



Village News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL SPRING 2023



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

This isn't the first time I have written the introduction to our village news and what a privilege it is to be here writing it again. As some of you may already know, Mike Dudley Jones has handed over the responsibility of chairperson. Mike will continue in his seat as councillor. I would like to thank Mike for his fabulous leadership over the last couple of years and for all he has done as Chair for the village.

Whilst we haven't quite reached spring, the evenings are definitely getting lighter and all those bulbs the In Bloom Group have planted over the years are just starting to show through.

The range of community groups we have in Alderley Edge is something we should all be very proud of. The Annual Parish meeting will be held at Festival Hall on 27th March 2023 at 7.00pm and we would like to encourage as many community groups and organisations to come along and update the village on their work over the past 12 months and plans for the coming year.

If you would like to speak at the meeting could you please contact me on **rachaelgrantham@alderleyedge-pc.gov.uk** so I can put together a list of speakers.

It would be lovely to have as many residents fill the room as we did before the Covid-19 pandemic. It is always a great opportunity for the residents, businesses and community groups to catch up. Over the years I have seen a number of idea sharing, new community groups and friendships form on this occasion and I am looking forward to seeing some more this year.

Finally, I wanted to remind everyone that there will be Cheshire East Elections on 4th May 2023. The government have introduced a new regulation in which it is mandatory for voters to show some form of ID at polling stations. So please make sure to bring your passport or driver's license with you to guarantee your chance to vote!

Rachael Grantham

Chairman, Alderley Edge Parish Council

CONTACT THE COUNCIL: PARISH CLERK - ANNE ROSS, CILCA

TEL: 01625 582150 EMAIL: CLERK@ALDERLEYEDGE-PC.GOV.UK WWW.ALDERLEYEDGE-PC.GOV.UK

ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL, FESTIVAL HALL, TALBOT ROAD, ALDERLEY EDGE, CHESHIRE SK9 7HR

The Jubilee Gates at Ryleys Lane

Whilst we are delighted with the new Jubilee Gates, now in position at the Ryleys Lane entrance to the Park, we still have to wait a while before the project is completed due to the nature of the materials used.

The gates are fully galvanised for long term protection and for a virtually maintenance free lifetime but in order for them to be finished in the style we want, they still need to be painted in specially formulated paint which requires temperatures consistently above 10 degrees for a few days during and after the paint is applied. Whilst the weather has been dry and fine for some time, night time temperatures have fallen below this critical point. Once we can see a period of increasing warmth the project will be completed. In any event, we hope this will be before the King's coronation!



The images on this page will help you to visualise the gates set in their position. When viewed from the car park, the left hand gate is the larger and will spend most of its life closed and bolted into the tarmac. The right hand gate will be permanently open to allow pedestrian visitors to the Park. It is sufficiently wide to allow prams and buggies and larger wheelchairs to gain access without any inconvenience. Should the Park need to be secured for any reason the two gates can be locked and bolted together.

Viewing the gates from the car park, you can see we have added a section of three metres of wrought iron fencing positioned to the left of the gates and a longer section of around seven metres positioned to the right of the gates to ensure that the Park cannot easily be accessed by vehicles illegally. This fencing has been painted in the same colour as the gates will be painted.

Lastly, the left hand gate will carry Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee plaque with the Alderley Edge Parish Coat of Arms placed in the centre.

You will see an image of the actual plaque in the photographs.



WINTER GRITTING

In 2021/22, Cheshire East Council introduced a common assessment framework, which meant that for the first time all roads across the Borough are now assessed against the same criteria. Unfortunately this meant there were some roads that no longer qualified as part of the regular gritting routes. Locally, this included Heyes Lane, Chorley Hall Lane, Chapel Road & Mottram Road; however, under pressure from our Ward Councillor, Craig Browne, Cheshire East decided that Town & Parish Councils should have the opportunity to buy routes back into the programme, in line with their local priorities. As a result, Alderley Edge Parish Council has contracted with Cheshire East Highways over the next three years to ensure that Heyes Lane, Chorley Hall Lane, Chapel Road & Mottram Road will all continue to be gritted. The cost to the Parish Council is just £3,000 a year, which we are able to cover without increasing the precept (our part of your Council Tax bill). There have been a number of occasions over the last few months where this service proved essential and the treated roads made for a much easier and safer commute.



