

Whiston Town Council Annual Report

2022

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



'Serving the Community'



2021—2022

**Whiston Town Mayor
Councillor Julie Anne Parker
and Consort Martin Parker**

It has been a tremendous honour and privilege to represent Whiston as Town Mayor for the Municipality year of 2021-2022, supported by my consort and father, Martin Parker. The repercussions of the Covid 19 Pandemic have and continue to impact our operations and our community, however I am thrilled to say that we are adjusting well to a new 'normal'.

We reopened 'business as usual' back in April 2021 and our Town Hall, George Howard and Robert Foulkes Community facilities have gradually returned to pre-pandemic functionality. This is to the testament of the experienced and dedicated town council employees whose agile working and robust links with local community groups and services, enabled us to re-establish activities, re-book groups and host events and private functions, far quicker than anticipated.

In August we launched our monthly Community Litter picks, meeting on the 3rd Saturday of every month. The litter picks not only help improve the aesthetics of our community but provide opportunity to facilitate conversations with residents, identifying any issues that impact our community the most. I am proud of the difference that the litter picks have, and continue to make, to our community.

In September, we were able to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, the Mayor of Knowsley and consort, Ann Marr OBE, CEO of Whiston and

St Helens Hospital Trusts, and a large number of volunteers from Whiston and St Helens Hospitals, to Whiston Town Hall. The event enabled volunteers to formally receive the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, initially awarded in 2020. For both me and my consort, we were truly humbled to host this celebration and acknowledge the volunteers' dedication and commitment to not only our local hospitals but the wider community too.

In October, I was thrilled to attend local business 'Beer EnGIN' as they hosted an Oktoberfest event, raising funds for the Town Mayors Fundraising Appeal, supporting local people and groups. A whopping £183 was raised and a fantastic evening was had by all.

In November, I was joined by my consort and fellow Council members to attend a Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church. I gave a reading and placed a wreath on the War Memorial within the grounds of the church.

In December I was thrilled to attend The Over 55's Bingo and Luncheon Club Christmas Parties, both groups regularly use Whiston's Community Centers throughout the year, and it was fantastic to meet so many people who strive to make a difference within our community.

My consort and I also joined the Mayor of Knowsley and Mayor of St Helens for Willowbrook Hospice's, Light Up a Life Service. It was one of the most emotive services I have ever attended, and I would encourage our community to continue supporting this local charity, if possible. The work they do in benefiting local families is second to none and it is fantastic to have them located so close to Whiston.

December proved to be a particularly busy month with not just one fundraising campaign but three!

1. We entered the month of December without a single decoration but quickly mobilised '**Step into Christmas**', delivering our town's first Free Christmas Grotto in many years. An estimated 300 people attended the event to visit Father Christmas and support some local businesses who also had stalls at the event. The Town Council were able to provide 240 presents for local children, 100 mince pies, 100 cups of hot chocolate and mulled wine.

The event was held at Little Room Hire who kindly provided the venue at no cost and was made possible through the generosity of local residents and businesses who donated decorations and donations including Redline Roofing and Tyrells Electrical.

2. We also organized a Christmas Fundraising Raffle, securing 22 raffle prizes and raising £502.00 in just three weeks. Funds raised will be ring fenced for local residents in financial hardship and local community groups, and will be disseminated throughout 2022. Again, I would like to thank local residents and businesses who gave generously to support the raffle including the Village Hotel, Whiston, Jagged Edge and Promise Hair Salons and Ash Waste.

3. On 3rd December, the Liverpool Echo reported that 10 families had been forced to abandon their homes, effectively being made homeless, just three weeks before Christmas. This presented an unexpected challenge, but I quickly mobilised a Fundraising Appeal to help raise funds for the 10 'Castlewell' households affected. This included contacting local businesses and writing emergency funding applications. In just 3 weeks, Whiston Town Council was able to secure a £1,000 donation from local business 'Olympic Foods' and approximately £700 of presents donated by Radio City's Cash 4 Kids, ensuring that local families could have as normal as Christmas as possible, whilst away from their homes, and we all look forward to welcoming them back in to our community when it's safe to do so.

