adding recreational resources like new playing fields or local electric vehicle charging points. Private developers propose and create new housing estates and many residents propose and create extensions, additional buildings and changes of use.

Underlying these activities of practical improvement both public and private is our complex Planning System.

The Bollington Neighbourhood Plan has enabled our community to have a say on all planning applications, large and small. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan must be considered by the decision makers at Cheshire East.

Now we want to look again and revise our Neighbourhood Plan created from 2015 onwards, thanks to the work of volunteers from across our community, and officially adopted in 2018.

Bollington Town Council has agreed a time scale for this Revision.

Year 1 May 2022 to May 2023. Preparation: A Revision Working Group has been created to plan the detailed process for the Revision.

Years 2 and 3: May 2023 to May 2025. Creation, presentation and adoption of the Revised Plan by Cheshire East Council.

The Revised Neighbourhood Plan will influence the planning of land use in Bollington up to 2030.

The creation of the Plan's Revised Version will take into account the land use and policy issues arising from:

Our commitment to moving towards a carbon neutral community;

The impact of the increased growth and the types of newly built houses in Bollington;

The changing nature of employment with more residents working from home, and the growth of small businesses;

The increased pressure on all our infrastructure;

The requirements of our young people.

And all the issues of land use in our Town we gather from consulting you.

Our Revision Group has already decided we will propose to repeat the detailed consultation through an individual survey issued to every household in Bollington as well as having them available in all public spaces.

Volunteer residents and workers in Bollington will have a large role to play from May 2023 onwards when the newly elected Town Council will invite interested citizens to form a large Steering Group to oversee and contribute to the Revision of our Neighbourhood Plan.

if YOU wish to contribute to the Revision and are prepared to work on the Revision from 2023 to the Revised Plan's adoption in 2024/25 please contact our Town Clerk to register your interest.

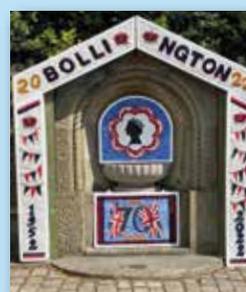
BTC Revision Group: Cllrs. Helen Ellwood, Ken Edwards, Jo Maitland, Judy Snowball and Angela Williams

Well Dressing Festival

2nd-10th July

The Bollington well dressing dates back to 2005 – with water sources decorated to recognise their importance as a source of power for the mills that once operated in the town. This year's theme was The Queen's Jubilee.

The Opening Ceremony took place at Greg Fountain on Saturday 2nd July, with the Town Mayor, Cllr John Stewart and children from Dean Valley school who dressed the board at Café Waterside.



WELL DRESSING



Business, Economy and Tourism Working Group

Join the group and tell us what you need

Bollington Town Council has six Working Groups which meet regularly and are open to public participation. One of these is the Business, Economy and Tourism Working Group. There are currently members of the public on each of our working groups, but we are calling for the full range of businesses across our town to join us in our Business Working Group so that we can meet their needs and those of our residents, our visitors and our local economy.

The objectives of the working group include:

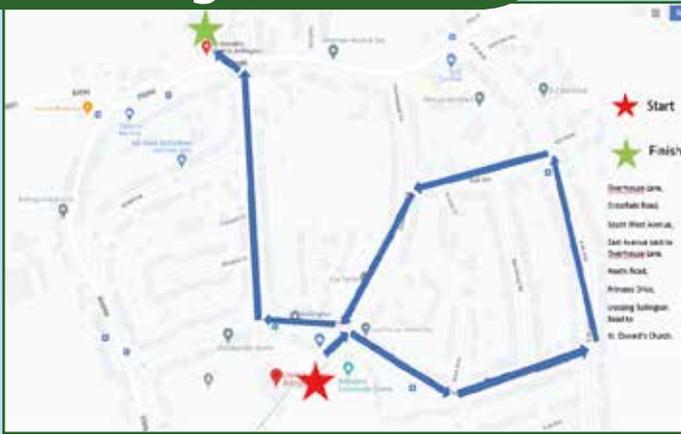
- Developing a strategy to support our business community
- Facilitating greater communication between our businesses and information- sharing across our town
- Working with businesses to promote tourism in a way that maximises opportunities for business and visitors while recognising the priorities of our residents. We want to hear about these priorities and to match this with our overall vision for business in our town
- Supporting the "Buy Local" initiative and recognising the importance of our 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration at Bollington Town Council in an increased emphasis on local services and goods.