Festival Hall

ALDERLEY EDGE

WHAT'S ON

Sunday 2nd April 5pm
Saxophone Orchestra Manchester

Friday 21st April 7.30pm
Grant Harris Medium

Saturday 13th May 7.30pm
Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra

Friday 12th May 7pm
Manfords Comedy Club



To discover what classes are held at Festival hall,
check out our website <https://www.aefestivalhall.com>



FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO BOOK YOUR OWN EVENT

CONTACT FESTIVAL HALL: PHONE 01625 582510

EMAIL: enquiries@festivalhall.com WEBSITE: www.aefestivalhall.com



Alderley Edge
Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 27th March

7pm Festival Hall

SAVE
THE
DATE

FIX MY STREET APP

Some of you may already know about this app, but not everybody does! This app is the most direct way to report any problems that you could come across! You can report things from overgrown hedges, abandoned vehicles to road issues and grit bin refills. Just download the app and set up an account. It is so simple. When you come across something, open the app, confirm on the map where you are, take a photo and select the relevant category. Once reported, you get updates as to the progress of your report. It really is that simple and the response time is a lot quicker than going through the Cheshire East website.



JOSHUA'S STILE

For those of you that walk down the footpath from Heyes Lane to the Festival Hall you may or may not have noticed that the fence between the allotments and path has been replaced. But who knew that the path is known as Joshua's stile?



SO WHO IS JOSHUA?

Well.... A member of the Alderley Edge History Group's explanation was this:

A member of an old Alderley Edge family remembers an aunt of hers telling her that, many years ago, there was a barrier at the Heyes Lane end of the path to prevent cyclists and horse-riders from using it. An old gentleman who made a daily trip to the village always rested on the barrier. His name was Joshua, hence Joshua's stile to the locals. This sounded plausible but I always thought it was a bit too plausible. The true explanation, I think, is this:

Plot 2869 on the tithe map, a meadow called Moss Piece, was occupied by Joshua Ridgway. This plot corresponds to the Allotments (all but a narrow strip along Heyes Lane) and the Festival Hall. Joshua also occupied 5 other pieces of land covering the Scout Hall, the end of Devonshire Drive and the end of Moss Lane (north side). He had a house approximately where 26 Devonshire Drive now stands, with a track leading to it from Moss Lane where the present footpath leads from Moss Lane to Devonshire Drive. He is described in the 1841 census as a silk weaver, in 1851 a farmer of 1 acre and hand loom silk weaver, in 1861 as a silk weaver and in 1871 as a farmer 1 acre. He died in 1871 aged 82.

The tithe map does not show any path, and the 1871 6-inch OS map is not clear. But the 1896 6-inch map shows a path from Heyes Lane to Moss Lane, and by 1907 Stamford Road and Talbot Road had been laid and the path is shown as it is today.

Joshua was baptised at St Mary's Alderley on 27 March 1791 and married Nancy Burgess at St Mary's Stockport in 1820. The owner (freeholder) of 5 of the plots of land he leased was John Burgess. Whether he and Nancy were of the same family I can't say - there were too many Burgesses in the area.

So now with that in mind, we as a parish council are looking into getting some signage to mark Joshua's stile.

Thanks to Michael Scaife for this information and Colin Mills for knowing who would know about Joshua!



LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

under the spire

Alderley Edge Methodist Church

Music reaches areas where other forms of communication fail

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1PM

15 MARCH Students from Chetham's School of Music

19 APRIL Aaben Duo>> Nathan Holroyd saxophone>> Jess Hughes harp

17 MAY Rose McLachlan piano

21 JUNE Students from Chetham's School of Music

Admission £7. Modestly priced Sandwich Lunches served from 12 noon

www.alderleyedgemethodistchurch.com Tel. 01625 586713 E. aemcchurchoffice@gmail.com

THE CHURCH CLOCK WILL BE CHIMING REGULARLY AGAIN ASAP!

