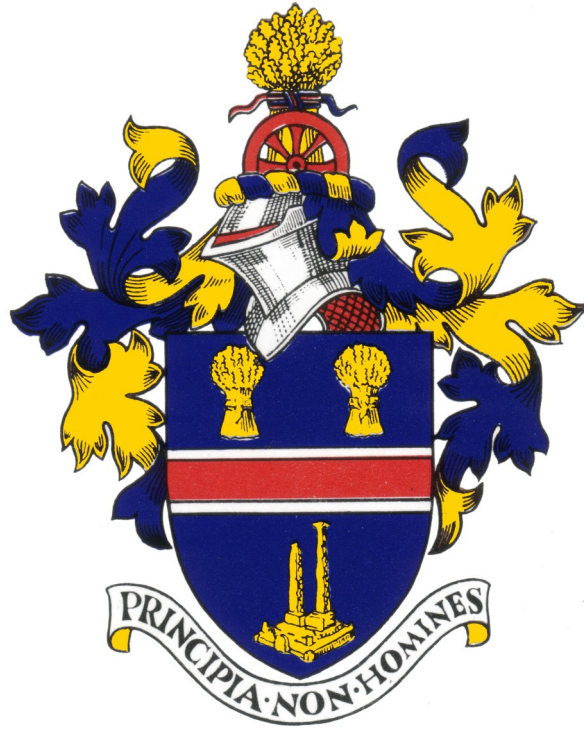


# Sandbach Town Council Annual Report 2019/2020



**Town Mayor**  
Cllr Mike Muldoon

**Town Clerk**  
Ann Banks

Sandbach Literary Institution

Hightown

Sandbach

Cheshire


CW11 1AE

[www.sandbach.gov.uk](http://www.sandbach.gov.uk)






## Welcome to the Sandbach Town Council Annual Report 2019/20.



This report introduces the Council to those who do not know who we are, demonstrates how the Council spends its time and money and highlights a variety of the events and activities that have taken place since the Annual Town Meeting held in 2019.



A complete list of Town Councillors for each of the wards of Sandbach is included at the end of the report, including contact details.

# Mayors Comments

Almost 12 months have passed since the Honour of receiving the prestigious post of Mayor of Sandbach was which bestowed upon me. Time passes by extremely quickly! I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being Mayor of Sandbach during the past 12 months. I took the role on from the end of May 2019 from former Mayor & current Councillor Richard Hovey, who I may add, did a splendid job of his role of Mayor whilst protecting me during my Deputy era. He attending most, if not all his engagements himself, allowing me to be "thrown in at the deep end" at the start of my year of duty! Only joking Richard.

I started my role with a great deal of trepidation mixed with excitement not really knowing what to expect, or more importantly, what people expected from me - both residents and The Council. It has turned out to be, in my humble opinion, a great role to fulfil and execute. It has allowed me to learn more about this magnificent Town of Sandbach and the people who live here. I have been a resident of Sandbach now for well over 40 years and I have learned more about the place I live in during the past 1 year than in the previous 40. I discovered the huge amount of talented people, of all ages and backgrounds, who contribute an enormous amount to this Town - not only in time, man hours, assistance, finances, labour, thought and deed, but also pride and resilience. Talents from sporting, musical, cultural, architectural, then planning, delivery and the execution of the various tasks, both simple and complicated, from inception to completion. I have had the privilege of getting to know many of the volunteer groups in and around Sandbach. All of whom give their time and efforts whilst sometimes going entirely unnoticed and they do all this without trying to seek any recognition, or praise. They are then on to the next project to assist and see that through. I, more now than I ever did prior to being Mayor, appreciate and recognise their tireless work and contribution.

My role as Mayor consists of representing the Town of Sandbach at many diverse and interesting events: from formal Civic duties, including remembrance, mayoral making ceremonies, etc., to visiting Charity events, Social based events and supporting some locally based volunteer groups with exhibitions, competitions and awareness promotions. Again, thanks to all.

As Mayor, following on from my predecessors, I have attended and Chaired Full Town Council meetings, attended most of the Committee Meetings and Sub-Committee Meetings and where necessary tried to support Working Groups. As usual, the work of Sandbach Town Council never stops from general day to day activities, to maintenance work, compliance obligations and larger scale project work. All this requires planning and carrying out with the assistance and involvement of all the elected Town councillors. I thank them for all their work and assistance they have given to myself over the past 12 months. I also recognise the tremendous work and support given to me by all the Staff at Sandbach Town Council who tirelessly assist in the background, making sure we are all supported in the mechanisms of running an efficient Council of behalf of the people we all represent. Talking of those people, I would like to thank the many who have attended meeting, gatherings of many types in making them a success and following on and supporting great long time traditions.

As you are all aware, my Mayoral year has been brought to a sudden and unforeseen halt by the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic. Many of Sandbach's long standing and traditional events have had to be cancelled or postponed, with a great deal of planning and effort wasted. However I'm positive these events will be back on the Calendar for next year and the Town of Sandbach, the Town Council and all residents will make sure they are continued next year and beyond.