In addition to the £502 raised, a further £3,000 was secured 'in-kind' through support from local businesses and residents. It was fantastic to see our community pull together to make Christmas 2021 as special as possible.

In February, we reviewed budgets set by the council for the forthcoming year 22-23. This required lengthy discussion, recognising that we are all faced with increasing financial pressures, including increased cost of living and highest energy and fuel costs in history. However, I am proud of the investments that the Town Council have made in the past couple of years, including a full upgrade of Town Council I.T. equipment and roof and kitchen replacements

at Whiston Town Hall. These investments have enabled the council to 'bounce back' from the impact of COVID –19 far faster than expected. Bookings of weekend functions resumed and staff have been kept busy, trying to accommodate all the parties and celebrations being requested. Improved ICT enables us to diversify our income stream by accommodating bookings for groups requiring ICT/Wi-Fi for meetings and conferences and ensures that, should we ever need to mobilise working remotely again, as we experienced during pandemic lockdowns, our ICT enables us to do so, seamlessly without compromising the services that the council provide. I also attended Knowsley Hall, representing residents of Whiston, for the launch of Knowsley's year as the Borough of Culture.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Town Clerk, Sandra Mayers, as she marks an outstanding 40 years of service at Whiston Town Council. This is a phenomenal achievement and her dedication and commitment, to not only ensuring that the council fully complies with legislation and regulations, but also her passion for Whiston is evident from all who meet her. Sandra's leadership has enabled the Town Council and most importantly, our community assets to emerge from the most challenging times, in peace time, in a strong position, without compromising the employment of Town Council employees, loss of income or community facilities. I, on behalf of all staff, council members and the wider community, would like to congratulate Sandra on her unwavering commitment to our community and her service throughout the past 40 years.



The Clerk



It has been heartwarming, over recent months, to see so many of our regular user groups return to using our facilities. We have also had a number of new groups booking our community centres and the details of time, days and activities are highlighted later on in this report.

Over many years the types of bookings have changed so much, lots of our activities now include exercise and wellbeing. I have been fortunate enough to be a part of these changes.

How Time Flies By. I have now been employed by Whiston Town Council for a period of 40 years. My career started back in 1982, at the age of 19. I was initially employed as an administration officer, then in 1985-1988, I attended St Helens College, supported by the Council to gain further qualification in administration and finance.

In 2004, I was appointed as Town Clerk and worked extremely hard to develop a portfolio and gain my C.I.L.C.A. qualification which then enabled the Council to gain a National Quality Status award. In 2005, the Council also gained the National Association of Local Councils' Publication Award which was due to the production of my very first Annual Report.

I have a team of committed staff who all work hard to ensure each of our facilities are booked to capacity, as well as being maintained to a very high standard.

I remain fully committed and passionate about the work I do, and to the Community of Whiston, and will hopefully continue to do so for some time.

Elected Members of the Council have, over many years, supported me in my role and I would like to place, on record, my thanks to both Members and Staff for their commitment to me and their role in Whiston Town Council.

Sandra Mayers
Town Clerk

Whiston Town Council Finances

2021 / 2022

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

B/fwd 2020/21	2021/2022	
£ 321,763.13	£ 321,763.13	A summary of the
£ 283,298.00	£ 283,298.00	unaudited accounts for
£ 2,597.47	£ 2,597.47	2021/2022 have been
£ 30,904.23	£ 30,904.23	produced for residents
£ 31,965.26	£ 31,965.26	information.
£ 2,416.00	£ 2,416.00	
£ 4,463.00	£ 4,463.00	Residents can obtain a
£ 1,642.90	£ 1,642.90	copy of these accounts,
£ 9,489.19	£ 9,489.19	and inspect audited
£ 2,148.92	£ 2,148.92	accounts from previous
	£ 690,668.10	years at:-

Calculation of Expenditure

	2021/2022	
Administration	£ 23,587.76	Whiston Town Council
Whiston Town Hall	£ 25,870.07	Town Council Office
George Howard Centre	£ 26,520.42	Whiston Town Hall
Robert Foulkes Centre	£ 7,730.39	Old Colliery Road
Muga/Open Space	£ 14,764.86	Whiston
Publicity	£ --	
Repairs/maintenance	£ 15,050.11	
S137 Payment	£ 1,000.00	
Salaries/Wages	£ 208,952.88	
V.A.T. Input	£ 10,937.71	
C/fwd to 2022/2023	£ 356,273.90	
	£ 690,668.10	

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

(*) Extended leave of absence

(**) As well as serving as your local Councillors, some of our Members are also Borough Councillors.