I recently attended a meeting of Love Bollington Business and was given an initial idea of what businesses in Bollington would like from our Council. It was clear that local businesses would like greater partnership with the Council and recognition of their diverse needs, but there were threads in the discussion that were common to all businesses. They are calling for improved communication with our Council and regular, topical updates on local issues. Ideas were suggested for an improved Council Directory, local information campaigns and input into realising Bollington Town Council's ambitious report, Bollington Tourism and Visitor Economy Plan 2021-30.

The discussion was lively and informative. We want more of these discussions with our local businesses. We can have them if you come to our Business, Economy and Tourism Working Group and make your voices heard. Join us so that that Bollington Town Council can collaborate effectively with Bollington business and support you, our residents and our visitors in developing the local economy for all of us.



Bollington Parade



Civic Sunday Sunday 18th September

The parade, led by Bollington Brass Band, leaves the Leisure Centre overflow car park at 2.30pm, marching along Ovenhouse Lane, Crossfield Road, South West Avenue, East Avenue back to Ovenhouse Lane, Heath Road, Princess Drive, crossing Bollington Road to St. Oswald's Church for a 3pm service.

Good luck Ken

It is with great sadness to let you know our Town Warden - Ken Bennett has resigned, he has been with us for over six years. He has decided to take more time doing his hobbies and do more travelling. We all wish him the best and very happy he is staying with us until September. Please watch out for the job advert.

Good luck Ken and thank you.

Julie Mason

Town Clerk

Town Warden



Ken Bennett

BUDGET SETTING – WATCH THIS SPACE

Bollington Town Council will be consulting on our budget setting this year for 2023/24. We will promote it in August and there will be meetings both in person and online in September for you to let us know your thoughts.



MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS



Cllr Miriat Naiga

Hi there, I am Miriat Naiga and I'm a new councillor for the Central Ward. I have lived in Bollington close to 10 years now having moved to Cheshire for work. I moved here from Leicester and prior to that had lived in a number of countries in Africa and Asia. I was attracted to Bollington for its beauty and tranquillity. I have made many friends here and I absolutely love living here. Outside work I'm a keen gardener (allotment to show for it!) and like many in Bollington I enjoy the countryside around us.

I got involved with the council in 2020 during lockdown when I volunteered as a street warden to support those that needed help in my area. I too had never considered becoming a councillor, but was impressed by the role that the council played during the early difficult days of the Covid pandemic and I supported the council where I could. I was subsequently made aware of the possibility of being co-opted on to Bollington Town Council which I took up.

As a councillor, I'm keen to learn more about the village, understand the needs of the community and work with the rest of the council to resolve any challenges within the community in line with future plans for the village.

I look forward to learning from the experience of my fellow councillors & residents as well as contributing my ideas to continue driving improvement within the community. I can be contacted by email at miriat.naiga@bollington-tc.gov.uk



Cllr David Kent

I came to Bollington 44 years ago and apart from 2 years living in the USA, have lived here ever since. My wife Kalini and I love it here and our children, Martin and Jennifer grew up here and love to come back to visit. My working life was spent with AstraZeneca and gave me the opportunity to visit many parts of the world. I enjoyed travelling and working with a wide variety of people in different countries but although I had many fantastic experiences it was always great to return to Bollington.