Finally, I thank Cllr Geraint Price Jones for all his help and support during the year, and wish him all the best for next year as the current Mayor Elect. I can assure you that Sandbach Town Council will continue to do their duties and fulfil their obligations to the best of their abilities.

# Mayoral Engagements 2019-2020

## **MAY 2019**

Sandbach Clean Team AGM.  
Sandbach Air Corps Presentation, Sandbach.

## **JUNE 2019**

Sandbach Concerts Series.  
CIVIC SERVICE SANDBACH.  
FAB Festival, Middlewich.  
Tidy Town Litter pick.  
Opening of Superstore Sandbach.  
Sandbach Family Fun day.  
Sandbach Walking fest.  
Opening of raised flower beds Sandbach park.  
Opening of " The Mason's Arms " ( In memory of John Mason ), St. Stephen's Care Home.  
Interview with Police officials. ( On behalf of Sandbach Town Council ).  
British Heart Foundation.

## **JULY 2019**

Kids corner day nursery, presentation of prizes.  
Sandbach Choral society Concert.  
Brunner Mond Memorial Garden opening , Middlewich.  
Grass Roots Disability , Sandbach.  
Sandbach Choral Society  
Sandbach Art Trail, Cheshire Arts for Health.  
Lions Brass band, end of tour concert at Sandbach High School.

## **AUGUST 2019**

Sandbach Partnership, Wheelock Family fun day.  
Green Flag at Sandbach park.  
Children's Play Day in Sandbach Park.

## **SEPTEMBER 2019**

Bradwall Village Hall, Sandbach 10K & 2K road race.  
Mayoral of Knutsford, Sandbach support, Cycle tour of Cheshire East.  
Sandbach Today, St. Mary's Church Hall.  
Invitation to represent Sandbach at opening of Various events at Crewe Lyceum, Crewe.  
St. Mary's Church, Sandbach, Michaelmas.  
Opening of Sandbach House, Crewe Road, Sandbach, on behalf of Fiona Bruce MP, Sandbach School.  
Sandbach Concert Series.  
Grass Roots Disability  
CCTV review at Macclesfield Police Station, Macclesfield.  
Presentation to Rev. Thomas Shepherd on his retirement at St. Mary's Church, Sandbach.  
Public Forum for Small Common car park.  
Sandbach Choral Society.

## **OCTOBER 2019**

Nantwich Civic Service, Nantwich.  
Sandbach Community Launch at The Wesley Centre, Sandbach.  
Walk around with Sandbach Woodland Group.

## **NOVEMBER 2019**

Town & parish Council Conference, Middlewich, Cheshire.  
Grass Roots Disability Meeting Sandbach, AGM.  
Christmas Fayre, St. Mary's Hall, Sandbach.  
Remembrance Sunday, Sandbach.  
Hearing Dogs for the deaf Christmas Fayre, St. Mary's Church Hall, Sandbach.  
Sandbach Bowling Club AGM, Bradwall Village Hall.  
"Topping Out Ceremony" at New Care Home Booth Lane, Middlewich Road, Sandbach.

## DECEMBER 2019

Tree of light Ceremony in Sandbach Cemetery.  
Sandbach Boys School Carol ,Service, St. Mary's Sandbach.  
Sandbach Choral Society Christmas Concert. St. Mary's Church Hall.  
New Art Room, Grand opening, Bradwall Road, Sandbach.  
Sandbach & District Talking Newspaper interview.  
Sandbach Art Club, Exhibition at Sandbach Masonic Hall, Sandbach.  
Sandbach Lights Switch on.  
Sandbach Partnership AGM.

## JANUARY 2020

Holocaust Memorial Day Service, Sandbach Town Hall.  
Cheshire Best Kept Station Awards, The Grange Theatre, Hartford, Northwich. (Sandbach Station prize Winner).

## FEBRUARY 2020

Aquarius Disability Swim club, Sandbach Boys School, Sandbach.

## MARCH 2020

Mayor of Cheshire East, Barry Birkhill, Civic Ceremony, S t. Mary's Church, Astbury, Cheshire.  
Representing Sandbach, Opening of Theatre plat, Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.  
Sandbach Corps of Drums , Parade opening, Presentation & performance, ACF Centre, Middlewich Road, Sandbach.

