



Garstang Town Council

The Historic Market Town of Garstang



Annual Report

2019 - 2020

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Garstang in Bloom Report

Garstang in Bloom is an independent Group of Volunteers who look after the Town's floral presentations. However these presentations form a part of the overall marketing of the Town as well as making it a pleasant place to live and visit.

The Royal Horticultural Society in its 'Britain in Bloom' Competition has a scoring system which allocates 30% of the overall score to Community Cohesion, which includes how well the group works with the Community and groups within it. The other scoring categories are Planting and Environment

In the year April 2019 to April 2020 the group has liaised with many community groups and societies including The Town Council, The Town Trust, the Lions, Rotary, The Kepple Lane Trust, Cancer Help, local Schools, Garstang Marina, the Millennium Green, High Street Business, Booths Supermarkets and many other sponsors

Our efforts were rewarded at regional and National levels and we received the following awards:

- Gold Award Nationally in the best Small Town Category
- Gold Award for water conservation [Nationally]
- Gold Award in the North West in Bloom Awards
- Best Small Town in the North West

Our Neighbourhood Gardens also won many awards and in two Ceremonies Garstang was awarded 13 Gold Awards and three special Trophies

I would like to thank all those involved and whilst 2020 has been a subdued year we will be back in 2021.

Alan Pearson
Chairman and Town Council Representative to
Garstang in Bloom



Financial Report

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020 (the last financial year). The figures were approved by the Council, on 18 May 2020, and are still subject to audit.

Income: The Council set a precept of £75,740. The precept allows the Council to carry out its functions and services for the year. Other sources of income for the Council, included:

- (a) Rent from the 3 allotment tenants of £40 each making a total of £120.
- (b) The rent from the scout hut (£60 - received in the 2020/21 financial year).
- (c) £3,200 was received from Wyre Council as a grant donation towards the town's Christmas lights (organised by the Chamber of Trade).

Expenditure: A budget is set in November/December prior to the financial year to determine what costs the Council are likely to face in the following financial year.

The Council decided to support the following projects in the town.

1. Kepple Lane playing field project -This project is being led by the Kepple Lane Park Trust, whereby Cllr Harter is a trustee. Since April 2008 the Council has approved £4,000 each year for the project. A Kepple Lane Trust report is detailed in this Annual report. At 31 March, the funds for the project amounted to £6,350.
2. Moss Lane playing field project – this project is being led by Cllrs Ryder and Hynes. Similar to the Kepple Lane project, since April 2017, the Council has approved £4,000 each year for the project. The new playground was installed in September 2019. The project cost a total of £50,062 net VAT. £45,056 was paid in the 19/20 financial year, with £5,006 paid in 2020/21. At 31 March, the TC funds for the project amounted to £937.00. Grants received during the year were from the former Garstang & District Partnership £8,000, and the Lancashire Environment fund £27,000.
3. £2,500 was donated to the Chamber of Trade towards the finances of the Christmas Lights.
4. £420 was donated to the Scarecrow Festival Committee, for first aid cover, for their festival that was held in July 2019 and £200 to the ice cream festival.
5. £200 was donated to the Garstang Christian Heritage Trail leaflets, organised by Garstang Churches and Christians together to encourage tourism to the Council's area.

Also included is the grants budget. By using Section 137, LGA 1972, councils can fund expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or any part of it or all or some inhabitants. The Council awarded £200 to Garstang volunteer force (GVF) to help isolated, vulnerable and elderly people during the coronavirus crisis. The money was used towards the cost of setting up the Control Room to include mobile phones and SIM cards, stationary, flip charts, carbonised receipt books, paper and pens in order to execute the GVF service.

Other expenditure of the Council relates to salaries (the Clerk and Lengthsman) and for the administrative running costs of the Town Council. Maintenance of the two playing fields – Kepple Lane and Moss Lane, is paid for by the Town Council and carried out by Wyre Council. Additional maintenance is carried out for the sensory garden at Kepple Lane Park.

The Finance Committee of the Council meets quarterly and enables the six Councillors to study the finances of the Council in detail and make recommendations to Full Council.

