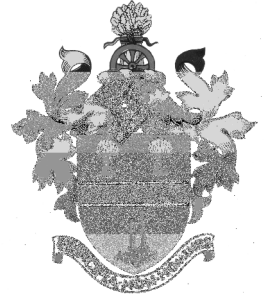


# Sandbach Town Council Newsletter

Delivered free throughout the Sandbach Township March 2007, Issue 1

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first Sandbach Town Council Newsletter. The aim of this edition is to provide you with essential information of what we do, who we are and how to contact us. We will also take a look at some of the things we have achieved over the past years and give you an idea of what to expect during the forthcoming year.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Like many organisations, Sandbach Town Council strives to continuously improve.

This first community Newsletter aims to start an improvement in the Council's communications to the electorate, local organisations and members of the public, along with the introduction of a platform for public consultation, as the need arises.

During 2006, Sandbach Town Council continued to operate largely on a consultative basis and in partnership with various groups, societies, churches and youth organisations through financial grants and donations. Several Town Council members have also engaged with Sandbach Partnership's working groups; here, there has been a significant focus in respect of preparing design concepts to revamp and make changes to the Market Square. Full consultation with residents is the key next step.

It is hoped that 2007 will see continued positive change. The Town Council plans to launch a *Vision Statement* for Sandbach which will set down aims and objectives for the future and will involve a degree of consultation with the electorate and local businesses.

I commend everyone to read this Newsletter; further editions will be published on a regular basis.

Your thoughts and feedback about this Newsletter and/or the Town Council's activities are welcomed and should be directed to the Town Clerk whose contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

**Barry Moran**  
Chairman  
Sandbach Town Council

### KEY DATES

Civic Parade and Service	Sunday, 1 July 2007	2.00pm
Annual Bowls Match	Friday, 3 August 2007	6.00pm

## Forthcoming Meetings.....

**Town Council**  
Thursday 8 May 2007  
Thursday 17 May 2007

**Finance and Personnel  
Committee**  
To be announced

**Quality and Projects  
Committee**  
To be announced

**Planning Committee**  
Thursday 29 March 2007  
Thursday 26 April 2007  
Thursday 24 May 2007

..... All meetings start at 7.15pm and take place at the Sandbach Literary Institution.

# WHO ARE WE?

Sandbach Town Council was formed in 1974 following a local government re-organisation and comprises eighteen elected members who represent the three wards and are elected on a four yearly cycle.



A full list of members and their contact details is featured on the last page of this newsletter. The majority of business is conducted at public meetings of the Council and its committees. All meetings are advertised on our noticeboard at Sandbach Library and via our website.

The Council is supported by the Town Clerk and an Assistant Town Clerk, both are always willing to help with any queries and their contact details can be found on the back page.

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In order to understand where Sandbach Town Council fits into Local Government, it is important to be aware of the responsibilities of our all three tiers of local government in Cheshire.

## **Congleton Borough Council's** responsibilities include:

Planning, licensing, housing, environment, health, public car parks, markets and fairs, cemeteries, leisure services, refuse collection, parks, civic buildings, tourism, electoral registration. The budget for 2006/07 is **£10.5m.**

## **Cheshire County Council's** responsibilities include:

Highways, adult services (Social Services), education and children's services, libraries. The budget for 2006/07 is **£337m.**

**Town and Parish Councils** are the most local level of elected government. Sandbach Town Council is independent of Borough and County Councils but works closely with both principal authorities. In principle, Town and Parish Council's can exercise many powers, for example:

Owning and maintaining civic buildings, toilets, street furniture, cemeteries and allotments.

**Sandbach Town Council's** budget for 2006/07 is **£85,520.**

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.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS .....STOP PRESS.....

The Town Council has just agreed to remain actively involved in the Market Square developments and subject to public consultation and the final design, in principle has agreed to make a financial contribution.

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# WHAT DO WE DO?

Through consultation, we work closely with both Congleton Borough and Cheshire County Council's to represent Sandbach and to ensure that Sandbach remains a place where people want to live and visit. We also support local groups and organisations through member involvement and financial assistance, this enables them to provide a quality service directly to you.

# Quality Council

Sandbach Town Council is firmly committed to the concept of Quality Councils and is determined to obtain quality status for Sandbach Town Council.



To apply for this award the Council must:

- have a qualified Clerk
- hold regular, public meetings
- communicate effectively
- produce an annual report
- produce detailed accounts
- have an adopted code of conduct
- fulfil an electoral mandate

The Quality Committee is overseeing the implementation of various projects to ensure that the Council is eligible to apply.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Sandbach Town Council works in partnership with many groups, these are just a few:

### Sandbach Partnership

We have a representative who sits on the Executive Committee and several representatives on their project teams.

### Sandbach in Bloom, Christmas Lights Committee and the Transport Festival

Sandbach Town Council is represented on each of these Committees and offers regular financial support.

### Police

The Council has negotiated with Cheshire Police Constabulary to appoint two Police Community Support Officers to patrol Sandbach. A third Officer is to be appointed by the Secondary Schools. It is hoped that the presence of the PCSOs will reduce the extent of anti-social behaviour within the town centre and make Sandbach a safer place.

## FINANCE

Sandbach Town Council considers its financial requirement (precept) for the following financial year every December. Funding is then obtained directly from Congleton Borough Council. You can see the amount that you pay towards Sandbach Town Council on your Council Tax bill. Every effort has been made to keep increases to a minimum. The increase for 2007/08 relates to 3.5%, which includes part funding the appointment of two Police Community Support Officers at £11,000 pa each.

## 2007/08 Budget

Income	£90,086
Expenditure	
Donations	£39,900
Ceremonial	£ 3,070
Subscriptions	£ 1,420
Administration	£ 9,860
Premises	£11,800
Training	£ 1,000
Employment	£31,230
Less transfer from reserves	£ 8,194

### The following donations, grants or contributions were made during the financial year 2005/06.

Sandbach Literary Institution	69,735
Sandbach Literary Institution HERS	5,202
Total SLI	<b>74,937</b>
Wesley Centre	15,000
CBC, HERS 1-25 Bold Street	2,468
Sandbach Christmas Lights Committee	2,000
Sandbach Voices for an electronic organ	1,000
Sandbach in Bloom	1,000
St John Church for hearing loop	565
D Robinson, Town Crier Honorarium	560
Sandbach Scout Group for roof repairs	500
St Mary's Church, Churchyard Maintenance	400
St John Church, Churchyard Maintenance	200
St Peter's Church, Churchyard Maintenance	200
Christ Church, Churchyard Maintenance	200
Ettiley Heath Methodist Church, Churchyard Maintenance	200
Lions Youth Brass for accommodation	300
Sandbach School Senior Citizens' Christmas Meal	200
Speakability for conference	180
United Coop 2000 Band for Civic parade	160
Cheshire Signs - Sandbach road sign	129
Marriot House Bowling Club V J Cup competition	100
Sandbach Lions Xmas Grotto	100
Royal British Legion poppy wreaths	100
	<b>£100,499</b>

### The following promises of funding were made for the year 2006/7: -

Wheelock Community Association	5,000
St Peters Elworth Church Hall	15,000
Joint Highways - Cobbles	10,000
CCC Street Lighting	2,500
Transport Festival	2,000
	<b>£34,500</b>