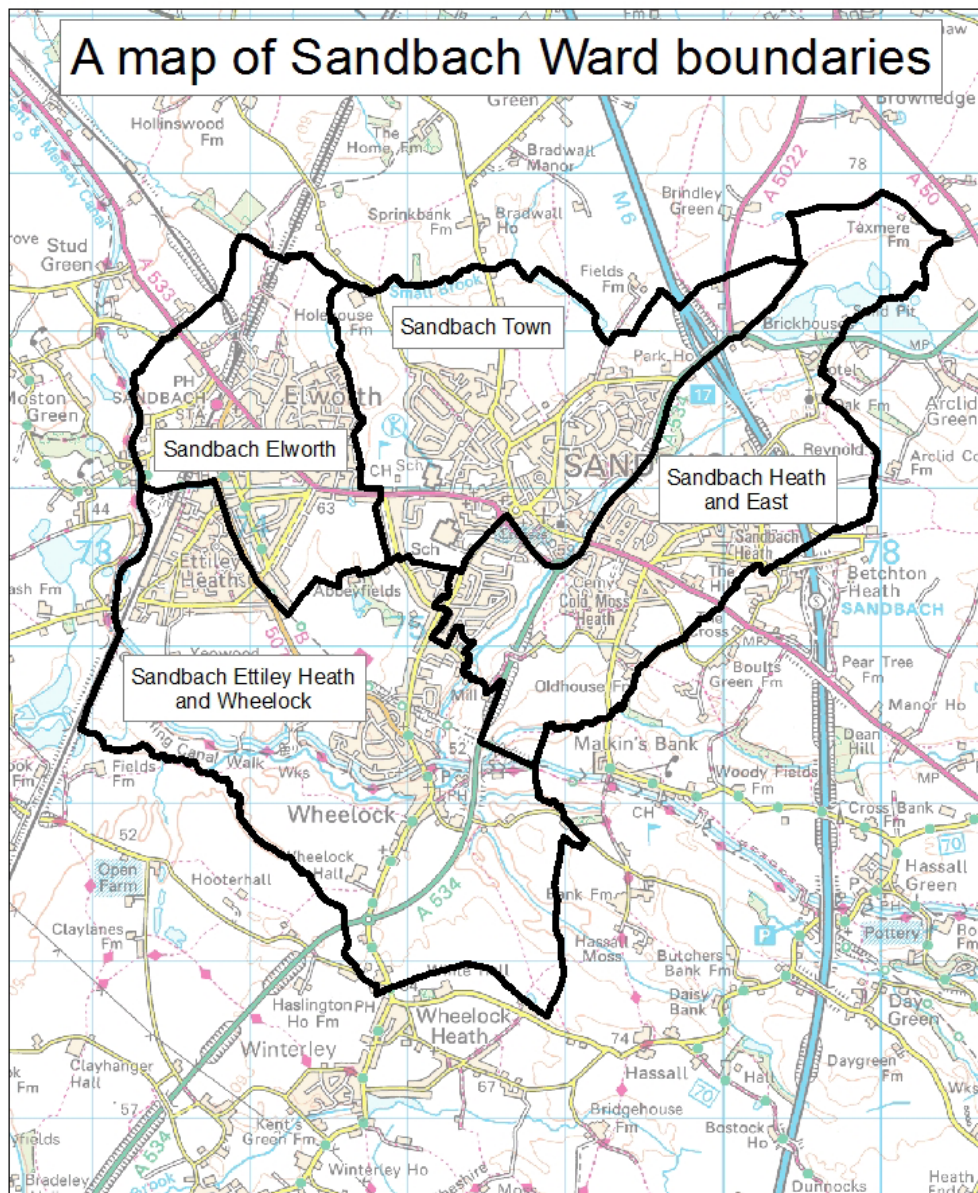




## Who are Sandbach Town Council?

Sandbach Town Council are your local Statutory body and are the most local level of government. We sit underneath Cheshire East Council in the Tiers of local government and exist to represent the interests of residents of Sandbach, support the work of community groups and promote and enhance the Town.

Sandbach Town Council covers the Parish of Sandbach which is divided into 4 wards: Town Ward, Elworth Ward, Sandbach Heath & East Ward and Ettiley Heath & Wheelock Ward. Each of these Wards has 5 Councillors who represent the interests of the residents within that ward, with the full Council being made up of 20 Members (To find out which ward you are in, please have a look at the handy map below. It is also available on the Town Council website: [www.sandbach.gov.uk/council/](http://www.sandbach.gov.uk/council/)).



The Town Council also employs a number of Full Time and Part Time staff, who work hard to ensure that the Council can deliver all its services. Some of these services include providing the Markets on a Thursday and Saturday, running the Town Hall and all the events which take place within it and putting on events in the Town, such as the Christmas Market and the Summer Park Events. The staff also support and deliver the decisions that the Members make in Meetings.

## **Meetings and decisions**

In its simplest form, decisions are made by the Council when a majority of Members vote to approve something at a Committee Meeting. The Council meets a minimum of six times per year and holds its Annual Meeting and Mayor Making ceremony during May. In addition, there are regular meetings of five Committees: Assets and Services, Community and Environment, Finance, Policy and Governance, Planning and Consultation, Personnel and its sub-Committee's: Market Project, Market Steering and Events.

To assist the business of the Council, and to enable swift progress, the Council operates a number of Working Groups; whilst these groups are not able to make decisions, they do undertake a considerable amount of preparatory work which enables them to make justified recommendations to Council or its Committees. Each Working Group is headed by a Project Leader who manages all meetings, ensures that sufficient progress is being made, works closely with the Clerk and provides regular reports to Council.

All Council and Committee meetings are advertised on the website [www.sandbach.gov.uk](http://www.sandbach.gov.uk) and on the noticeboard located at the front of the Literary Institution. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and to ask questions during the 15 minute public question time.

## **How can you get involved in the Democratic process?**

So how does this involve you as a resident? Everything the Town Council does is for the good of the Community and its residents. Your opinion is very important to us, and not only can you shape the work that the Council do, you can also choose who represents you on the Council. Councillors are elected by public vote every 4 years, with any vacancies occurring outside of the 4 yearly cycle electing being filled by co-option or by-election.

