



Stocksbridge Town Council

Annual Report 2023/2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My year as Mayor of Stocksbridge has been a real eye opener as to the strength of our local community and the number of people involved in very worthwhile community enterprises. It has taught me that the role of Mayor is still a valuable one. For those who might think it is a little anachronistic in this day and age I would say no, it is still very relevant. It provides community endorsement of work for the area, recognition of efforts made, encouragement for those involved and establishes the status of an event.



I was prepared well for the role by supporting the previous Mayor, Cllr. Joseph Staniforth. As Deputy Mayor I joined him on many of his public duties and was able to learn from his example.

I would also like to thank the Council Clerks Teresa Bisatt and Karen Lindley. These two are the permanently grinding cogs that keep the machine of the Town Council moving.

We start young in trying to inculcate that sense of community by working closely with our local schools. I was pleased to invite two School Councils to come and sit around our grand table in the Council Chamber and compare the similarities between their Councils and ours. They asked many intelligent, and sometimes difficult, questions. I was very pleased to see that some of them seemed very interested in the idea of public service. If I have encouraged them a little then my year as Mayor has been worthwhile.

I also invited most of the schools for various functions ranging from the Christmas Card competition, the Kings Coronation, where the winning entries were made up into a flag that flew from the Town Hall, to judging Easter Bonnet competitions, Summer Fetes, to the celebration of fifty years of St Ann's school. All these had a sense of bringing people joyfully together.

Other community events included a Dog Show at the Inman Pavilion (the most difficult category to judge was 'Dogs that look like their owners'); a Family Magic Show where my good self was hauled onto the stage to be subject to magical trickery, much to the amusement of the children; I opened the Valley Music Festival and endorsed shows put on by the wonderful Steel Valley Beacon Arts, and then there was the Christmas Lights switch on. There were also Summer fairs at the Leisure Centre and Bolsterstone.

Perhaps most importantly though was helping to lead Memorial events in Stocksbridge and Bolsterstone, including the centenary of the Clock Tower and the rededication of the bells at Bolsterstone Church. My thanks to the British Legion and Janet Ridler for these. The latter two were also involved in the successful Valley at War event at Fox Valley.

But some work of the work of the Mayor is more functional. We Chair the full Town Council and preside over occasional public meetings as well as representing the Town on other Committees and public bodies. All in all it has been a busy year. There is not enough space to list all the events I have attended, and made speeches at, in my official capacity, but it has all been very rewarding. It only leaves me to thank my wife and family for all the support they have given me.

I would also like to wish the new Mayor, Cllr. Alan Law and Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Julie Wood all the best for the year to come.

Cllr. Mark Whittaker
Mayor/Chairman 2023/2024

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023/24

The Town Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2023/24 of £179,522. 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 £20,008 were awarded to local groups for activities/projects in the area. The Town Council contributed £20,000 to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre towards running costs. During the year £26,014 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been received from SCC. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £130,921. 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 2024/25, budgeted expenditure amounts to £162,637 with a precept of £131,494.



CHAIRMAN FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2024/2025

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 14th May 2024 it was resolved that Councillor Alan Law be elected as Town Mayor and Chairman and Councillor Julie Wood was elected as Deputy Mayor/Chairman.



ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

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

GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2023-24

Stocksbridge & District History Society (office rent)	£ 4,576
Bracken Moor Sports Club	£ 1,500
Valley React (Transport grant)	£ 407
STEP Development Trust	£ 1,000
Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre	£ 1,200
Fox Valley Food Festival	£ 1,000
Steel Valley Project	£ 1,000
Friends of Fox Glen Park	£ 1,000
Upper Don Arts Community	£ 500
Stocksbridge Cricket Club	£ 1,000
Steel Valley Beacon Arts	£ 1,000
Sheffield Lip Reading Group – Stocksbridge (Transport grant)	£ 300
Bolsterstone Archaeology & Heritage Group	£ 315
Parents of Deepcar School	£ 300
3 rd Stocksbridge Scouts Group (Transport grant)	£ 300
Stocksbridge & Upper Don Tenants and Residents Association	£ 170
Stocksbridge & Deepcar Royal British Legion	£ 350
Smithy Moor Community Association	£ 1,000
Garden Village Community Association	£ 1,000
Yorkshire Air Ambulance	£ 1,000
Stocksbridge Christian Centre Lunch Club (Transport grant)	£ 300
St Ann's Family & Friends Association	£ 790