Many residents of Alderley Edge, and also visitors to the Village, are missing the Chime of the Methodist Church clock, which is a much-appreciated part of the character of the local area... and has been for nearly 160 years. The chime fell silent a few weeks ago due to a degree of accumulated grime, as well as wear and tear, (the clock last had major work carried out on it at the time of our substantial renovation of the church spire almost 13 years ago).



The clock was made by Bailey & Co., Manchester and is believed to be one of only two of the same design still in working order. The mechanism and chime are powered by heavy weights which are suspended on steel cables. The weights are re-wound to the top of the spire once a week, by hand, by one of the 4 volunteers who has had to climb stairs to the top of the spire to do so. The cast iron bell was cast in Sheffield and appears to pre-date the mechanism. Restoration work now is to be carried out by a specialist company, The Cumbria Clock Company, from Penrith. The cost of repairing and servicing the Clock mechanism and chime will be £822 including VAT.

We are very conscious that some local residents, who have deep feelings about the presence of this important artefact, (it is Listed in its own right, separate from the Church building that has a Listing too) may feel, as do the church Members, that it is vital to keep such a clock in excellent condition and cared for by specialist craftsmen. Although this comes at a regular and ongoing cost, we know the requirement of ensuring the work is carried out – we are indeed privileged to own such a piece of Clock mechanism constructed 160 years ago. Plans are already in the pipeline, with the Company mentioned, for the current work to be undertaken. We are hoping some grant funding will be available towards the costs, and one or two donations have also been received from local residents, for which we are indeed grateful, and accept with much appreciation. *If, by chance, others may feel of a mind to give a donation, then could we ask that a cheque should be made payable to Alderley Edge Methodist Church (please add "For Clock" on the reverse) and sent to the Church Office, Alderley Edge Methodist Church, Chapel Road, A/E, SK9 7DU. Otherwise, a transfer can be made via BACS to the Church account Sort Code:08-92-99 Account Number: 65988141 again using "For Clock" as the reference.*

The Church thanks you for your interest in our very special Clock, which usually 'speaks to the Village every hour of every day' and is in need of some attention to return it to its normal sound, alerting the Village of the correct time as the hour strikes! - *Stuart Kinsey, Church Treasurer*



A friendly club for retired professionals that meets for two hours at the Alderley Edge Union Club on the second and fourth Monday of the month (excluding holidays) where we start with coffee/tea at 10.00am and at 10.30am have a presentation, these are both interesting and varied in their subject matter.

For example on 24th April we have 'Sent to Siberia' by Professor Callaghan. The club also promotes other activities including crown green bowling (summer) and short mat indoor bowling (winter), a dinner evening, a hotpot supper evening and an Xmas lunch.

For further information please contact Andrew Brownhill: ambco@madasafish.com

TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

With walks from half a mile to 12 miles plus long and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the website and get walking!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Cheshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cheshire> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free of charge. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cheshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk



SAVE THE DATE
 26TH AUGUST 2023
 THE NEW
 VILLAGE SHOW

SAVE
 THE
 DATE

MACMILLAN
 CANCER SUPPORT

Council Finances

How does Alderley Edge Parish Council decide the precept?

