

# Whiston Town Council Annual Report 2024

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



**THE GEORGE HOWARD CENTRE**

**'Serving the Community'**



**Whiston Town Mayor  
2023-2024**

**Councillor Ron Gaffney**

## **Representing Whiston Town Council and our community as Town Mayor during 2023—2024 Municipal year has been an honour.**

I was born and bred in Whiston and feel very passionate about the area and the residents who live here.

I have represented the local residents and supported a number of campaigns over many years serving as both a Town and Borough Councillor.

Due to health issues earlier this year events got off to a bit of a slow start. I was involved in the first Junior Local Democracy Day in October 2023 and 22nd February 2024, which was well attended by year 6 pupils from both Halsnead Primary School, St Leo's and Southmead schools. The day enabled the children to have an insight into Council life.

I attended the Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November 2023 at St Nicholas Church, Windy Arbor Road. This was again a very well attended event with the Church providing refreshments afterwards.

I was invited to attend Christmas lunches at both the George Howard Centre and Whiston Town Hall during the *Christmas period along with* a Mince Pie and Music event, organised by the Town Council, for local residents.

*Ron Gaffney—Town Mayor*

## The Clerk



Employment status 1982—Present, 42 years and very fortunate, although pressured at times. This has been a lifetime career in Local Government.

I started my career in at the age of 19 and *Sandra Mayers* have witnessed a number of significant *Town Clerk* changes over the years.

I am responsible for 12 Staff and three well used, well maintained buildings. I am also responsible for the children’s playground at Foxshaw Close and the Multi Use Games Area alongside the Whiston Town Hall. I am the Responsible Financial Officer and during 2023 we received a glowing report from both the Internal and External Auditors, with “no matters being brought to the Council’s attention”.

We work hard to ensure we provide the best for our residents and support the Council Members when implementing new initiatives for the area. I also advise the Council on current legislation, whilst ensuring the Council meets targets in relation to the Vision and Mission and full Risk Assessments which are updated each year.

On a daily basis, I am supported by Administration Staff and a Site Manager, who also manages a team of manual staff employed by the Council.

I would like to place on record a big thank you to both Members and Staff and hope our working partnership continues for many years to come.

*Sandra Mayers—Town Clerk*

## Whiston Town Council Finances 2023 / 2024

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	2023/2024
<b>B/fwd 2022/23</b>	£ 387,963.18
Precept	£ 292,438.00
Insurance Com/Claim/Refunds	£ 130.10
Whiston Town Hall	£ 48,534.55
George Howard Centre	£ 36,147.57
Robert Foulkes Centre	£ 5,724.37
Multi Use Area	£ 4,475.00
F.I.T./Solar Panels	£ 1,303.18
Bank Interest	£ 7,519.23
V.A.T. Repayment	£ 12,728.29
	<b>£ 796,963.47</b>

A summary of the unaudited accounts for 2023/2024 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
- L35 3QX

Calculation of Expenditure	2023/2024
Administration	£ 40,365.04
Whiston Town Hall	£ 34,147.44
George Howard Centre	£ 25,348.24
Robert Foulkes Centre	£ 8,181.24
MUGA/Open Spaces	£ 25,182.98
Repairs/maintenance	£ 14,639.38
S137 Payment	£ 3,500.00
Salaries	£ 249,567.38
V.A.T.	£ 17,195.53
<b>C/fwd to 2024/2025</b>	<b>£ 378,836.24</b>
	<b>£ 796,963.47</b>

**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—2027 your Councillors are listed below.

Updates will appear on Whiston Town Council website as required.

<b>WHISTON NORTH</b>		
<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
<b>WHISTON SOUTH</b>		
<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 2024**

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 2024. 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 in place to help those individuals in need within the Whiston area. A Committee of five Trustees meet to consider applications for financial assistance, which may be allocated towards costs involved with 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.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM/WINTER COAT AND PROM OUTFIT RECYCLING**

Councillor Jo Burke requested the Council introduce a school uniform recycling hub, which led to the forming of Whiston Community Recycling Group. We now have five volunteers who give their time to assist adults and children with many school uniform items. The Whiston Community Recycling Group, along with the support of Councillor Jo Burke, have, over the winter months, introduced a winter coat recycling hub and this has been a huge success, with whole families being equipped with warm winter coats. The hub will also be providing a prom outfit recycling project over the coming months and residents are encouraged to contribute items to avoid them going to landfill.

[www.whiston-tc.gov.uk](http://www.whiston-tc.gov.uk). This Council is part of the recycle movement, in an effort to protect and preserve our environment. At the same time, our residents can access uniform items all year round because of the commitment made to our community.



## 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

## **TOWN COUNCIL FACILITIES**

Whiston Town Hall has seen a large increase in bookings for weekend functions, in addition to the regular groups and clubs who use the facility during the week. The Town Hall has recently benefitted from a new floor to the entrance area, Whiston Town Council staff have also given the main hall a facelift, with the stripping down and revarnish of the wooden floor, and staff are also in the process of repainting the stage area.