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England, March 2018. Members of the public are always welcome to inspect the books!



Garstang Town Trust Report

Garstang Town Trust is made up of 11 trustees all of whom live within a 2.5 mile radius of Garstang town centre. This year the Chairman is Trustee Mr. Gordon Harter and the Vice Chairman is Trustee Mr. Tom Ibson.

The remit of Garstang Town Trust is to run both the indoor Market House and the outdoor Thursday market. All the money raised from the running of the markets and renting of the buildings under the guardianship of the Town Trust remains within the town and is used for the upkeep of the buildings. Any surplus money can be given by way of a grant, at the discretion of the trustees, to local community groups.

This year works carried out to Town Trust property includes:

- Finishing of the flagging and fencing to the rear of the Town Hall.
- Repair and alteration to the drains in Market House.
- Removal of the old toilet cubicle on the landing in the Town Hall.
- 5 windows replaced at the rear South side of the Town Hall.
- Replacement of one of the wooden panels under the entrance to the Town Hall.
- Painting of the communal areas within the Town Hall including the entrance archway.
- Repairs to the floor in the Arts Centre school room.
- The installation of electricity supply in to Butchers Court or the old slaughterhouse.

Two of the businesses in the Town Hall and Market House changed hands in this year, these being:

Mrs. Gill Bradshaw the chiropodist in North Shop retired due to ill health, we now have Mrs. Valerie Clifford in there selling refurbished furniture, Frenchic paints and accessories.

Mr. Steve Cook moved out of the stall at the back of Market House after only one year due to a job offer and that stall has now been taken over by Mr. & Mrs. D. Brewin with their business 'Sweets of Garstang'.

This year a grant was given towards the Christmas lights.

In March this year when the coronavirus struck and the country went in to lockdown all work came to a standstill. The outdoor market closed as did the businesses in the Town Trust properties. Only the butchers and cheese stall remained fully open in Market House but all four businesses in Market House were making deliveries to people in the community whom were shielding or isolating.

Gordon Harter and Kate Rowe
Chairman of Garstang Town Trust and Clerk to Garstang Town Trust

Garstang Millennium Green Trust Report

What a year! Who would have thought 12 months ago that we would have seen the issues the world has seen with Covid-19. During lock down with our daily exercise requirements (and the beautiful weather) the Garstang Millennium Green truly came into its own - offering a recreational, safe, clean area for all the local people to use for their 1 hrs exercise a day. Truly a 'natural breathing space for all'.

A big thankyou to the Working Party and Wyre Borough Rangers for all their tireless support to maintain the Green, particularly during the lock-down. Although this year the normal events on the Green have been curtailed, the footfall of the everyday walkers appears to have increased exponentially!

This last year has seen the new gate installed in the family area kindly paid for from part of the donation from former Garstang Young Mayor Nathan Halford's fund raising. We also saw a new interpretation board for the pond installed and a new picnic bench in the Wyre Lane field installed.

It will be no surprise that the river Wyre flood gates have been raised a number of times this year. Again, a big thankyou to the Working Party for all the tidy up work after the floods to ensure the users of the Green have a safe and pleasant area to walk and relax.

The Millennium Green achieved an Outstanding in the Britain in Bloom Awards for 2019 another sign of the high regard the Green is held in.

It was with great sadness that the town lost Ben Andrews, an advocate for the Green who played an important part in the Greens set-up with his horticultural knowledge and planting schemes with native trees. His daughter Geraldine and son Simon kindly offered a proportion of the Garage sales they held to the Green. The Trust would also like to thank Lori Shaw a local artist who kindly gave part of the royalties from her 'Otter print' to the Green. We are very grateful to Councillor Liz Webster who has chosen the Millennium Green as one of the charities for the year and even in these difficult lock-down times has raised money through Bric-a-Brac sale, we thank her for her continued fundraising and support of the Millennium Green.