WHISTON NORTH			Meetings Attended
Councillor G. Gaffney	16 Castlewell	0151 426 3871	4 out of 11
Councillor J. Gaffney	8 Brook Street	0151 431 1610	7 out of 11
Councillor M. Kayes	5 Time Park	0151 493 1151	7 out of 11
Councillor J. Mimmagh	24 Sandfield Crescent	c/o 0151 430 7200	7 out of 11
WHISTON SOUTH			
**Councillor R. Gaffney	103 Haslemere	0151 426 4883	9 out of 11
Councillor S. Gaffney	10 Braemar Close	0151 430 9194	8 out of 11
Councillor A. Jones	3 North Front Halsnead Park	0151 306 1443	10 out of 11
Councillor M. Burke-Thompson	20 Weyman Avenue	c/o 0151 430 7200	5 out of 11 *
Councillor P. Kelly	34 Bishop Drive	0151 426 7788	8 out of 11
Councillor J.A. Parker	18 Foxshaw Close	07843 319110	10 out of 11
Councillor P. Shaw	c/o Whiston Town Hall	c/o 0151 430 7200	8 out of 11

Citizen of the year 2022

Whiston Town Council would like to know who you think is a suitable candidate to receive the next Citizen of Whiston Award. The award is given as part of the Christmas celebration, so nominations must be received by the 1st November 2022. You can visit our website at: 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 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 MAYOR'S LITTER PICKS

In response to a request from a young resident, Councillor Parker has organised monthly, weekend litter picks, inviting other councillors and members of the public to join her.

If you would like to help out, please check on the Whiston Town Council website to find out the date of the next litterpick. Alternatively, telephone the office at the Town Hall.

Please note that all personal protection equipment is provided.



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

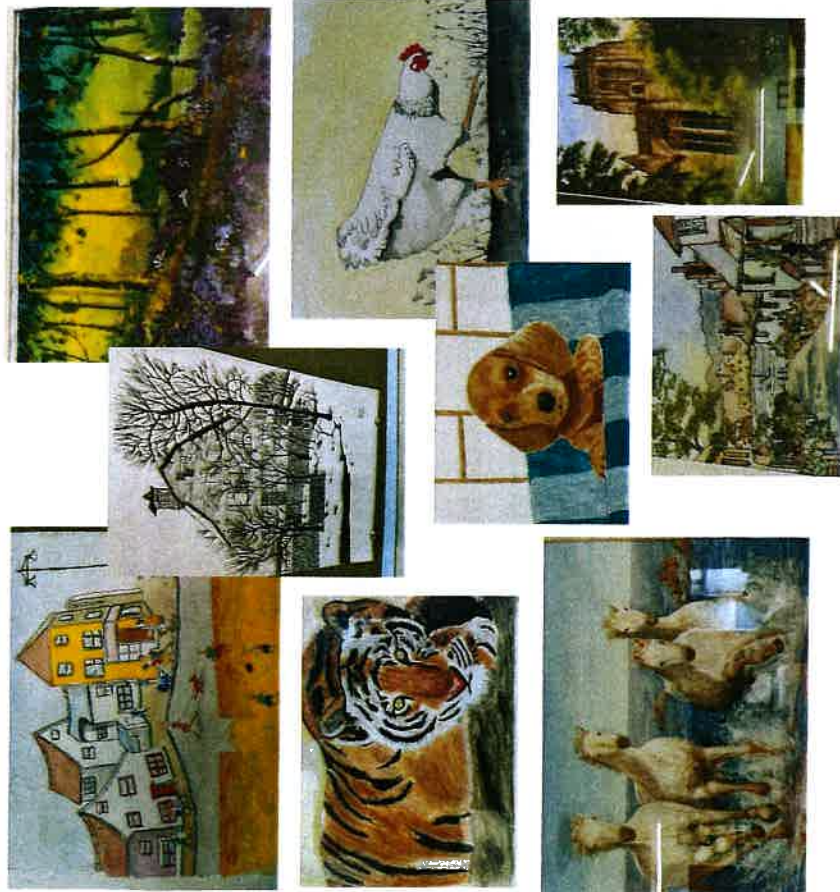
Whiston Town Council also lease the undermentioned Public Open Spaces from the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley, and we pay an annual amount of almost £12,000 to have these areas maintained.