I have a variety of interests including choral singing, tennis and playing the saxophone enthusiastically (if not very competently); I particularly enjoy walking and Bollington with its huge network of paths is ideal for that.

I had not really considered becoming a councillor, but was impressed by the role that the council played during the early difficult days of the Covid pandemic and became a volunteer co-ordinator for our area; then recently I was made aware of the possibility of being co-opted on to Bollington Town Council. I discussed the role with a friend who is a Parish Councillor in Gawsforth and decided to put my name forward.

In joining the Council my priority is to understand the needs of the community as well as I can and to represent those needs within the council. Hopefully I can also bring some new ideas and enthusiasm to the Council, although I can say from my experience so far that both the Councillors and Council staff members are very committed to doing their very best for the people of Bollington.

At a personal level, I am enthusiastic about anything we can do to improve our environment locally and make a contribution to wider environmental challenges. I will support development in line with Bollington's neighbourhood plan, and projects that build on the strengths of our community.

I believe that I am approachable and friendly and open to new ideas and I would love to hear your views. I can be contacted by email at david.kent@bollington-tc.gov.uk

Cheshire East Council

If you wish to contact us, please either email:

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or Amanda.Stott@CheshireEast.gov.uk

Or phone 01625 262173



In 2019 the decision was made to re-visit the SADPD which resulted in some areas of Bollington which had currently been earmarked for development were withdrawn and remain in the Green Belt. A smaller number than had previously been proposed have been given the status of safeguarded land until 2030.

Two years ago, for the first time in the history of Cheshire East the council has delivered a balanced budget. This gives the Council the stability it needs to be able to plan future investment and develop longer term projects. The Council continues to work within the forecasts.

The Council now has a Committee system- style of Governance, which gives residents a greater opportunity to speak on items at committees, but it also means that all decisions are cross party which gives a fairer representation of councillors and residents across the Borough.

Covid and lockdown created more planning applications for the council than ever before. Extending homes, building conservatories, loft conversions all put more pressure on an already busy Planning service. There is a review underway to look at ways of improving and streamlining the planning process. There is a national shortage of qualified planners, so the Council is making every effort to train staff inhouse using the apprenticeship scheme in some cases.

We have an increased budget for road repairs within our forecasting. This along with newer methods are delivering more repairs than before, but these repairs are also longer lasting. Although, there will never be enough money to repair every road surface.

A pilot scheme is underway for each CEC Councillor to have available a small sum of money to spend within their ward. The funding is limited to highways currently, but there is a review which is looking at ways of expanding this service.

Council tax delivers over 500 services to its 380,000 residents. The largest proportion council tax collected – 65% - funds the area of Children and Adult's social care. This support is vital to the more vulnerable residents in our Borough.

Senior Citizens Party – Saturday 11th June

An afternoon tea with Jubilee themed decorations was hosted by the Town Mayor, Cllr John Stewart, and served at the Civic Hall on Saturday 11th June. An army of volunteers worked hard to dress the room, tables, and lay out food and drink. Following the meal, there was dancing. With thanks to Cllr Angela Williams and her team for successful event



Mayor's Boundary Walk

Sunday 11th September

Bollington's traditional annual Town Mayor's Boundary walk will take place this year on Sunday 11th September, starting at 10am from Bollington Town Hall and led by Bollington Ramblers.

The walk is approximately 8.5 miles long and includes some hill walking, so suitable footwear will be needed, but walkers are welcome to come along for all or just part of the route, whatever is most suitable.

There will be a short stop at The Windmill Inn, where drinks and lunch can be purchased, some people choose to end their walk here! Alternatively, walkers can bring their own refreshments and packed lunches.



Bollington
TOWN COUNCIL

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VACANCY FOR FOOTPATH OFFICERS FOR BOLLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Bollington Town Council would like to recruit some footpath officers for Bollington. The role involves regularly walking the footpaths within the area and reporting their findings back to the Council if there are any concerns. This is a voluntary role.

