

# Whiston Town Council Annual Report

## 2023

Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road,  
Whiston, Merseyside L35 3QX Tel: 0151 430 7200



**'Serving the Community'**



**2022-2023**

**Whiston Town Mayor**

**Cllr. Marianne Burke Thompson  
and Consort Ms Liz Burke**

It's been an eventful year and I take pride in having represented Whiston Town Council and our community as Town Mayor. My sister and Consort Liz Burke attended most events with me, while, at other times, I was supported by family and friends who are helping with my ongoing recovery from my brain haemorrhage and other health problems. I would like to thank Pat Cook, Betty Burke, Margaret Shepherd-Harding, Thelma Hunt, Mackenzie Burke, Lesley Harding-Kelly, Julie Burke, and Mary Tabron who all acted as my Consort at various events.

Engagements started off in June with 'The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations'. Our centres were beautifully dressed by Council Staff and I presented cupcakes to several community groups and long term users of our facilities.

Whiston and St Helens Hospital Volunteers held their annual event and I was able to give a personal thank you speech, as did Chief Executive Ann Marr, who presented each volunteer with a badge and certificate. Volunteer Manager, and the event organizer, Anita Gillen made it a special day for all. The event also celebrated 'Volunteers week' and, as a volunteer in several community groups myself, I appreciate the real value that volunteering brings. It's also important to recognise the dedication and kindness given by the volunteers and I was pleased to be invited to share the celebration.

During June and July Prescott Festival of Music & The Arts once again showcased local talent at various venues including our own Town Hall. The mixture of music genres and different arts

offered something for everyone to enjoy and the organisers and volunteers, once again, excelled themselves.

In July, Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Joanne Mimmagh attended the 150 year celebrations at Halsnead School, which was a fun day of activities and amusements for past and present pupils and local residents too. I attended Whiston Juniors FC Annual Awards to speak and present trophies to players. It was an honour to have been invited as the club has a solid place in Whiston. The Club, the parents and the players are a true credit to our community, and I am sure we have a few future stars in the making.

In August, the 'Knowsley Flower Show' was a chance to see some of our local horticultural at its very best. Amongst the many that attended, I saw the most stunning floral displays and developments within the 'gardening and growing' world. In partnership with Prescot Town Council, we sponsored a bus which made sure the event was accessible to all our residents.

We lowered our Flag, at Whiston Town Hall, on the 8th September to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our Town Clerk, Sandra Mayers, arranged and placed, in the Council Chamber, a book of condolence for residents to write their personal messages for the Royal Family. After writing my own personal message, I laid flowers in the front garden of the Town Hall.

On the 10th September, our Flag was raised for 24 hours to mark the Proclamation of the King. Later that day I attended The Proclamation of Assession outside the municipal buildings in Huyton. It was also attended by The Mayor of Knowsley, The High Sheriff/Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Derby, Clergy, Military, Borough Council Members, Mayors from other towns and many residents. A moving tribute was paid to the Queen at St Nicholas Church by Vicar Andy Telfer. I was honoured to have delivered a reading. Also that day I attended a Special Commemorative Service for the Queen, held at Prescot Parish Church, which was led by the Reverend Kim Manning. It brought together many of the dignitaries that had also attended the Kings Proclamation plus many others. The Service was extremely touching and those involved in organising, participating or performing should be very proud.

In October, Knowsley Borough of Culture held a spectacular event at Stadt Moers - A Thousand Feet Deep'. The grounds were transformed with a visual display from Per plum, who entertained us with a mesmerising performance of our local history. Residents were treated to an outstanding event and all involved should be applauded. Special thanks to all the volunteers who had the worst weather to deal with, but ensured a safe night for everyone.

I hosted a 'Ladies Night' in October. With ticket sales and lucky numbers, it was a successful night and, with the help of family and friends, we raised £620 for the Mayoral Fund. Also on the night, I invited Whiston and St Helens Hospital's Charities to hold a raffle and they raised an amazing £150 for their worthy cause.

In November I attended St Nicholas Church for the Remembrance Day Service and delivered a reading. Vicar Andy Telfer gave a fine tribute. The service was well attended by representatives including our residents, the Military, Police, Whiston 1st Scouts and Council Members. I laid a wreath on behalf of Whiston Town Council at the foot of the War Memorial.

In partnership with KMBC and Mersey Forest, I planted a carefully chosen tree at five different sites across Whiston in memoriam for Queen Elizabeth II. Many thanks to the representatives from the Partnerships, Whiston Town Councillors and staff, Whiston Schools, community groups and residents who attended the venues. This was not easy to co-ordinate and took many months of meetings and planning by our Town Clerk and Councillor Paul Shaw to make it happen.