Acres	Expiry	Location
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

PRESCOTIA ART CLUB GALLERY



In 2003, Prescottia Art Club formed, to provide a place where like-minded people could meet and share their artistic talents. They currently meet at the Robert Foulkes Community Centre on Wednesdays at 2.00p.m. All abilities and ages are welcome to go along to meet members to find out more or, alternatively, contact Whiston Town Hall office on 0151 430 7200 for details.



THE QUEEN'S AWARD PRESENTATION

On Wednesday 15th September, Whiston Town Hall hosted a ceremony for the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.



The recipients of the award were the wonderful volunteers who perform above and beyond, and give their time to support the patients and staff at Whiston Hospital.

The ceremony, attended by around a hundred guests, was a great success and enjoyed by all. Along with many of the Whiston Hospital volunteers, guests included: Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Mark FW Blundell, Deputies and Clerk to the Lieutenant, The Mayor and Mayoress of Knowsley, The Mayor, Consort and Town Clerk of Whiston, The Mayor of Prescot, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Chief Executive, Deputy Chair and Voluntary Services Manager



SANTA VISITS WHISTON

Residents welcomed Father Christmas to Whiston in December. Along with his helper elf, he called at the Little Room on Windy Harbour Road and spent some time talking to local children and giving out presents. Adults were treated to a warming cup of mulled wine or hot chocolate.



The Whiston Project Initiative—Summer 2021

During August 2021, a group of lucky Whiston children were invited to take part in a variety of activities, organised by the James Greenop Foundation charity, in conjunction with 'Everton in the Community' and Whiston Town Council.

The older children, coached by members of Whiston Indoor Bowling Club, learned the skills of long mat bowling as well as football skills and they helped the local community by taking part in a litterpick.

The younger children, also helped with the litter pick and loved their dance and drama classes. Thanks to everyone who helped organise the event, these boys and girls were able to make the most of their school summer holiday.



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)
EXCEL Dance Club	Wed & Thurs afternoon
WICH Group	Wednesday (meet monthly)
Whiston Town Council Meetings	Wednesday (meet monthly)
Victoria Dog Club	Thursday evening
NHS Cardiac Nurses Group	Friday
Whiston Dragons Indoor Bowling Club	Friday evening
HIGHERSIDE BOXING CLUB	WEEKDAY EVENINGS

The George Howard Centre, Lickers Lane
Facilities: Main Hall, Activity Room, Office Space

Name of Club / User Group	Days
Finchwood Academy	Weekdays
Whiston Luncheon Club	Monday
Adult Ballroom & Latin Dance Class	Monday evening
1st Whiston Scout Group, Cubs and Beavers	Tuesday evening
Children and Families Group	Wednesday morning
WIKED Dance Group	Wednesday
Liverpool Century Cycling Club	Thursday
Knowsley Council Surgeries	Friday
Hi Aikido	Friday evening
Family Worship	Saturday
Unique and Able Artists	Saturday (Monthly)

The Robert Foulkes Centre, Brook Street

Facilities: Main Hall

Name of Club / User Group	Days
Facing Life and Pain	Monday & Thursday
Brook Street Luncheon Club	Friday
Prescotia Art Class	Wednesday afternoon
Whiston Central Ladies Guild	Wednesday (Monthly)
Bollywood Dance Class	Friday evening

Annual Town Meeting

WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY 2022

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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 Old Colliery Road
 Whiston
 Merseyside L35 3OX
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