## **Junior Democracy Events**

October, February and April 2023/2024

In the summer of 2023, Whiston Town Council contacted the headteachers of the three local Primary Schools, situated within Whiston, and invited them to take part in a Junior Democracy Day. Halshead, St Leo's and Southmead and Whiston Willis schools each accepted the offer to allow pupils to come along to the Town Hall to find out more about how local democracy works and the impact it has on local issues.

Year Six pupils spent a fun-filled, busy day with local councillors and staff at Whiston Town Hall, taking part in a variety of activities designed to help the children to think about how councillors are elected and their role in the local community.

Sandra Mayers, the Town Clerk began the day by welcoming the children and providing them with some insight into what the Town Council is responsible for, how it is financed, and she also outlined the democratic process of the election system.

Pupils were split into groups and local councillors chatted with them to find out their opinions on what they liked about living in Whiston and their thoughts on how the area could be improved.

Councillors and staff were really impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the children and the ideas they had.

"Each time we deliver this programme, I am inspired by the creativity and intelligence of our communities' young people and the priorities they identify for our future." (Cllr Jo Burke)



Year Six pupils from Halsnead School pictured with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Town Clerk and Councillor Jo Burke.

The main hall was set up as a council meeting and the children chose representatives to take part, putting forward their own ideas for consideration to enhance the area of Whiston.

The children put forward valid suggestions (Motions) and took part in a discussion on how to implement and plan for projects whilst taking into account annual budgets.

Towards the end of the day, each pupil was presented with a certificate by Councillor Ron Gaffney, the Town Mayor and Councillor Stephen Henry, Deputy Mayor. Everyone involved over the three Democracy days were delighted at how well the events were received by children and school staff, and plan to hold more similar events during 2024/2025.

#### EVENTS IN WHISTON 2024

Whiston Town Council Events Committee are currently in the process of arranging two events for 2024. A Family Funday at Whiston Town Hall on Sunday 8th September 2024. and a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 23rd November 2024. There will be lots of free activities for children. Make sure you visit our website for updated information. [www.whiston.tc.gov.uk](http://www.whiston.tc.gov.uk).

### What's On in Whiston?

For further details on Clubs and Activities, please contact the Town Council Office Staff on 0151 430 7200 the undermentioned information was accurate at time of printing.

### Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road

Facilities: Main Hall, Council Chamber, Boxing Club

Name of Club / User Group	Days
Whiston Indoor Bowling Club	Monday & Thursday-am
Whiston Over 55's Bingo	Monday—pm
Breast Mates Dance Class	Monday—evening
Knowsley Green Party Surgeries	Monday-evening (first Mon monthly)
NHS Pulmonary Exercise Group	Tuesday—all day
Whiston Village Guild	Tuesday –evening (third Tuesday monthly)
NHS Wellbeing Group	Wednesday –am
Alzheimers Support Group	Wednesday p.m. (Fortnightly)
WICH Group	Wednesday evening (bi monthly)
Whiston Town Council Meetings	Wednesday –evening (monthly)
Slimming World	Wednesday - evening
Victoria Dog Club	Thursday evening
NHS Cardiac Nurses Group	Friday—all day
Karate Class	Friday -Evening
Higherside Boxing Club	Mon—Fri—Evenings

## The George Howard Centre, Lickers Lane

Facilities: Main Hall, Activity Room, Office Space

Name of Club / User Group	Days
School Provision	Weekdays
Whiston Luncheon Club	Monday-am
Karate Class	Monday evening
1st Whiston Scout Group, Cubs and Beavers, and OXO group	Tuesday evening
Early Years Activity Group	Wednesday –am
WIKED Dance Group	Wednesday– evening
Slimming World	Thursday -evening
Liverpool Century Cycling Club	Thursday-evening
Knowsley Labour Council Surgeries	Thursday - evening (first Thursday monthly)
Family Worship	Saturday– all day

## The Robert Foulkes Centre, Brook Street

Facilities: Main Hall

Name of Club / User Group	Days
Facing Life and Pain	Monday & Thursday am
Brook Street Luncheon Club	Friday am
Breast Mates Walk and Talk	Tuesday pm
VIBE Nursing Cadets	Wednesday Evening
Whiston Central Ladies Group	Thursday (Monthly)
Country Line Dancing	Thursday Evening
Bollywood Dance Class	Friday evening

# Annual Town Meeting

## WEDNESDAY

## 29th MAY 2024

### 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**

**Whiston Town Hall**

**Old Colliery Road**

**Whiston**

**Merseyside L35 3QX**

**Telephone 0151 430 7200**

**Email [town.clerk@whiston-tc.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@whiston-tc.gov.uk)**

**Website [www.whiston-tc.gov.uk](http://www.whiston-tc.gov.uk)**