The Green has again seen some vandalism and miss-use by different parties which the Trust has been keeping a close eye on. This is always challenging owing to its geographic location. *If you do see any misbehaviour please report to the police via Tel. 101 or report on the police website to ensure the safety for all who use the Green.*

Thanks also goes to the continued support of Trustees, Green Management Team, Maintenance Team, Friends of the Green & Wyre Rangers. All who freely give their time and play a part in keeping the Green looking pristine.

The Green is appreciated by all who walk around it - two legged or four!

The Green has had, I believe, a very positive impact on the mental health of the people of Garstang during these very challenging times.

It maintains its status as 'Garstang's Little Crown Jewel'.

Here ends the Garstang Millennium Green Trust report.

Cllr Mike Halford

**Garstang Town Council Representative to and Chairman of the
Garstang Millennium Green Trust**



Town Council Awards 2020

Garstang Town Council Awards 2020 opened for nominations on the 20th January 2020 and closed on 31st March 2020. This year the Town Council Awards received 80 nominations, nominations can be seen below. Sadly, this year due to the coronavirus pandemic the Town Council Awards Ceremony has had to be postponed until further notice. Judging for the 2020 awards has been carried out virtually this year and the judging panel cannot wait to share with you our 2020 winners.

Sport Team of the Year

Garstang Cricket Club
Garstang Cricket Club Juniors
Garstang Hockey Club
Garstang RUFC
Garstang Running Club
Team ShazzAnn
UK Futsal Academy

Community Group of the Year

Azcent Fitness
Garstang and District Lions
Garstang Macmillan Fundraising Group
Garstang Theatre
Garstang Veterans Club
Garstang Volunteer Force
Churchtown in Bloom
Garstang Memory Cafe
Netta Lily Parker
St Thomas's Church Youth Group
Team ShazzAnn
The Bellflower Pub

Business in the Community of the Year

Azcent Fitness
Bellas Coffee House
The Bellflower Pub
Bowland Care
Bradshaws Farm Shop and Garden Centre
Carr's Jewellers
Garstang Quality Meat Stall
JG Fitness
Nationwide Building Society
Towers and Gornall Accountants
YMCA Leisure Centre Garstang

Citizen of the Year

Aaron Marsden
Charlie Collinson
Heather Brandwood
Julie Bell
Michael Coleran
Mrs Bracken
Ruth Bruce

Youth Group of the Year

1st Garstang Rainbows
2nd Garstang Rainbows
Futsal
Fylde Branch of Pony Club
Reach Out CASHER Group
St Thomas Youth Club

Junior Citizen

Nominees to be announced at Town Council Awards Ceremony

Young Citizen

Nominees to be announced at Town Council Awards Ceremony

Mayors Award

Winner to be announced at Town Council Awards Ceremony



Moss Lane Park Report

In the Autumn of 2019, the new playground was finally completed and handed over to the Town Council. There were a few minor niggles, but these were sorted out. The new equipment seemed to be well received especially as the Town Council looked as far as possible to ensure that inclusive equipment was installed.

Just as things were settling down and the park was coming into its own, we had Covid-19. This resulted in the playground having to be closed. It was with great relief when finally, the go ahead to re-open was confirmed

Earlier this year the Town Council along with the supplier reviewed the equipment and playground surface. It was agreed that some further marking around individual pieces of equipment was necessary. Again Covid-19 stopped the work taking place but it is now hoped that the work can be scheduled for later in September.

In reviewing the playground, the Town Council felt that the existing grass surface at the Moss Lane end entrance was not good enough. Also, the Town Council wanted to sort out the old paving around the benches. Quotes were requested and again it is hoped that these improvements will be carried out in September.

As part of the improvements to the playpark there are wheelchair friendly picnic benches that still need to be installed. This will form part of the work to be carried out.

On completion of these works it is hoped to arrange an official opening.

When the playground settles down and following public consultation the Town Council will look to see if there are any grants available to extend the playpark and install some additional equipment.

Cllr Peter Ryder and Cllr Leah Hynes
Town Council Project Leads

Mayor's Report

The Town Council have had another interesting year to say the least! We certainly did not expect, like everyone else a virus that caused so much disruption and of course the lockdown just over 6 months ago! This report is somewhat delayed and should have been presented at our Annual Town Council Awards which of course was cancelled. It was also a great shame to learn of the cancellation of the North West Stages car rally ceremonial night which was due to be held for the 2nd time on the High Street.

