

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL annual report 2004/5

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the third Annual Report following the introduction of the concept of Quality Councils.

For the second year in succession the Town Council has suffered from the loss of one of its members. In January of this year, Cllr Peter Wilson, who had been co-opted to replace the late Cllr John Keeling, died after a brief but noteworthy contribution to the work of the council.

The Council has recognised that it is no longer appropriate for its senior officer to work from home and has been seeking accommodation. This has been found at the Sandbach Literary Institution where the Town Clerk will have office accommodation and the Council will have its own debating chamber. Work, funded principally by the Town Council, is now taking place on the building. When the restoration is completed the building should be in a position to serve the people of Sandbach for many more years to come.

2. GENERAL

Details about the Council and minutes of all meetings are posted on the Council's website www.sandbach.gov.uk.

The Town Council works closely with the Sandbach Partnership. During the last year the Council was represented on the Partnership by Cllr Barry Moran. In recent times South East Cheshire Enterprise has been involved and they have facilitated a bid submission to the North West development Agency valued at £1,327,000. Sandbach Council will be represented on the working groups preparing the detailed project bids.

3. EVENTS

Last year's Chairman, Cllr Mrs Michelle Smith's, major Civic events were the Civic Parade and Service on 20 June 2004 and the Chairman's Ball on 29 January. The Ball was most successful in raising money for the Chairman's charity.

The annual bowls match with the Marriott House Veterans was most enjoyable and the result of the match a little closer this year.

The Town Council was most disappointed that the annual Transport Festival and the Town Criers competition were not held this year.

4. LOCAL ISSUES

4.1 Environment

Sandbach in Bloom is supported by the Town Council and has an excellent record over the last several years in winning or being well placed in the Civic Pride Awards. This year Sandbach was runner up in its section.

4.2 Transport

The changes to the centre of Sandbach carried out as a result of the Transportation study have received a mixed reception. Sandbach Town Council is an official consultee regarding the success or other of the project and proposes to use the Annual Meeting as a source of public opinion to help frame a formal response.

4.3 Sixth Forms in Sandbach

The head teachers from both secondary schools addressed the Council about their proposals for collaboration at sixth form level.

5. PROJECTS

5.1 Library

The Council is proud of being instrumental in initiating the library extension that now houses their "Peoples' Network" internet computers

5.2 Community Buildings

The Council has made an exceptional commitment to work on community buildings. As well as funding the Literary Institution, substantial grants have been promised to St Peter's Elworth Church Hall, Wesley Avenue Schoolroom refurbishment and Wheelock Community Association for the purchase of the old Wheelock School building.

5.3 Donations, Grants and Contributions

The following donations, grants or contributions were made during the financial year 2004/5.

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| Congleton Borough Council, Town Hall | 15,000.00 |
| Cheshire County Council, Library Project | 6,000.00 |
| Sandbach Christmas Lights Committee, Annual Donation | 2,000.00 |
| Sandbach in Bloom, Annual grant | 2,000.00 |
| CBC, Sandbach Partnership | 1,000.00 |
| Hope House, Donation | 1,000.00 |
| Sandbach Festival of Transport, donation (2003-4) | 1,000.00 |
| Sandbach RUFC, grant for Showers | 1,000.00 |
| South & East Cheshire, Special Olympics | 1,000.00 |
| Lions Youth Brass band, Grant to change premises | 600.00 |
| D Robinson, Town Crier honorarium | 540.00 |
| Brereton Handbell Ringers, grant towards new bells | 500.00 |
| St Mary's Church, Churchyard Maintenance | 400.00 |
| Christ Church, Churchyard Maintenance | 200.00 |
| Ettiley Heath Methodist Church, Churchyard Maintenance | 200.00 |
| St John's Church, Churchyard Maintenance | 200.00 |
| St Peter's Church, Churchyard Maintenance | 200.00 |
| Sandbach School, Christmas meal | 200.00 |
| Sandbach High School, Grant for Xmas meal | 150.00 |
| First Sandbach Guides, Grant | 150.00 |
| Marriott House Bowling Club, V J Cup | 100.00 |
| Sandbach Arts Association, Grant for concert | 100.00 |
| CBC, HERS contribution 40/42 High St. | 67.96 |
| | 33,607.96 |

The following promises of funding were made for the year 2005/6: -

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Wheelock Community Association | 5,000.00 |
| St Peters Elworth Church Hall | 15,000.00 |
| Sandbach Voices, Grant for Organ | 1,000.00 |
| Sandbach Literary Institution, Grant for restoration | 69,735.00 |
| Wesley Avenue Schoolroom, Grant for restoration | 15,000.00 |
| Joint Highways - Cobbles | 10,000.00 |
| Sandbach Partnership | 1,000.00 |
| Joint Highways, Cheshire Railings | 4,750.00 |
| | 121,485.00 |

Bruce Thompson, Clerk of the Council
May 2005