In December we brought back the 'Community Awards'. It was an opportunity to thank local volunteers from community groups who help Whiston residents. Congratulations went to Brian Ledsham, recipient of 'Citizen of The Year 2022' Award. He was nominated by Whiston Juniors FC for his 37 years of dedication by running, helping and supporting them. Further congratulations went to the ladies at Whiston Luncheon Club who I chose as our 'Community Group of The Year 2022.' This award recognised all their years of hard work and volunteering to make the weekly luncheon club such an amazing resource for those that attend and who are grateful for their kindness.



A 'Long Service Award' was also presented to our Town Clerk Sandra Mayers in recognition of her forty years with Whiston Town Council and words of thanks were given.

In December I attended two Christmas Dinner Events, one with Whiston Luncheon Club and the other with Whiston Over 55's Bingo—thank you to both groups who make everyone feel welcome and part of their festivities. I even got to be Bingo caller for a few games too!

Also in December, I held a Free Kids Christmas Grotto and Indoor Market at Whiston Town Hall. A fantastic twenty six local businesses had table tops and sold art, jewellery, crafts, bakes, household goods and hair accessories etc. We gave a free selection box to all the kids who come to meet Santa through generous donations from Elis Ltd, Costcutter, Tesco and the James Greenop Foundation. Many family and friends also kindly gave donations for my Mayoral Raffle which resulted in fifty amazing prizes. The Town Clerk drew the lucky winners, and all prizes were claimed. I am so pleased to say that we raised £935. Thank you to those who helped as Elves, Santas and helpers and also to those who attended and supported the event.

It has been a busy year, but one where I've been thankful and delighted to meet so many amazing people who continue to work hard building our community.



## The Clerk

### Celebrating 40 years of Local Government Service



**Sandra Mayers**  
*Town Clerk*

Each year I prepare a piece for the Annual Report and whilst doing so I spend time reflecting on the many changes made over the years, these changes have formed part of how the Council and our community has evolved and improved over time, and I feel fortunate to witness these changes.

This past year, the Council have been instrumental in ensuring the Community of Whiston continued to receive the very best of service delivery possible. We have worked closely with our user groups ensuring that their needs are met and supporting them in every way we possibly can.

One of the nicest parts of being the Clerk to the Council is that I get to engage with the Community of Whiston on a daily basis. I am grateful to be able to work in partnership with user groups, stakeholders and staff of other organisations, whilst serving the community of Whiston.

My role as the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council is that I advise the Council on financial matters and in particular provide an accurate reflection of the Council's finance when setting the budget each year.

This year has been particularly difficult for Members as they faced a number of challenges in particular around the increase in energy costs, as we have three community centres, the energy increase will have a significant financial impact. Members have ensured that the residents of the area do not "feel the pinch" by setting a 0% increase in the precept amount. The shortfall amount will be met out of reserves held by the Council.

As always I must take this opportunity to thank my staff who work extremely hard and are dedicated employees of Whiston Town Council.

## Whiston Town Council Finances 2022 / 2023

The Town Council's accounts are prepared each year by the Town Clerk. These accounts are then audited by appointed internal and external auditors.

Calculation of Income	2022/2023
<b>B/fwd 2021/22</b>	£ 356,273.90
Precept	£ 293,145.00
Insurance Com/Claim/Refunds	£ 700.00
Whiston Town Hall	£ 42,184.02
George Howard Centre	£ 33,865.21
Robert Foulkes Centre	£ 5,892.00
MUGA/Open Space	£ 4,358.00
Interest	£ 2,139.66
V.A.T. Repayment	£ 12,007.98
F.I.T./Solar Panels	£ 2,493.47
<b>£ 753,059.24</b>	<b>£ 753,059.24</b>

Calculation of Expenditure	2022/2023
Administration	£ 26,934.09
Whiston Town Hall	£ 28,614.02
George Howard Centre	£ 25,187.68
Robert Foulkes Centre	£ 6,592.42
Muga/Open Space	£ 18,791.67
Publicity	£ —
Repairs/maintenance	£ 4,946.68
S137 Payment	£ 3,200.00
Salaries/Wages	£ 237,707.74
V.A.T. Input	£ 13,121.76
<b>C/fwd to 2023/2024</b>	<b>£ 387,963.18</b>
<b>£ 753,059.24</b>	<b>£ 753,059.24</b>

A summary of the unaudited accounts for 2022/2023 have been produced for residents' information.