Let me take you back to May 2019. We had a busy year with almost a full team of 12 Cllrs. Former Mayors, Cllr Gordon Harter stepped down in March 2020 and Cllr Sandra Perkins a few months earlier. I was personally very sorry to see two hard working and conscientious Councillors leave the council and as a Town Council we would like to thank you both for all your time and dedication you have put in over the years. Wishing you both all the best with your future adventures.

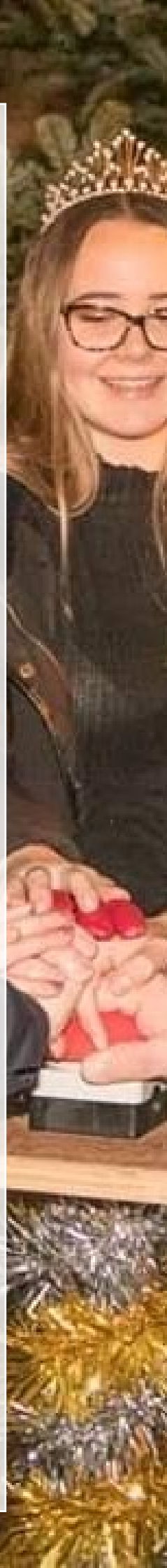
We were successful in securing funding for the new play area at Moss Lane Play Park, which was organised by the Clerk and Cllrs Hynes and Ryder supported by Cllr Allan. I hope you and your families are enjoying the new equipment now it has been all but completed. Picnic benches and entrance path to be finalised.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Garstang in Bloom team who work tirelessly to keep our town looking so magnificent and scooped so many awards at the Britain in Bloom and North West in Bloom awards ceremony. A big thank you to fellow Town Councillor, Cllr Pearson who has led his team to Gold! Garstang won gold in the Small Town category of the nationwide Britain in Bloom competition. They also won the RHS discretionary award, Wise Ways with Water and the presenter also mentioned Garstang as the home of the famous Scarecrow Festival! I was saddened to learn of the death of RHS judge, Bill Blackledge who judged the town many times over the years. He loved visiting Garstang and Hamlet's pork pies!

Last year the Town Council and a number of local volunteers helped the Royal British Legion organise and marshal Remembrance Sunday which I am sure you will agree, ran very smoothly. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day and with the road closure, in particular Carl Boardman and David Lewis.

Garstang Town Council were proactive in setting up the Garstang Academy Road Safety Group and were delighted when the hard work paid off and Lancashire County Council completed the works on Garstang Road and improved the pavement for the safety of our residents, neighbouring parishes and school children. The pavement was widened and the camber was improved. This had been a long-standing issue for over 20 years so I was personally overjoyed when the improvements were completed. I would like to thank our neighbouring parishes for their support and a particular thank you to Cllr Norman Howell, Chair of Barnacre with Bonds Parish Council, Cllr Shaun Turner, Mr Ashcroft from Garstang Community Academy, Lancashire County Council and Wyre Council. It just shows what can be done if we all work together!

A new event was added to the calendar in Garstang last year, Garstang's first ever Santa Dash. I organised this event along with the committee members of the Scarecrow Festival and the invaluable help from Team ShazzAnn, Garstang YMCA, Wyrebank and local DJ, Darrell Edwards. It was a wonderful sight to see so many Santa's jingling their way through the High Street whilst raising money for my mayoral charities.





Roll on 2020 and things certainly changed! The world was hit with the Coronavirus. Soon enough the council had in place virtual zoom meetings in order for the council to continue to operate safely and had agreed on the delegated authority to myself, the Clerk and Deputy Mayor.