The Council hold twelve Planning and Town Development Committee meetings per annum, and you would be asked to provide a report with your concerns and findings with our footpaths.

Your contribution would be valued and much appreciated as it would be a great service to the community.

If you are interested, please contact our Town Clerk, Julie Mason, on 01625 572985 or email on clerk@bollington-tc.gov.uk.



CHURCH PLANNING

The Church of St John the Baptist is an 18th century gothic revival style church that closed in 2003.

In 2010 the Simply Group were granted planning permission to create a number of apartments within this wonderful building – but unfortunately this was halted due to the economic downturn and the subsequent Covid pandemic.

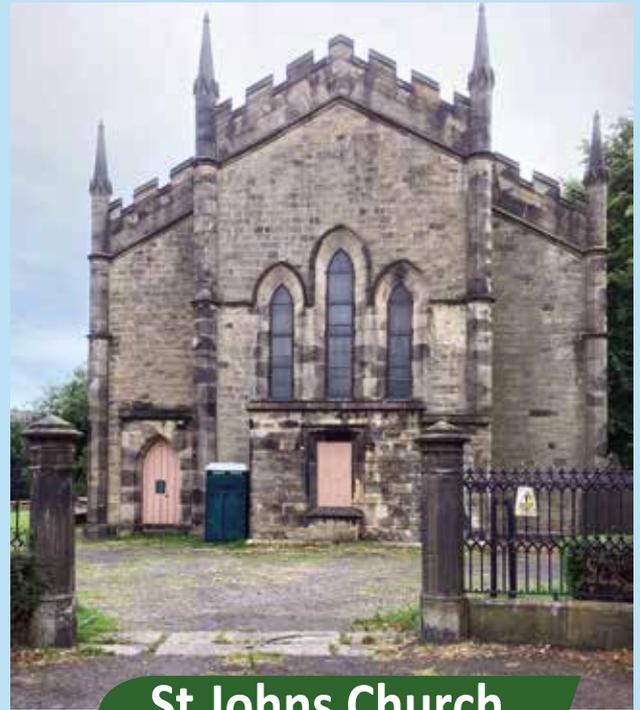
The Company have explored and researched other conversion opportunities but given the property has remained vacant without gaining any interest in becoming a single use space, residential conversion remains the only viable option.

Recently the company made a presentation to Bollington Town Council's Planning Committee of their current revised plans - following some extensive research into the local rental market. There will now be a new internal layout offering 18 apartments to suit the new brief – more aligned to the current economic climate.

We have had a detailed representation from Rev. Nancy Goodrich, Vicar of Bollington St Oswalds concerning access to the graveyard, Columbarium and grave sides. There have also been issues raised from Transition Bollington and members of the public regards the Heritage, Environmental and Wild life impact of the development. As a result of acknowledging the concerns raised, Bollington Town Council's Planning Committee have recommended a referral to the Northern Planning Committee of Cheshire East Council. (The date of the meeting is to be confirmed)

There are a number of issues to be clarified - the parking provision requires detailed consideration and clarification, the method statement for building process (delivery, transportation and access) also requires detailing. We feel that the Neighbourhood Plan adopted by the Council in 2018 for the Heritage and Conservation of Bollington may be compromised. Bollington Town Council has spoken with the public and thus far all parties are in agreement that the owners need to proceed with some sort of development of the site. St Johns has a strong emotional tie to the people of Bollington, and the need to work with the developer to expedite this project is a priority. This should benefit all involved, ensuring there is no compromise of ethics, integrity and community during the process

No action being taken on the church will be devastating and detrimental to the integrity of the building and its community. We all need to work together to get the best outcome for Bollington and all concerned.



St Johns Church

The Bollington Town Council website and social media pages will keep you up to date with all developments.

YOUR COUNCILLORS



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BOLLINGTON TOWN COUNCILLORS

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