Residents can obtain a copy of these accounts, and inspect audited accounts from previous years at:-

Whiston Town Council  
Town Council Office  
Whiston Town Hall  
Old Colliery Road  
Whiston  
Merseyside

**Whiston Town Council Members serve the residents of the area on a voluntary basis.**

(\*\*) In addition to serving as your local Councillors, five of our Members are also Borough Councillors.

Elected May 2023, your Councillors are listed below.

Updates will appear on Whiston Town Council website as required.

WHISTON NORTH		
<b>**Councillor J. Burke</b>	Joanne.burke@ knowsley.gov.uk	07384900812
<b>**Councillor K. Taylor</b>	kai.Taylor@ knowsley.gov.uk	07955268829
<b>Councillor N. Murray</b>	neilmurray@ rocketmail.com	07561157404
<b>Councillor G. Wickens</b>	grahamcwickens@gmail.com	07575011049
WHISTON SOUTH		
<b>**Councillor D. Allen</b>	Denise.Allen@ knowsley.gov.uk	07775681125
<b>**Councillor T. Byron</b>	Terry.Byron@ knowsley.gov.uk	07557849407
<b>**Councillor R. Gaffney</b>	ron.gaffney@ knowsley.gov.uk	0151 426 4883
<b>Councillor S. Henry</b>	Stephen.Henry1949@btinternet.com	07973361267
<b>Councillor J. Mimmagh</b>	c/o town.clerk@ whiston-tc.gov.uk	c/o 0151 430 7200
<b>Councillor C.A. Powell</b>	c/o town.clerk@ whiston-tc.gov.uk	c/o 0151 430 7200
<b>Councillor T. Murray</b>	traceymurray34@ gmail.com	07926722498
<b>Councillor S. Rees</b>	sheila.rees@live.co.uk	0151 493 2208



## COMMUNITY AWARDS 2023

Whiston Town Council would like to receive nominations, from members of the public, for worthy candidates to receive the next Citizen of Whiston Award and Community Group of the Year award. The award is given as part of the Christmas celebration, so nominations must be received by the 1st November 2023. You can visit our website at: [www.whiston-tc.gov.uk](http://www.whiston-tc.gov.uk) and download a nomination form, or call into the Town Council Office at Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road, Whiston. All nominations are confidential. Any candidate or group put forward must have contributed their time, for the benefit of the residents of Whiston, on a voluntary basis.

If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact; Sandra Mayers at the Town Council Office, on 0151 430 7200.

## ASHTON'S CHARITY

Ashton's Charity is a charitable organisation set up to help those in need within the Whiston area. A Committee of five Trustees meet to consider applications for financial assistance, on an individual basis, towards health, education or general support.

All information received is completely confidential.

If you think you or anyone else could benefit from this charity, please apply in writing to: The Town Clerk, Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road, Whiston, Merseyside. L35 3QX.

## Whiston Town Council Community Awards Evening 2022/23

In December many local community groups were invited to an evening dedicated to them and their work. The Council is grateful for all they do for residents in Whiston as volunteers. Awards on the night were presented to 'Citizen of the Year' Brian Ledsham, 'Community Group of the year' The Luncheon Club and also to Whiston Town Clerk, Sandra Mayers, for her forty years service.



## Whiston Town Council

Below is a list of the facilities and open spaces which Whiston Town Council maintain for the benefit of our community:

Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road, Whiston.

George Howard Centre, Lickers Lane, Whiston.

Robert Foulkes Centre, Brook Street, Whiston

Foxshaw Close Play Area, Foxshaw Close, Whiston

Multi Use Games Area, Old Colliery Road, Whiston

Whiston Town Council also lease the undermentioned Public Open Spaces from the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley, and we pay an annual amount of almost £12,000 to have these areas maintained.

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Expiry</u>	<u>Location</u>
1.2	2066	Nelson Place/Fisher Place
4.64	2063	North Westerly Side , Dragon Lane
1.18	2059	Willis Lane / Paradise Lane
1.36	2076	George Howard Centre
0.93	2057	Easterly Side Gilbert Road
1.5	2060	Willow Avenue
0.83	2057	Foxshaw Close play area
0.20	2084	Robert Foulkes Centre

## Breast Mates Cancer Support Group



Whiston Town Hall and the Robert Foulkes Centre welcome the lovely ladies of the Breast Mates Cancer support group, each week, for an evening dance exercise session and a social / 'walk and talk' afternoon. Group members give an account of their activities below.