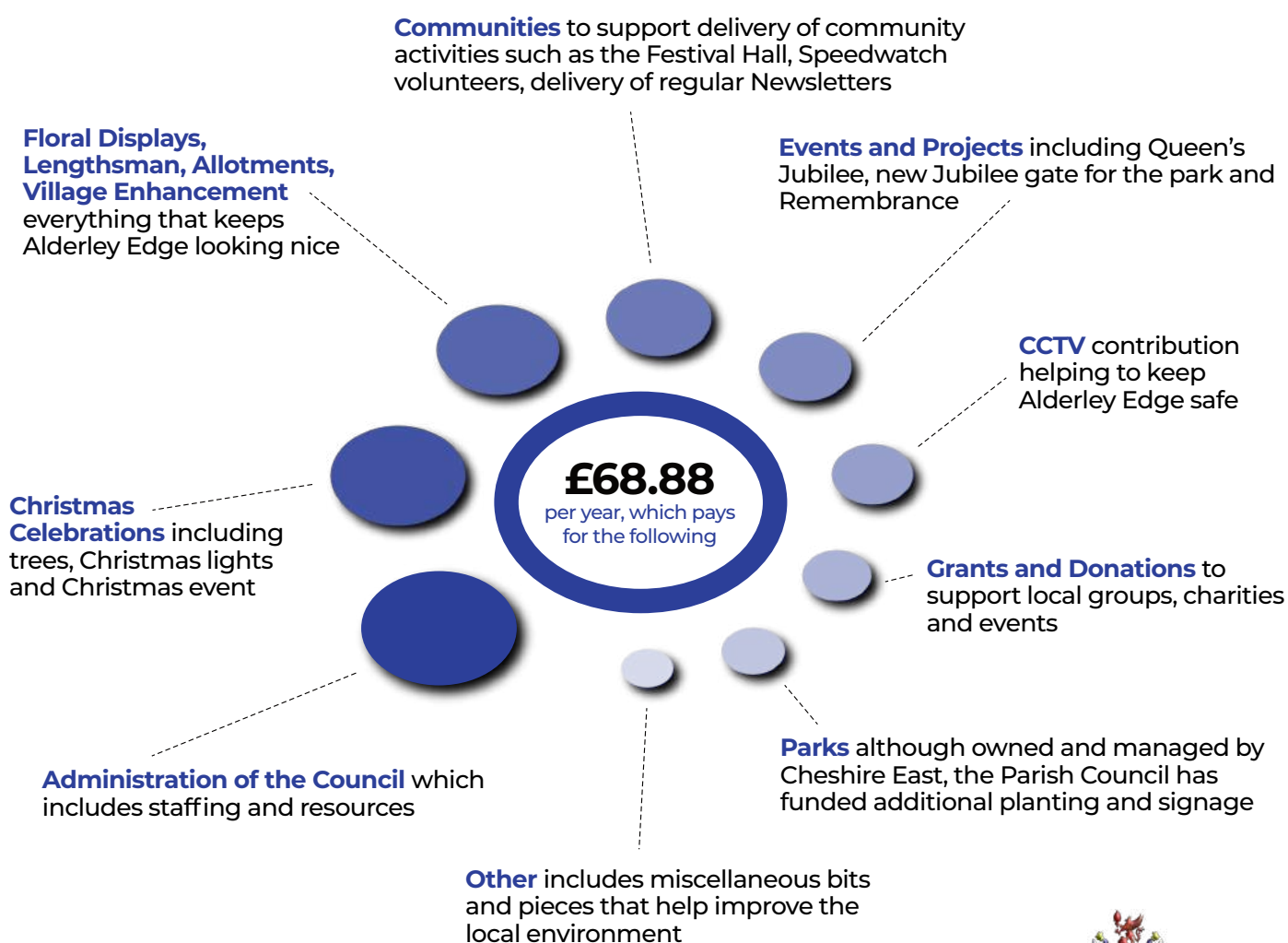
Each year Alderley Edge Parish Council undergoes a budgeting exercise to decide how much money is required to provide, manage and run the services that the Council delivers for the people of Alderley Edge.

The amount of income that is estimated as part of the budget is deducted from the amount of projected expenditure. This sum is known as the precept, and is added as an additional amount to residents' Council Tax bills.

Has it gone up?

At a time when most Councils are increasing their precepts significantly, Alderley Edge Parish Council is proud of the fact we have managed to freeze our precept for five years running.