During the Local Elections which take place every 4 years, parishioners are able to nominate somebody who they feel would make a good Councillor by filling in the nomination pack available at Cheshire East Council and handing it in to the Returning Officer. If the candidate is accepted and fulfil the criteria, they can then stand for election.

When a vacancy occurs on the Town Council out of the Election cycle, local parishioners can call for a by-election by issuing a petition containing the names, addresses and signatures of 10 residents living in the ward with the vacancy. This would take the election to a public vote and gives residents a choice on who they would like to represent them out of the nominees that stand and who they feel can best represent their interests. If a by-election is not called within 14 working days (Not including Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or Good Friday) then the vacancy will go to a co-option where Council Members will vote for the Nominee of their choice.

So, don't forget, YOU can choose who represents you and that is why your vote matters.

## Your Council Staff

**Town Clerk and RFO:** Ann Banks

**Assistant Town Clerk:** Katy Pepper

**Finance Officer:** Serena Van Schepdael

**Operational Support Officer:** Mike Wellings

**Senior Events and Business Promotion Officer:** Helen Pugh

**Events and Business Promotion Officer:** Jayne Barber

**Facilities and Services Supervisor:** Bob Nightingale

**Town Ranger:** Neil Pepper

The Town Council also employ 4 Market Operatives and a number of casual staff which support the Events Function in the Town Hall.

A staff restructure undertaken at the beginning of the Council year has seen lots of exciting changes within the Council Staff. We are excited to welcome Helen Pugh as the Senior Events and Business Promotion Officer and Neil Pepper as the Town Ranger. Both have quickly integrated in the tight knit and hard working Council team. Jayne Barber has also permanently taken on her Events and Business Promotion Officer role and is working hard with Helen as part of the Events Team to hold and promote the Town Hall and Market Hall.

Full contact details for all staff can be found on the Town Council website: <https://sandbach.gov.uk/officers-and-staff/>

For general inquiries, please phone: 01270 600800 or

email: [info@sandbach.gov.uk](mailto:info@sandbach.gov.uk)



## Communication and Consultation

The Council is committed to being accessible by all and to sharing information about what we do. We do this in the following ways:

### **Newsletter**

The Council's 'Town Talk' newsletter remains a popular, full colour, publication which is delivered to all households (with accessible letterboxes!) and made available in local surgeries and shops, as requested. It is produced twice a year and details future events, local organisation news, town council initiatives and includes a full Councillor contact list.

### **Surgeries**

Councillor surgeries are held on the second Saturday of each calendar month, with two Ward Councillors attending on the Monthly Makers Market. The surgeries ensure Councillors are more accessible and opportunity to obtain details of ongoing Council projects and events. If you would like to meet your local councillor or find out more about activities in Sandbach, details are displayed on the Council noticeboard and website.

### **Website**

Following the review and design of a new website, which was undertaken by a Working Group, the Town Council were pleased to release our new website during this Council Year. The new Website is much clearer and easy to navigate around and contains information on all parts of the Town Council's work! It includes revamped sections for Meetings, The Town Hall and Markets and introduces an events diary. It also includes the facility to buy tickets to our events online!

### **Facebook**

Sandbach Town Council continues to update its Facebook page with news, events and sharing of local information and activities. The page is available to all Facebook users. If you haven't already done so, please visit the page and 'like' to receive future posts in your news feed!

### **Noticeboard**

The Council's noticeboard is situated outside of the Sandbach Literary Institution, where details of all Town Council Meetings and forthcoming events are displayed. Whenever possible, and where space permits, we also endeavour to promote charitable events on the board.

## **Leaflets**

As another communication tool, when necessary, the Council produces leaflets/documents for delivery to all (accessible) Sandbach households. This includes Sandbach consultations, Town Talk and events leaflets.

## **Advertising Banners**

Banners are produced to promote the majority of the Town Council's events and are displayed in prominent positions, such as the front of the Town Hall and Congleton Road/Old Mill Road junction.

## **Sandbach Directory**

On a monthly basis, the Council advertises news, activities and Councillor Surgery dates within the Sandbach Directory. These publications are delivered throughout Sandbach.

## **Local Newspapers**

The Council engages closely with local newspapers. Reporters are provided with copies of agendas in advance of meetings and are usually in attendance at most meetings. The Clerk and Members are always willing to clarify matters discussed at the meetings when contacted by reporters.

## **Consultation**

The Council has been involved with and responded to a number of consultations, which include:

- CEC Street Naming Proposal for 6 Streets on Development off Abbey Road
- CEC Stopping Up Order for Footpath No. 14
- CEC Crewe Hub Area Action Plan
- CEC Draft Site Allocations and Development Policies Document
- CEC Limes Bowling Club listed as Asset of Community Value
- CEC Waste Strategy Yearly Review
- CEC Environmental Strategy
- CEC Community Governance Review
- CEC Proposed NWAATs
- Cheshire Fire Authority Integrated Risk Managements Plan 2020-2024
- Street Trading Consents
- A number of local Neighbourhood Plans

# Activities

## Markets

This year has seen positive progress in Markets following the Staff Restructure and the Town Ranger joining the Markets Team. Sandbach Town Council Staff continue to work hard to build positive relationships with all Market Traders.