Around the same time, Charlie Collinson, the founder of Garstang Volunteer Force contacted me asking for the Town Council's help in setting up what became a lifeline for so many vulnerable and isolated people. I called an extra-ordinary meeting which led to the council donating £200 to GVF to help them set up. I was proud to be involved in this fabulous initiative and looked forward to my weekly shift helping out at Garstang Volunteer Forces' HQ. The Garstang centre received 2447 calls, 1518 delivered prescriptions, 682 lots of shopping were delivered, 30 cash transactions and 9 chat buddies. A big well done and congratulations to everyone who volunteered and helped Garstang Volunteer Force.

I have had a wonderful year fundraising for my 3 charities, Cardiac Risk in the Young (The Matthew Hesmondalgh Fund), North West Air Ambulance and Rosemere Cancer Foundation. I am extremely proud and excited to share with you my total fundraising amount of £5000 despite having to cut short my fundraising activities and cancel two upcoming events. A big thank you to everyone who has supported all of my events. Thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers who made this happen. A big thank you to the manager Rachel Gornall at Barclays Bank for match funding £560 towards Rosemere Cancer from the charity Santa Dash. Thank you to everyone who has supported, helped and donated or simply enjoyed the charity night at Farrina's which was made extra special with the surprise visit from comedian Bobby Ball. Thank you also to the Wheatsheaf for hosting the gin night. Another big thank you to William Richmond for his generous donation at the beginning of my year to get me started. You have all been amazing and I couldn't have done this without you.

I was expecting to finish my term as Mayor in May 2020 however due to the Coronavirus etc, you will be aware I have remained in my position to serve for another year.

Finally I would like to thank Edwina, our Town Clerk, for her advice and guidance and keeping us all, especially me, on the straight and narrow; Martyn, our Lengthsman, for keeping the town looking neat and tidy and Hilary, our Town Crier, who attends many functions throughout the year letting everyone know what is going on locally and promoting the town. Last but not least, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and dedication over the last year and in particular my Deputy Cllr Alec Allan who has been simply the best!



Cllr Elizabeth Webster
Mayor of Garstang

Garstang Flood Action Group Report

The Wyre Flood Forum was established in 2011 as a result of severe weather conditions in that year. It holds quarterly meetings at the Civic Centre, Poulton le Fylde, which is attended by FLAGS of communities along the River Wyre as well as those in other catchment areas. Garstang takes its position as head of the river with its flood gates established in 1980. Also in attendance are officers employed by the Environment Agency which is the Government Agency responsible for inland waterways but not canals, United Utilities responsible for drainage, Lancashire County Council responsible for highways and English Nature responsible for the environment and finally the Wyre Rivers Trust responsible for projects and biodiversity.

It should be stressed that membership of FLAGS is not restricted in any way and the majority of members will not be elected to town or district councils.

2019-2020

The Garstang FLAG consists of a chairman, Cllr John Ibison the ward councillor for Calder and others. Town Councillor Brooks is the Town Council representative.

Although the Garstang FLAG has not held formal meetings for over twelve months it boasts a group of enthusiasts who walk within the catchment area of the Wyre and report matters of interest and or concern either to the Garstang rep or direct to officers at Wyre Council. These volunteers are the eyes and ears of local officers and it is through them that pressure has been maintained on the agencies to, for instance, repair the East Gate of the Garstang Flood Basin Defence asset.

There have been exceptional incidents this year such as storm Ciara and storm Dennis both in February which had the potential to cause significant damage to property and threaten life.

The environment agency have been requested to set out the costs of repair of the damaged gate and assess the integrity of defences in the Garstang basin.

The Wyre River's Trust Scientific Officer, Tom Myerscough, is working with riparian owners such as the Abbeystead Estate and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on long term projects to slow the flow of water from the land to the river including the quaintly named Leaky Dams project.

There is little doubt that flooding will continue to be a threat to our settlements and there are many ways in getting involved in ways of combatting that threat.

Cllr Roger Brooks
Garstang Town Council Representative to
Garstang Flood Action Group



Kepple Lane Park Trust Report

Another successful year for the Park recognised by both the RHS National and Northwest Bloom judges.

In the National Awards the Park was awarded a Distinction as one of the top 5 small Parks to be nominated for 2019.