What is it spent on? *(based on 2022/23 year to date figures)*



Alderley Edge Parish Council

Subscribe to our **FREE** update service



<https://alderleyedge-pc.gov.uk>

CHESHIRE EAST RESIDENTS WILL REQUIRE PHOTO ID TO VOTE AT ELECTIONS IN MAY

For the first time, residents in Cheshire East will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections.

Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth driver's licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online via the **gov.uk website** or by completing a paper form.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID**.

Ailsa Irvine, director of electoral administration and guidance at the Electoral Commission, said: "Anyone voting at a polling station in England this May will need to show photo ID before they can be given their ballot paper. It's important that everyone understands what types of ID they can use, and how to apply for free ID if they need it.

"You can find information about the new requirement and what to expect at the polling station on the Electoral Commission's website."

Dr Lorraine O'Donnell, Returning Officer at Cheshire East Council and its chief executive, said: "With elections taking place in Cheshire East on 4 May 2023, it is important that those who want to vote make sure they have an accepted form of ID. It may seem early but checking now means you will be ready to vote

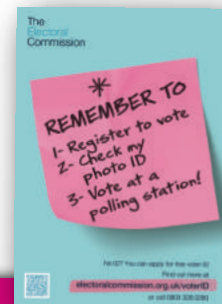
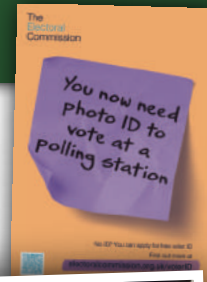
"Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online or by completing a paper application form and sending this to Cheshire East Council's electoral services team.

If you need any help with applying for the free ID or want to request an application form, contact the electoral services team on 0300 123 5016 or email **voteridentification@cheshireeast.gov.uk**"

Anyone who wants to have their say in the elections this May must also be registered to vote. It only takes five minutes to register online at **gov.uk/register-to-vote**. Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote.

Eligible voters can, alternatively, vote by post. It's easy to apply and you can find out how by visiting the **Electoral Commission website**.

The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act, which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.



NOW HIRING...

BAR SUPERVISOR

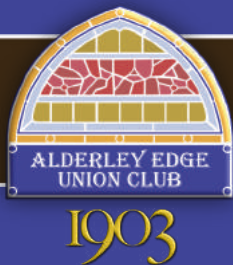
We are looking for a team member to host events independently and also work as part of a team >>

CASUAL BAR STAFF

We are also looking for casual bar staff to work as part of a team, mainly weekends >>



TO APPLY, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FESTIVAL HALL ALDERLEY EDGE
PHONE 01625 582150 OR FESTIVALHALL@MAIL.COM



ALDERLEY EDGE UNION CLUB

Beer Festival

Saturday 22nd April

ALDERLEY EDGE UNION CLUB INVITES YOU TO THEIR
BEER FESTIVAL FOR A ST. GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION!

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL

12.00 - 17.00 FAMILIES WELCOME

STRICTLY OVER 18 FROM 19.00 - MIDNIGHT

£5.00 entry for the afternoon session and includes a free pint.

£15.00 for the evening session which includes a fish and chip supper provided
by Hook on the Heath, a live band - TRUE REFLECTIONS - and a pint.

Tickets to be purchased at the club.



WWW.ALDERLEYEDGEUNIONCLUB.CO.UK - POP IN OR CALL PAUL FURBY 01625 585586



After our success in 2022 achieving our third gold award with RHS Britain in Bloom, the volunteers at Alderley Edge in Bloom are making preparations for another successful year with, hopefully, another gold award.

Alderley Edge in Bloom



The benefits of volunteering and gardening have been well-publicised in recent years and I think all our volunteers would agree that it is a worthwhile and beneficial activity for all ages. There is something life-enhancing about working outdoors in the fresh air with plants, the soil and the environment while at the same time cooperating with others as a team in all the various tasks we undertake. We have opportunities for you to volunteer for activities throughout the year.