We have seen a number of fantastic events being held as a part of the Market including: Storm Troopers Visit, Marvel Characters Visit, Mothers Day Arts and Crafts, Unicorns visit, Moonlight Market, Market Town Festival, Christmas Market, Christmas Promotions including Fill your stocking, Santa and Elf visit and Mulled Wine served for all shoppers. Town Council Staff worked really hard on all of these Events (some being organised in partnership with traders) to promote the Market, with the vast majority being really successful in bringing extra footfall or attention to the Markets.

Throughout the year, there have been many new and exciting traders who have joined the offering in the Indoor Market, including a new café owner. Unfortunately, the Outdoor Market continues to struggle with staff introducing Outdoor Trader incentives to try and halt the decline.

Some more building work has taken place in the Market complex this year which continues to improve the space for customers, traders and staff alike. A new attractive Market Hall sign was installed at the front of the building to match those on the other 3 sides, and the Town Hall/Market Officer underwent a much needed renovation to improve working conditions for Town and Market Hall staff.

The Market Hall has welcomed several exciting external events this year, including: Record Fairs, Food, Gifts and Craft Fairs, Antiques Fairs and the Taste of Sandbach.



# Activities

## Town Hall

The Town Hall now has an established Business Development Team and it is encouraging to see occupancy and income increasing. Service delivery and standards have been improved and are continually reviewed following feedback from our users. We have been very fortunate over the last twelve months to have new clients using the Town Hall and this has enabled more commercial and community events to take place.

Our Ballroom was closed for a week in January 2020 for essential maintenance works to ensure our stunning maple dance floor is looking its best, followed by the opening of our new offices and a modern meeting space to meet with Clients.

Sandbach Town Hall has seen many success's over the last 12 months. It has enjoyed its continued partnership with Foden's Band and hosted an Oktoberfest event and three sell out performances of "The Snowman".

Sandbach Market Town Festival held in September 2019 was also well received by the Community. The day showcased traditional activities, crafts, and entertainment as well as an Artisan craft fair, with over 700 people in attendance.

In October 2019, The Team were proud to be awarded "Wedding Venue of the Week" and hosted 10 Wedding Ceremonies and 12 weddings over the full year. The Business Development Team are looking forward to working with more couples to deliver their dream day at the Town Hall.

Sandbach Community Cinema continued to be supported by over 190 people at their monthly Cinema and plans to screen a film on the second Tuesday of the month for the next 12 months, as well as providing a number of children's film evenings during the school holidays this year.

Plans are currently being worked on to ensure that this success continues including new pricing packages and lots of community based events to guarantee an action packed 12 months ahead.





## Sandbach Town Council Covid-19 Response

In late March 2020 the Town Clerk was contacted by CEC to seek details of Sandbach residents and organisations offering support to the community during the Coronavirus crisis. As neighbouring Town Councils, supported by their local Partnerships and established crisis/volunteer groups, had begun operating initiatives to assist the CEC scheme, a small group of STC Staff and Councillors was immediately convened in order to progress a plan of action for Sandbach. The group met on a daily basis, liaised with neighbouring councils and CEC staff to establish an effective process for co-ordinating the necessary Sandbach support which includes:

- Receiving residents details/help requests from CEC;
- Accessing the CEC volunteer database and managing ID checks;
- Creating volunteer 'do's and don'ts' for safety of resident and volunteer;
- Payment guidance;
- Signposting to local and national support;
- Wellbeing calls;
- Allocation of volunteer to support request;
- Call to both parties to confirm next steps;
- Follow up calls;
- Maintaining the database
- Dedicated phonenumber manned 9-5
- Staff direct phone number manned 24/7.

In order to reach vulnerable and shielding residents with details of the initiative and to communicate the central database for registering to volunteer, a two-page leaflet was produced and distributed to Sandbach Households by the end of March/early April, and the website was updated with a dedicated Covid-19 section.

With procedures in place and the leaflet distributed, two STC staff were assigned to co-ordinate the Sandbach scheme and, from Saturday 4 April, we began receiving help requests, volunteer details for ID checking and were soon able to begin allocation of support to those in need.

HERE TO HELP

## Covid-19 Response



# Sandbach Town Council

At Risk Groups and People include the following:

- People over 70 years
- Pregnant Women
- Those with weakened immune systems
- Those with underlying health conditions



Additionally, there will be others who are having to isolate themselves as they or a member of their family have been diagnosed or are showing symptoms of Covid-19.

The types of things you could assist or request help with, include:

- Shopping / collecting medical supplies
- Meal Delivery
- A friendly phone call
- Advice or Guidance
- Other

If you are affected and need to access support, or if you have the time and are able to volunteer, please register with:

Cheshire East Council  
People Helping People\*

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 123 5034 (during office hours)

Email: [communities@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:communities@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

\*Details submitted through this scheme will be passed to Sandbach Town Council in confidence and we will be in contact with you as soon as we can - hopefully within 24 hours during the normal working week Monday to Friday (excluding weekends & bank holidays)

## Committees

Each of the Town Council's Committee has its own Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation which enables both Committees and Officers to respond quicker than ever before.