In the North West the Park received a Gold Medal Award for Parks together with “Outstanding” in Neighbourhoods.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak the 2020 RHS Awards have been cancelled.

During the year a lot of work was undertaken to create a further 2 new beds and improvements on another.

The trustees were helped by Sainsbury’s staff that assisted with the new beds, the Rangers who arrived “mob handed” one day to assist with the back breaking clearance work for one of the beds and several residents who came along with their children to complete the digging and planting for these beds. Big thanks to Martyn the town’s Lengthsman for his continued support both on the Park and of course around the town.

At the end of the year several dead and diseased trees had to be removed, which were to be replaced at the end of March, with the planting of 300 “whips”. However with the escalation of the Coronavirus this has had to be deferred until later in the year. We will still require the mums, dads, children, grandparents etc descending on the Park to help with the planting one Sunday.....and the offer of bacon butties afterwards still stands! Unless the government instructions have changed since this was written the Park is “open” for use....however please adhere to the Government restrictions at the time.

Whilst the two year sponsorship by Sainsbury’s has now come to an “official” close we would like to thank them for their continued support with volunteer time, raffle prizes and generally accommodating us whenever we have asked.

Finally the Trust has recruited 2 new Trustees in the past few months however we are always on the lookout for new spade wielding volunteers.....when the current restrictions are lifted.

You know where we are!

Gordon Harter
Chairman, Kepple Lane Park Trust

Garstang Christmas Lights Group Report

The Christmas lights group is a small group with representation from Garstang Town Council, Garstang Town Trust, Garstang Chamber of Trade and the general public, with the purpose of facilitating the Christmas festive lights in Garstang.

In 2019 we were in year 2 of a 5 year contract with our new suppliers, LITE, for the Christmas festive lighting scheme in Garstang. The Christmas lights are illuminated from the end of November to the beginning of January, to bring social and economic benefits to the town during the darkest months of the year.

The new lighting scheme design we introduced was significantly different from the previous display, providing a fresh look for the festive period whilst improving efficiency with modern low - energy technology. The new display has been a great success, receiving positive feedback from locals and visitors alike.

The lights cost approximately £12,000.00 + VAT. After generous donations from Wyre Council, Garstang Town Council and Garstang Town Trust (and VAT reclaim) we are left with approximately £6,000.00 to raise. Fortunately for 2019 we were able to collect from businesses and fundraise, alongside generous donations, the residual amount with an additional surplus of over £2,000.00.

Our intention is to save any surplus to extend the lights scheme further around the town, on Park Hill Road and Bridge Street.

This year our circumstances are a stark change from 2019. Due to the Corona pandemic we are unable to hold our usual fundraising activities or plan on receiving donations from other groups or many businesses who have donated to us in the past. This became apparent in April when we contacted the Borough Council for help. We have also tried different grant 'pots' to no success.

We have, however, recently set up a crowd funding page which to date has raised over £385.00. We hope to push this much further in the coming months. We are also writing to businesses to appeal to those who are able to support the fund this year, whilst actively seeking any other opportunities available.

Nevertheless, we understandably have concerns that we will be unable to raise the funds to cover the residual £6,000.00. Any further help will be very gratefully received!

As with all Garstang festivals this year, we are sadly unable to hold the usual Christmas light switch on event. However, 2020 has certainly encouraged us to try new ideas, so this year we are planning a 'virtual switch on' over Facebook live on Monday November 23rd.

Damian Carr

Chairman of Garstang Christmas Lights Group

Fairtrade Garstang Report

Garstang, the World's first Fairtrade Town, would have been celebrating its 20 year anniversary this year, but Covid-19 meant that the organised events taking place throughout the summer had to be cancelled. However, we did have a 20th Anniversary and Fairtrade Fortnight exhibition in the Market Hall window.

Prior to all the restrictions several events did however take place. As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, we held a family quiz, a chocolate making demonstration and workshop and an African Drumming evening. We also had a Fairtrade display in the Library.

It is hoped that the steering group can meet later this year and plan events for 2021.