As has been said before, the name Alderley Edge in Bloom could be misleading. Many might think the group focus on flower displays only. This is by no means the case. Our objectives focus on the enhancement of all aspects of our village environment, and beautiful flower displays throughout the year is just one part of what we do.

The RHS have been proactive in all the hot issues of the day; peat-free compost, the abandoning of insecticides and herbicides, water conservation, the emphasis on planting for a changing climate and for all the creature with whom we share our environment.

We at Alderley Edge in Bloom have embraced these objectives and are working very hard to enhance our village environment for all wildlife. You may have seen that we have installed many more bird boxes around the village. We are also making hedgehog homes and bat boxes. We are planting more perennials and flowering shrubs to provide a food source for insects on which bats and birds rely. We have installed compost heaps at three of our sites to provide compost for the enrichment of the soil, knowing that good soil management is key to a healthy garden. At the Waitrose woodland we have also installed a small pool and bird feeders in an effort to attract more wildlife.

2023 will be an exciting year for us and we hope you might be able to make a contribution to our work. If you do not have the time to volunteer why not think of helping us by giving plants and shrubs. Spring is a good time to divide your perennials and shrubs and we would be very happy to receive any plants you may have surplus. Just contact us and we will collect.

If you are able to help in any way please contact the Chair of the volunteers, Leslie Cox on 07774 488458 or email at coxlja@hotmail.com

Any help or support will be most welcome.

STATION PLATFORM PROPOSALS

The Station group recently appointed Jordan Kirkham from London Road based ICI Architecture Studio to create some visuals to support a proposal to Network Rail for the repurposing the redundant building on the Crewe platform. The proposal will include a request for the replacement of the canopy that was removed last year because of safety fears. One concept is for the building to house a cafe with toilets facilities in the building for rail users. The proposal has received the support of local MP Esther McVey: *'I appreciate that the building needs some work to bring it up to standard but once completed, it would make a fantastic community space out of something that is an eyesore. I have little doubt that the volunteers have the drive to deliver that for rail users and the village and their work is more than amply demonstrated elsewhere around the station.'*

Great news also that The Station Group achieved the top level 'Outstanding' Award in the North West in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition. The judges were highly complimentary about how the group, despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic and weather events over the previous twelve months have kept the station site clean, tidy and have crafted excellent horticultural and artwork displays and features.

Judge Bernard Pendleton commented:

'The trompe l'oeil images are brilliant, and the Eamonn Murphy and Dave Gee artworks bring the station to life and give a real sense of place. The AESVG have worked well with other community groups and organisations such as the 'Time Out Group' for young adults with learning challenges. Together they have created the splendid new feature of the Station Master's Garden with its pollinator-friendly planting. They have worked with Ryley's School to provide a book exchange in the waiting room. They have successfully raised funds for artwork, planters etc, via Northern Trains, the Community Rail Network and Waitrose.'

'We were very impressed with the creation of the Station Master's Garden, lot's of new planters (with peat-free compost), new artworks, the installation of a water butt, bat and bird boxes and a herb garden pallet planter amongst others. All this against a context of falling trees, senseless vandalism and Covid restrictions. Congratulations and very well done to all involved.'





YOUR VOICE

at Cheshire East Council

CLLR CRAIG BROWNE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

We are approaching that time of year when Cheshire East Council must set its budget for the coming year and this time the process is more challenging than ever. Nationally, inflation is running at 10% and this has the impact of making the services delivered by Cheshire East Council cost £33m more than they did a year ago.

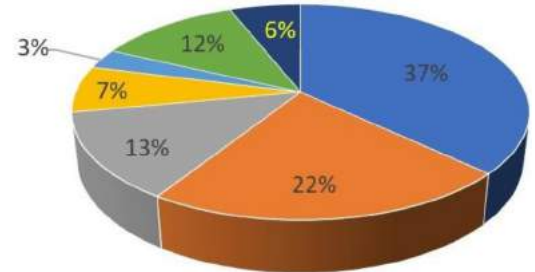
We have been told by the government that we may increase Council Tax by 5%, which we are reluctantly proposing to do, but even this only raises about £13m, so there is still a £20m shortfall to find. Inevitably, this will have to come from a combination of cost cutting and revenue generation, which is why we unfortunately have to look at introducing separate charging for green waste bin collections and increasing parking charges for the first time in five years.