'We have delivered a dance class each week at Whiston Town Hall and we are hoping to continue with these sessions until the grant we secured runs out in June. We sincerely hope to be able to find more funding to allow us to continue. We regularly have around eighteen in the class, although we have a far greater number of ladies who come along as and when they can. We are looking to be part of a large dance-a-thon being held in Knowsley at the end of March which our teacher has been asked to take part in.

Last September, we held a Fashion Show. All of the models were our members, with both primary and secondary ladies involve. This is a massive boost for our ladies in both their mental and physical wellbeing. Our dance teacher provided the choreography for the whole of the event, which meant training sessions over twelve weeks, which we held at Whiston for an hour before our regular dance class. This event raised our profile in the wider community and proved a fabulous success with 250 guests present on the evening.

The impact of these classes is widely felt with our ladies both physically and mentally. The benefits of the exercise is evident

The benefits of the exercise is evident and also they have the chance to be with others with the same diagnosis, enabling them to support and share experiences which we find is vital to their overall wellbeing.

Our teacher is always coming up with new and more challenging routines which can involve more movement. The classes are overall fun and enjoyable. Everyone tells us that they feel so much better for attending. Our teacher tells us he loves working with us as classes are always electric and positive with fun and laughter. One member told us that her ninety minutes spent at the class was so enjoyable she didn't want to finish. Others tell of how their confidence has risen due to the classes. These photos show the group in action.'



## Breast Mates Walk and Talk

'We meet every Tuesday at the Robert Foulkes Centre, have a cup of tea and a chat in a welcoming environment where we can relax and enjoy ourselves. We then head off for a one hour local walk which enables members to talk on a one-to-one basis with volunteers. This activity keeps on growing in numbers and proves very popular with members.'



## HIGHERSIDE AMATEUR BOXING CLUB

Old Colliery Road, Whiston

Higherside Amateur Boxing Club has been based in the local community since 1979.

The club is run by volunteers, and, as a community club, sessions are affordable and all equipment is provided.

We offer classes for people ages 8+ ranging from non contact to competition level. No matter what level of fitness or ability, everyone is welcome to join in.

For more information visit our Instagram @Highersideabc\_ or contact Alex on 07824382652



## What's On in Whiston?

For further details on Clubs and Activities, please contact the Town Council Office Staff on 0151 430 7200

### Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road

Facilities: Main Hall, Council Chamber, Boxing Club and Multi-Use Games Area, Weekend function room.

Name of Club / User Group	Days
Whiston Indoor Bowling Club	Mon, Thurs a.m.
Whiston Over 55's Bingo	Monday afternoon
Breast Mates Dance Class	Monday evening
NHS Pulmonary Exercise Group	Tuesday
Whiston Village Guild	Tuesday (meet monthly)
NHS Wellbeing Group	Wednesday morning
Alzheimers Support Group	Wednesday p.m. (Fortnightly)
Prescotia Art Group	Wednesday p.m.
WICH Group	Wednesday (meet monthly)
Whiston Town Council Meetings	Wednesday (meet monthly)
ZUMBA Exercise Class	Wednesday evening
NHS Parkinsons Support Group	Thursday afternoon
Victoria Dog Club	Thursday evening
NHS Cardiac Nurses Group	Friday
HIGHERSIDE BOXING CLUB	WEEKDAY EVENINGS



**The George Howard Centre, Lickers Lane**

**Facilities: Main Hall, Activity Room, Office Space**

<b>Name of Club / User Group</b>	<b>Days</b>
Finchwood Academy	Weekdays
Whiston Luncheon Club	Monday
Adult Ballroom & Latin Dance Class	Monday evening
1st Whiston Scout Group, Cubs and Beavers	Tuesday evening
WIKED Dance Group	Wednesday
Slimming World	Thursday
Liverpool Century Cycling Club	Thursday
Knowsley Labour Council Surgeries	Friday
Family Worship	Saturday

**The Robert Foulkes Centre, Brook Street**

**Facilities: Main Hall**

<b>Name of Club / User Group</b>	<b>Days</b>
Facing Life and Pain	Monday & Thursday
Brook Street Luncheon Club	Friday
Breast Mates	Tuesday
Whiston Central Ladies Group	Thursday (Monthly)
Bollywood Dance Class	Friday evening

# **Annual Town Meeting**

## **WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY**

### **2023**

**Whiston Town Hall**  
**(Old Colliery Road)**  
**Commencing 7.30pm**

All electors who live in Whiston can attend the meeting and speak on any matters concerning the Township of Whiston.

Updates will also be given on subjects raised at previous Town Council Public Meetings.

Whiston Town Council  
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