

Sandbach Town Council Newsletter

Delivered free throughout the Sandbach Township June 2007, Issue 2

From the Editor

It's been all change since our first edition which was published in March 2007. The Town Clerk has returned to work fit and well and through the recent election we now have several new faces the Council Chamber. In order to ensure the future sustainability of Sandbach the Council is developing a *Vision* for the town which is detailed on pages 2 and 3A. As this is a *Vision for your town*, we are keen to receive *your* comments—please let us know what you think by writing to the Town Clerk or your ward members, addresses are detailed on the back page.

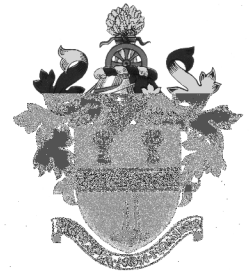
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



This is the second Sandbach newsletter and my first as Chairman of Sandbach Town Council for 2007/08 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank retired members for their past contributions.

I have lived in Sandbach all my life and am very pleased to be able to work with my fellow councillors in achieving some of the objectives listed in our 'Vision for Sandbach'.

One of our priorities is to gain Quality Status for the Town Council and it's Clerkship. In undertaking this work we are demonstrating to you and our partners such as Cheshire County Council, Congleton Borough Council and the Sandbach Partnership, that we are able to achieve the requisite qualification which will bring benefits to the town and inspire confidence.



Forthcoming Meetings

Town Council

26 July 2007

20 September 2007

Finance and Personnel Committee

6 September 2007

Quality and Projects Committee

4 October 2007

Planning Committee

2 August 2007

Communication and consultation are key factors in our work and we are anxious that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute ideas and express their views on the projects listed in the Vision document. I urge you to make full use of all communication channels, including speaking to your elected Town Councillor on decisions that will affect the future of Sandbach. Clearly not every suggestion can be implemented but every comment is welcome and will be considered in future planning.

I am certain that all members of the Town Council are committed to working for the benefit of our Town, it's people and the environment, as I am also committed to serving you, the residents of Sandbach.

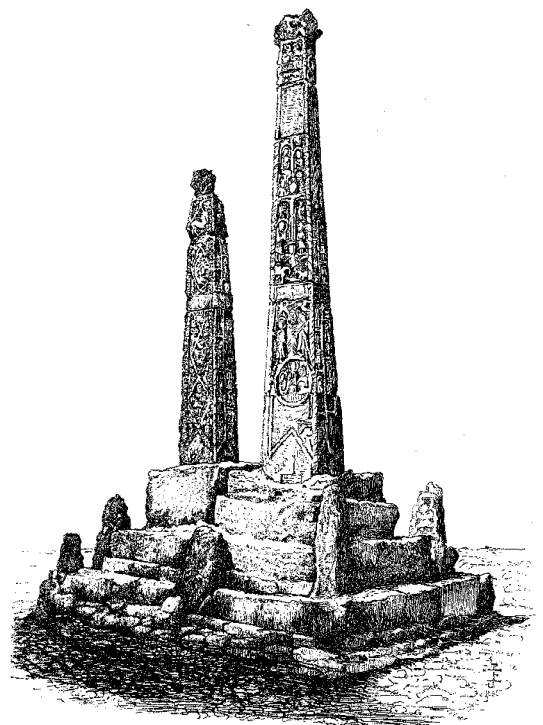
Councillor William Scragg
Chairman of Sandbach Town Council

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

A VISION FOR SANDBACH

The Council is currently preparing a Vision for Sandbach. This aims to describe what we hope are realistic aspirations for developing the Town's facilities to better serve the needs of our community. It is not definitive and will evolve as a practical document providing the basis for a plan of actions.

- Sandbach is a market town of distinctive character that provides people of all ages and interests with a pleasant and enjoyable place to live, work, shop and socialise. A 'Sandbach for All' with a thriving local community full of pride in their town.
- The town centre should be a friendly place where people can find their way around easily and obtain information on the many facilities the town and surrounding areas have to offer.
- The people of Sandbach will have a strong awareness of the need to care for and keep their town clean and tidy and free from litter.
- The Town Council will encourage and support strategies to: reduce waste, reuse materials and recycle, for both individuals and businesses. Facilities for these activities will be well managed.
- The ownership and control over public service delivery will be at the closest level to local people; that is the Town Council working in partnership with appropriate authorities, organisations and adjacent Parishes.
- The Town Council will encourage proposals from both businesses and other organisations to enhance the appeal of the Market Square and promote a focal point, for both local people and visitors to the town.
- The Town Council will seek to take full control and responsibility of the Market Square, in accordance with the above public service delivery aspirations.
- The Town Council considers that the community will be better served by re-locating the Thursday market to the Market square and the High Street.
- The Town council will encourage the provision of a diverse range of shops in the town centre. It will work to ensure that shops and business premises have carefully designed signage to keep a coherent and aesthetically pleasing appearance to the town centre.
- Sandbach Chamber of Trade and Commerce will be engaged with, actively encouraged and supported by the Town Council.
- Sandbach Park will be regenerated and redeveloped to increase its overall appeal as a leisure facility for both young and old.
- There will be many well-planned events in the town, which will be interesting and stimulating to the visitor and well supported by local people. These events will be held in a variety of accessible community facilities in the town. Appropriate events will be supported by the Town Council.
- The Sandbach community will be an integrated, caring and active community inclusive of young and old. There will be a wide range of facilities for young people.



- Young people will have more of an input to local decision-making and will be encouraged to engage with the Town council. Young peoples' provision in terms of a specific activity centre and improved advertising for youth organisations will be addressed. Young people will be encouraged to see the Town Council Members as a resource to voice their opinions.
- There will be an adequate provision of sport and leisure facilities in the Sandbach area.
- The viability of establishing a Transport and Local Industries museum in the town will be investigated.
- The public transport system will be effective in bringing people into the town from surrounding areas and the road systems will give good provision for pedestrians and cyclists at the same time as providing safe and easy access to the town from the M6 motorway.
- People who choose to come by car will find suitable parking facilities, even on market days and clear sign posting to ensure good traffic management within the town.
- The Town Council will continue to work in partnership with Cheshire Police to effectively introduce Police Community Support Officers, with appropriate levels of finance.
- Community speed reduction measures [e.g. Speedwatch] will be encouraged and financed, in partnership with Cheshire Police and the community.
- The Town Council will determine the viability for taking complete control of the Sandbach Literary Institution building.
- The Town Council will encourage, support and promote Sandbach to obtain the status of a Fair Trade Town.
- Sandbach Town Council will attain Quality Status, as a priority, as a key factor to ensuring that this Vision is delivered.

Feedback

It is essential that we all have ownership of the Vision and the resulting Action Plan, so it is vital to get your feedback, suggestions and comments. Please write or email us at the contact address on the back page or maybe let your councillor know your thoughts.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Sandbach Partnership

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE MARKET SQUARE

Sandbach Partnership is a community-led initiative whose remit is to identify and support projects which will improve our infrastructure and environment through community involvement, researching local needs, sourcing funding and managing projects.



One key project currently underway involves helping to make the Market Square a Town Centre. This will be an attractive place for people to relax and enjoy the history whilst benefiting from improved surroundings. The key ingredient in getting this right is finding out just what you want. To this end, starting in July, the Partnership will be holding a wide-ranging consultation to get your views and suggestions. So look out for the forthcoming publicity and take one of the many opportunities to provide your input and have your say.