

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL annual report 2005/6

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council now has its own accommodation. Since the turn of the year meetings have been held in the Sandbach Literary Institution (commonly called the Institute) in Hightown. Work, funded principally by the Town Council, took place on the building about a year ago. The Town Council negotiated a lease with the Trustees for two rooms on the ground floor, one for a debating chamber and the other for the Clerk's office. The office will be in regular use by the end of the month.

2. GENERAL

Details about the Council and minutes of all meetings are posted on the Council's website www.sandbach.gov.uk. Recently the Council agreed to make the information even more up to date by allowing draft minutes to be posted before they have been confirmed.

The Town Council continues to work closely with the Sandbach Partnership. There are a number of projects progressing actively. The proposed business facilities at Wesley Court will be the first to receive funding from the North West Development Agency. The Partnership's Annual General Meeting which will be open to the public will be held on 24 May 2006 at 7 pm at the Masonic Hall.

3. EVENTS

This year's Chairman, Cllr John Moore's, major Civic events were the Civic Parade and Service on 19 June 2005 and the Chairman's Ball on 28 January 2006. The Ball was most successful in raising money for the Chairman's charity. The usual annual bowls match with the Marriott House Veterans was held.

The Town Council was delighted that the annual Transport Festival and Town Criers competition has been reinstated and are pleased to be the major sponsor of the event.

4. LOCAL ISSUES

4.1 Environment

Sandbach in Bloom is supported by the Town Council and has been responsible for Sandbach's entry in the Cheshire Civic Pride Awards. This year they have been joined by Sandbach Clean Team, Friends of Sandbach Station, the Hope Street Project, Sandbach Partnership and Congleton Borough Council Streetscape under the banner of the Community Pride Action Team and look forward to returning to winning ways.

4.2 Transport

At last year's Annual Town Meeting the results of the Sandbach Transportation project were discussed at length. The views expressed were included with those from other sources and presented by the Town Council to the Highway Engineers. Although not everyone's aspirations will have been met, the Town Council has proved itself as a powerful conduit for comment on local affairs.

4.3 Sandbach Town Hall

The Borough Council have offered the management of all the Town Halls in the Borough to the appropriate Town Council. A Town Council working group is considering the offer very carefully.

5. PROJECTS

5.1 Community Buildings

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

5.2 Donations, Grants and Contributions

The following donations, grants or contributions were made during the financial year 2005/6.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Sandbach Literary Institution grant | 69,735 |
| Sandbach Literary Institution HERS grant | 5,202 |
| Total SLI grant | 74,937 |
| Wesley Centre, Grant | 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 |
| | £100,499 |

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 |
| | £34,500 |

Bruce Thompson, Clerk of the Council
April 2006