A brief report from each of the Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs follows:

### **Assets and Services Committee**

Committee Chair: Cllr Laura Crane

Committee Clerk: Ann Banks

Number of Committee Members: 11

Number of times Committee has met since the AGM: 4

Chair's Report:

*This year has seen the successful delivery of another Christmas market, an event that many other towns look to as the Gold standard. What a wonderful afternoon and evening was had by all involved, my thanks go out to all the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to make it possible. Town centre late night Christmas shopping was trialled with advertising support from Sandbach Town council, this is certainly something to build on for future years. Staying on the Christmas theme, we also saw the provision of the town centre light display come 'in-house' with a well-attended opening ceremony and lighting display for all residents to enjoy. With the formation of a Working group to look into the Christmas 2020 provision we plan to light up everyone's Festive season once again.*

*The first meeting of our group saw the final stage of the Market hall refurbishment project completed with the installation of the external signage and work beginning on the Town hall office refurbishment which has now created a much better environment for the staff working in the Town Hall complex. The new Sandbach Town council website also went live this year so both the physical and the online presence of the council are inline and much more user friendly.*

*Unfortunately the current Covid-19 social isolation guidance, along with the impact that it initially had on the public meetings that are usually held to discuss matters, has meant that some plans have been delayed. These include the plans for a Festival of Colour which although advancing well prior to the pandemic have provided us with the basis for future events and floral displays around the town. The Small common redevelopment sub-committee was also formed this year, initial public engagement was sought and we are hoping to progress this further as soon as possible with a space that all will be able to enjoy.*

Cllr Laura Crane

## Community and Environment Committee

Committee Chair: Cllr Kathryn Flavell

Committee Clerk: Katy Pepper

Number of Committee Members: 8

Number of times Committee has met since the AGM: 4

Chair's Report:

*This year has seen an update of the Council website, which has been well received and feedback suggests it is now much more accessible and vibrant.*

*The Tidy Town and Conservation Working Groups have been dissolved and matters will now be absorbed into the main committee.*

*Plans for a skate park in Sandbach continue and the committee have been looking into improving the CCTV in the town park.*

*Party in the Park and the Family Fun day were both very successful this year, partly due to the good weather. Both came in under budget.*

*A new venture, the Market Town Festival, was held in September and was also very successful; there are plans to continue and improve this in the future.*

*Cllr Kath Flavell*



## Finance Committee

Committee Chair: Cllr David Jack

Committee Clerk: Serena Van Schepdael

Number of Committee Members: 12

Number of times Committee has met since the AGM: 4

### Chair's Report:

*Its been a strange year to say the least.*

*It all began 12 months ago with the arrival of a newly elected administration that saw many new faces for the first time.*

*The first order of business was to bring in tighter and fairer management of outside bodies funding. This brought clarity and cleared the way for better understandings of the issues that had previously gone and showed the public we were listening to their concerns and making everything clear and unambiguous.*

*Over the last 12 months I have taken time, as chair of finance, to speak with councillors, public and staff to get a feel for the budget requirements.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank councillors for their time and input throughout the year but especially thank the Finance Officer and the RFO for their time and efforts in the day to day activities and financial knowledge of accounts and spending.*

*Together, ideas have come forward which seek to address concerns and put forward what I feel, and hope you agree, is a great package of projects and services at a more sustainable cost.*

*We saw a budget that put Sandbach Town Council on for a zero percent precept increase. (it was a very slight decrease)*

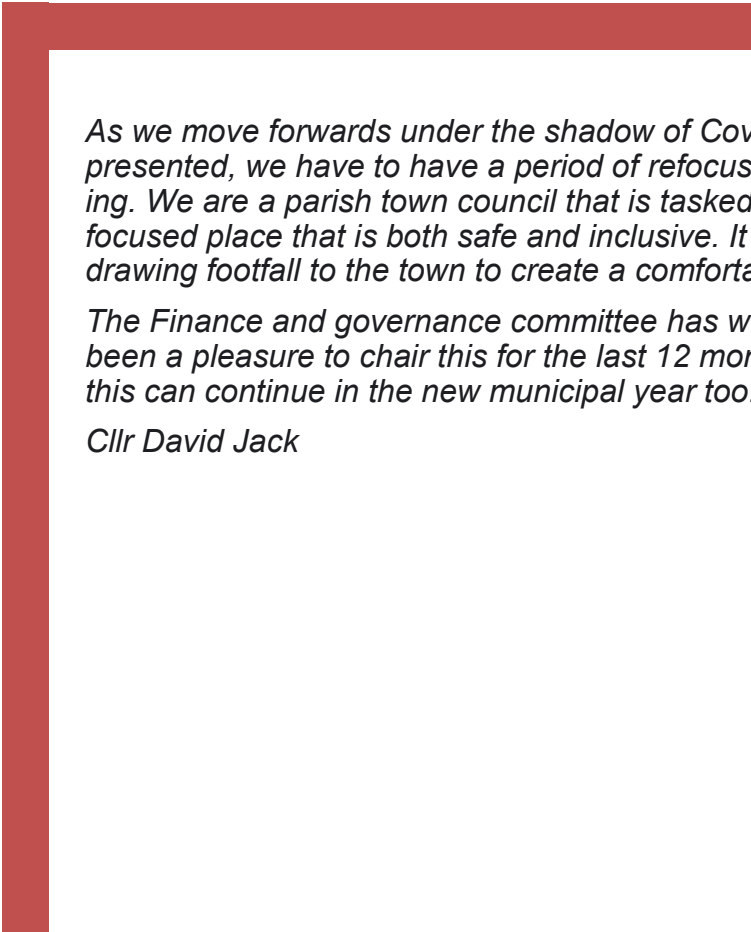
*The budget was set to see delivery of (amongst many items) improved Christmas lights, major projects to refurbish the little common car park and deliver the covered market arena, bring increased community events and community grant funding whilst making significant savings through better fiscal management and increased community event and market event income.*