Throughout this time the group had been working on a Fairtrade Directory which is now available from the Visitor Centre and on our Fairtrade Website. We are pleased to confirm that our updated website is well and truly live. Please have a look at www.garstangfairtrade.org.uk

The group have submitted monthly reports to the Town Council and the Garstang Focus (green book).

Finally, we were surprised and delighted that the group chair, Ruth Bruce, has been nominated in the Good Citizen category for the Town Council Annual Awards. Recognition is not only for herself but for the whole steering group for their work on behalf of Garstang Fairtrade.

CLlr Peter Ryder
Town Council Representative



Wyre & Lancashire County Councillors Report

We Wyre Cllr Sir Robert Atkins, Wyre Cllr Lady Dulcie Atkins, Wyre Cllr Alice Collinson and Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner are fortunate to represent Garstang to the wider borough and county. Over the last year we have continued to work hard to represent Garstang to the wider borough and county to progress Garstang's interests and needs; this has included seeking to redress issues for residents and the wider community.

Wyre Cllr Sir Robert Atkins has taken on the position of Chair of Wyre Councils all-party Climate Change Policy Group which is seeking to investigate, take evidence and advise the council on productive and beneficial actions which could be taken. County Cllr Shaun Turner has worked with Garstang Town Council and other local councils to improve the footpath on Bowgreave, through this collective working the county council was able to make the necessary improvements where it wouldn't normally intervene. Cllr Turner also addressed concerns from the local community following extensive consultation over the redevelopment of Bowgreave Rise Care Home, seeing an improved and more suitable scheme including a brand new dementia focussed care home and an extra care facility allowing for independent living with extra support- both of which address the real needs of the local community. County Cllr Shaun Turner also chairs the Lancashire Outbreak Engagement Board.

Wyre Cllr Lady Dulcie Atkins continues to represent Wyre Council on Garstang Millennium Green Trust, Garstang Town Trust and Wyre Councils Planning Committee whilst Wyre Cllr Sir Robert Atkins represents Wyre Council on the Local Government Association. Wyre Cllr Lady Dulcie and County Cllr Shaun Turner also attend local primary care network which is a collaboration between LAs, GP practices, care providers, police, fire and voluntary sector- this works to share resources and to improve people's health and wellbeing, hopefully negating or improving any medical interventions.

Wyre Cllr Sir Robert, Wyre Cllr Lady Dulcie, Wyre Cllr Alice Collinson and County Cllr Shaun Turner

Garstang Neighbourhood Plan Report

The concept of Neighbourhood Plans was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 giving parish councils the opportunity to influence planning in their neighbourhoods with the caveat that their plans must comply with the relevant Local Plan for the District. The aim and general thrust of the legislation is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF, as amended.

The Council's Publication Scheme, a formal requirement, shows that the Council had already voted to develop a Plan in 2016 or possibly earlier but no progress had been made.

The Garstang Neighbourhood Plan got under way in February 2017 when approaches were made to the adjoining parish of Barnacre with Bonds with a view to forming a joint application but after several meetings no agreement was reached. The formal stage of submitting an application to Wyre Borough Council for Approval of the Neighbour Area proceeded and was duly accepted.

In 2016, two other Neighbourhood Plan Projects were being developed in Wyre, the parishes of Barton and Dolphinholme. Both parishes are divided by a District border, Barton to the South with Preston City and Dolphinholme to the North with Lancaster City. Both parishes undertook surveys and applied for approval of a Neighbourhood Area but a recent search of the website of each parish indicates that neither has made the move to submit a plan for examination and a whole parish referendum even though Dolphinholme has posted a full draft plan on its site.

2019-2020

As the result of a fall on 22 June 2019 the Garstang Plan project leader was incapacitated for several months.

On 28th February 2019, Wyre council had approved a new Local Plan to replace the plan approved in July 1999 to run from 2013 to 2031 and it was noted that none of the three Neighbourhood plans started in the Borough had proceeded to adoption.

A draft Vision Statement was produced together with a brief summary of the Local Plan to add context to the Town Council meeting held in November 2019 to illustrate the line of direction but there was little or no debate.