*The budget will aim to reduce outstanding debt on loan through public works programmes making a saving of over £33,000 in two years as well completing a number of projects that will enhance the gateway to the town. These projects themselves carry forward year on year savings totalling in excess of £100,000.*

*Sadly events around covid19 curtailed the progress of many of the hoped projects and schemes but work does continue to move slowly towards those goals.*

*At a time when uncertainty lays ahead, we endeavoured to ensure the finances available can make sure staff are equipped to meet the new potential demands ahead. Whilst giving them the qualification and skill sets to manage larger events, markets and projects than ever before, alongside equipment and tools that help them complete these tasks efficiently and professionally.*

*Community involvement was at the heart of finances this year and community grant funding was doubled to help and assist the invaluable efforts and aspirations of the voluntary sector that provide so much for this town. Again, it has become more relevant since the outbreak of the Covid19 crisis and the fall out afterwards that is now impacting our community.*



*As we move forwards under the shadow of Covid19 and the difficulties and challenges it has presented, we have to have a period of refocusing minds on council as to what we are delivering. We are a parish town council that is tasked with making Sandbach a friendly community focused place that is both safe and inclusive. It is about betterment of our environment around drawing footfall to the town to create a comfortable space for all.*

*The Finance and governance committee has worked well cross party throughout and it has been a pleasure to chair this for the last 12 months despite differences at other levels. I hope this can continue in the new municipal year too. Thank you.*

*Cllr David Jack*



## Planning and Consultation Committee

Committee Chair: Cllr Richard Hovey

Committee Clerk: Mike Wellings

Number of Committee Members: 8

Number of times Committee has met since the AGM: 15

### Chair's Report:

*The committee continues to review and comment on planning applications in or affecting our town. As a historic market town Sandbach needs to protect and enhance the environmental setting that residents and visitors expect.*

*During the year the Cheshire East Community Infrastructure Levy scheme was implemented, with the town council receiving its first payment of £2005 which will be used to help resolve some of the infrastructure problems in the town resulting from the recent major increase in population.*

*The Neighborhood Plan working group were active in preparing various revisions to the Sandbach Neighborhood Plan. This is to ensure alignment with evolving Cheshire East and national planning policies.*

*During the year Cheshire East retired the discredited VISSIM traffic model for Sandbach, a replacement model is not yet available. Traffic modeling of queuing at junctions, congestion and road capacity is a vital consideration when assessing the impact of major development proposals that continue to be submitted for Sandbach.*

*As well as planning applications we considered and responded to:*

*CEC Street Naming Proposal for 6 Streets on the development off Abbey Road*

*CEC Stopping Up Order for Footpath No. 14*

*CEC Crewe Hub Area Action Plan - this is around Crewe Station and the impact of HS2.*

*CEC Draft Site Allocations and Development Policies Document, the draft included a new settlement boundary for the town, very tightly drawn around new developments on the perimeter which should protect the remaining open countryside. The M6 Junction 17 development needs to be protected as an employment site rather than being eaten away by piecemeal residential development proposals.*

*CEC Limes Bowling Club listed as Asset of Community Value*

*CEC Waste Strategy Yearly Review*

*CEC Environmental Strategy*

*CEC Community Governance Review*

*CEC Proposed Highway markings (NWAATs e.g. double yellow lines)*

*Cheshire Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024*

*Street Trading Consents*

*A number of local Neighbourhood Plans*

*Again, I would like to thank members of the Planning and Consultation Committee for their work over the past year and their early adoption of Zoom for committee meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*The work of the committee benefits greatly from the enthusiastic input of residents with knowledge of traffic modeling, neighbourhood planning, and the local cycling and footpath networks.*

*Cllr Richard Hovey*

## **Personnel Committee**

Committee Chair: Cllr Sam Corcoran

Committee Clerk: Ann Banks

Number of Committee Members: 8

Number of times Committee has met since the AGM: 3

Chair's Report:

Due to the Personal nature of the business transacted by the Personnel Committee, a business transacted report is not available.

## **Small Common Redevelopment Sub-Committee**

Committee Chair: Cllr David Jack

Committee Clerk: Ann Banks

Number of Committee Members: 8

Number of times Committee has met since the AGM: 2

Chair's Report:

There is no report to be made from this Sub-Committee due to the lack of meetings held.



## Events Sub-Committee

Committee Chair: Cllr Gill Merry

Committee Clerk: Mike Wellings

Number of Committee Members: 7

Number of times Committee has met since the AGM: 6

Chair's Report:

### *Family Fun Day*

*The day was a great success, with a large number of attendees at the event. Stalls were busy throughout the day, and the Brass Band was a well-received addition to the event as it helped to provide some atmosphere.*

*Some issues were highlighted which will be taken on board for future years.*

### *Party in the Park*

*The Concert was a great success with 552 tickets sold for the event plus a large number of children and young people. A beautiful evening always helps with this event and this year was no exception.*

*There are always areas in which we can improve and we do take on board all issues and try to address them in future years.*

### *Market Town Festival*

*This was a new event for the group but ably organised by the Events and Promotions Officer with people visiting from as far away as Chelford. Visitors commented on what a great day it was for the community and that the town was "buzzing with life"*

*We certainly expect this event to be repeated.*

### *Christmas Lights switch on*

*This activity was passed to the Town Council at a late stage in the year, it was however, well executed and well attended.*

*It is intended there will be full review of the lights and switch on during early 2020, with resulting additional lighting to enhance the town.*

*Cllr Gill Merry*

## Representation

The Council appoints members as representatives on various outside bodies. This ensures good working relationships with local groups and organisations. During the year the Council has been represented on the following bodies:

Sandbach Partnership Management Team

Sandbach Park Project

Sandbach Almshouse Trust

Linden Bank Liaison Group

CHALC Area Committee

CHALC AGM

● CHALC Clerk's Forum

● St Mary's Church

● CEC Town/Parish Conferences

Churches Together Fairtrade

Foden's Supervisory Board

Connected Communities

## Finance

In the past 12 months many local groups, societies, churches and youth organisations have been supported via financial donations to enable services to the public:

### Community Grant Fund

#### £7903.98 awarded

Friends of Sandbach Station	£95
Sandbach Choral Society	£400
Cheshire & Warrington Carers Trust	£1,000
Purse Bells	£250
St Johns Playgroup	£1,600
Act it Out	£1,000
Koshido Ryu Karate Club	£625.98
Alarm defenders	£500.50
UCan Play TV	£1,932.50
Crewe Gang Show	£500

### Other Grants/ Annual payments

Foden's Sponsorship	£7,500
Town Crier Honorarium	£750
Sandbach Transport Festival	£12,000
Sandbach Concert Series	£2,500

Churchyard Maintenance £1580 Split between local churches



Ettiley Heath	£240
St Johns	£240
St Marys	£480
St Peters	£240
Christ Church	£380



Sandbach Woodland & Wildlife Group	£1,800
Marriot House Bowling	£100
Sandbach Partnership	£10,000
Sandbach RBL	£250
Sandbach Allotments	£1,000
Sandbach Clean Team	£500







**Full Financial Report for 2019-2020 to be included when available**

# Councillor Contact Details

## **Sandbach Town Council Membership 2019-2020**

### **Town Ward**

Sue Ashcombe-Hurt	13 Offley Road, Sandbach, CW11 1GY	760797	<a href="mailto:sue.ashcombehurt@sandbach.gov.uk">sue.ashcombehurt@sandbach.gov.uk</a>
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David Jack	11 Platt Avenue, Sandbach, CW11 1DE	07584 258823	<a href="mailto:david.jack@sandbach.gov.uk">david.jack@sandbach.gov.uk</a>
Steve Kirkham	2 Bowles Close, Sandbach, CW11 1YH	750228	<a href="mailto:steve.kirkham@sandbach.gov.uk">steve.kirkham@sandbach.gov.uk</a>
Alan Smith	12 Swallow Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1SX	07415 698519	<a href="mailto:alan.smith@sandbach.gov.uk">alan.smith@sandbach.gov.uk</a>

### **Sandbach Heath and East Ward**

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Sam Corcoran	7 Radbroke Close, Sandbach, CW11 1YT	753038	<a href="mailto:sam.corcoran@sandbach.gov.uk">sam.corcoran@sandbach.gov.uk</a>
Steven Crane	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock, CW11 3RZ	07414 680166	<a href="mailto:steven.crane@sandbach.gov.uk">steven.crane@sandbach.gov.uk</a>
Mike Muldoon	141 Congleton Road, Sandbach, CW11 4SP	07860 625891	<a href="mailto:mike.muldoon@sandbach.gov.uk">mike.muldoon@sandbach.gov.uk</a>
Geraint Price Jones	8 Davenport Close, Sandbach, CW11 1YP	767873	<a href="mailto:geraint.pricejones@sandbach.gov.uk">geraint.pricejones@sandbach.gov.uk</a>

### **Ettiley Heath and Wheelock Ward**

Laura Crane	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock, CW11 3RZ	07887 638801	<a href="mailto:laura.crane@sandbach.gov.uk">laura.crane@sandbach.gov.uk</a>
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Ian Williams	69 Fields Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1YB	314164	<a href="mailto:ian.williams@sandbach.gov.uk">ian.williams@sandbach.gov.uk</a>

### **Elworth Ward**

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