2020-2021

Parliament has passed legislation that prohibits local elections and referendums, an essential aspect of adoption of a Local Plan, until May 2021 at the earliest which means that no face to face contact is allowable in the form of canvassing.

The Project team is exploring ways of canvassing local opinion on the Neighbourhood Plan Vision Statement including postal questionnaires as a preliminary step to writing a detailed plan setting out the actions needed to fulfil the vision.

Also, the Project Leader will take opportunities when presented to attend virtual seminars on relevant subjects such as provision of affordable housing the subject of a seminar held on 8th September 2020.

The Government has declared that funding for Neighbourhood Plans will be available in the next financial year and it is intended to lodge an expression of interest.

Clr Roger Brooks
Town Council Project Lead



Community Engagement Report

Following the creation of the role of 'Community Engagement Officer', (undertaken by Councillor Sharna Mitchell), the council have approved and published a new Community Engagement Strategy - <https://www.garstangtowncouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Community-engagement-strategy-V1.0.pdf>.

The strategy sets out the Town Council's aims, objectives, principles and future plans to effectively engage with all parts of the community. By implementing the strategy, we hope everyone with an interest in Garstang will understand what we do, what we're working on and how they can get involved.

A key aim was to find opportunities to work more closely with local groups and individuals, identifying the needs of the town and working together to bring about positive change. The most significant success in this area is the formation of the Market Town Working Group that has been working with groups, individuals and agencies to formulate plans to see Garstang successfully through the Covid-19 crisis, and to set the town up for a successful future.

The strategy also identified a need to ensure that our updates and engagement activities reached as much of the community as possible, especially those that are not online. Prior to Covid-19, councillors attended surgeries at the library where anyone could drop in to speak with councillors. . We had planned to expand this into a 'multi-agency approach', inviting representatives from Wyre Council and the Police to ensure the right people were present, whatever the issue.

Due to the restrictions experienced this year, the surgeries have had to be cancelled. We are looking at alternative approaches as we know some in the community welcomed the opportunity to meet face to face in an informal setting.

With the current restrictions, we are more reliant on our core channels of the website, our Facebook page and Focus Magazine, (known as the 'green book'). We are committed to developing these further, making access to information as easy as possible, and ensuring the latest news on 'hot topics' can be found quickly.

CLlr Sharna Mitchell,
Garstang Town Council Community Engagement Officer



Garstang Youth Council Report

Over the last year Garstang Youth Council has continued to thrive under the leadership of Youth Mayor Declan along with a supportive team of energetic Youth Councillors. Declan, now the eighth Youth Mayor took over as Youth Mayor from Robert at the Annual General Meeting in October 2019 after another successful mayoral year.

Robert successfully managed to raise £264.15 for Age UK during his Mayoral Year including through stalls at both Garstang Ice-cream Festival and Garstang Scarecrow Festival.

Since then the Youth Council has, up until restrictions were imposed in March, been able to carry out some fundraising for Youth Mayor Declan's Charity, Garstang in Bloom, this included hosting a Family Quiz Night which raised over £350. The Youth Council has also grown significantly in size since the commencement of an extremely successful recruitment drive, the Youth Council hopes to continue with this great work when possible!

Garstang Town Councillors



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The Meadows,
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01995 604514 (Work)



Cllr Elizabeth Webster
10 Leathercote
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Cllr Jonny Leech
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Cllr Sharna Mitchell
Parklands, Tarnacre Lane
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Cllr Leah Hynes
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Cllr Roger Brooks
Gardners Cottage, Church Lane
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Cllr Michael Halford
Drummers' Gate, Fairfield
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Cllr Alec Allan
1 North Croft
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Cllr Alan Pearson
Morningside, 30 Bonds Lane
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At the meeting of Garstang Town Council on the 20th January 2020 the resignation of then Cllr Sandra Perkins was reported, at the meeting of Garstang Town Council on the 16th March 2020, effective as of the 31st March 2020 the resignation of then Cllr Gordon Harter was reported. Subsequently, at the time of writing this report two new Town Councillors have been co-opted onto the council.



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Background photos included in this report courtesy of Lynn Harter