One of the other challenges that Cheshire East Council faces is that for every £1 collected in Business Rates, only 30p remains within the borough with the other 70p going directly to Westminster. You will also see from the second image opposite, that the Revenue Support Grant, an unrestricted grant from central government which was worth £56.9m to Cheshire East Council in 2013/14 has been completely phased out. It is not all bad news however, as the proposals do include plans to invest a further £4.5m in our highways capital repair programme next year and to fund an extra half-day's opening at Alderley Edge Library during the week.

ROAD REPAIRS CONTINUE

Thankfully, we are continuing to see the impact of the Council's extra investment in the highways capital programme. Over and above the £15m Cheshire East receives from the Dept. for Transport each year, the Council has invested, through prudent borrowing, an extra £7m in 2022/23 and will be investing an extra £4.5m in 2023/24, followed by £4.5m in 2024/25. Over the course of this year, we have seen significant resurfacing projects in Alderley Edge as a result of this investment, including on Macclesfield Road and London Road. We have also recently seen additional patching works taking place on Moss Lane and around the junction with Marlborough Avenue, which were unplanned and in direct response to a request I made to Cheshire East Highways some weeks ago.

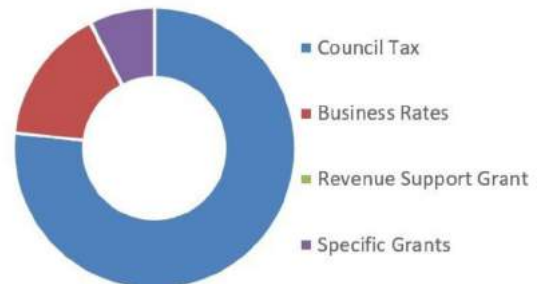
How is £1 of your Council Tax spent?



- Health & Adults
- Children & Families
- Environment & Communities
- Economy & Growth
- Highways & Transport
- Corporate Services
- Capital Financing

How are your services funded?

Net Revenue Budget 2023/24 - £353m



Continued overleaf...



20MPH ZONE & TRAFFIC CALMING NEARS COMPLETION

At the time of writing, the raised tables on London Road have just been completed. I would like to apologise for the inconvenience caused whilst the works were taking place; I also appreciate that this is not a scheme that has been universally welcomed, however I would hope that everyone will agree that the consequent resurfacing works mark a big improvement in the centre of our village and have really helped to smarten up the appearance of the main shopping area. My hope is that the traffic calming measures will help to make for a calmer, more pleasant experience for residents, shoppers and visitors, as well as helping to improve road safety around the entrances to our village schools.



ACOUSTIC CAMERA TRIAL TO BE EXTENDED

Many residents will recall, I am sure, that acoustic cameras were installed on the A34 Pendleton Way towards the end of October last year and I am delighted to confirm that the initial three month trial is to be extended by a further three months. Over the course of the period 1st November to 31st January, there were 239 activations of the camera system (including four repeat offences within the first month). Following the extension of the trial, Cheshire East Highways, working with statutory partners in the Multi Agency Action Group (including Cheshire Police) will need to give consideration to the making of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). A PSPO would enable fines to be issued: up to £100 for a first offence; and up to £1,000 for a second or subsequent offence. I would like to record my thanks to Police & Crime Commissioner John Dwyer for his support with this initiative.



Cllr Craig Browne with Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner John Dwyer

PARK GYM EQUIPMENT SET TO BE INSTALLED

I am pleased to report that the order for six pieces of outdoor gym equipment was placed at the end of January, with an estimated delivery date of 20th March. At this point in time, I am waiting for confirmation of an installation date from ANSA (Park Maintenance), but it is expected that this will take place before the end of April. As a reminder, the addition of outdoor gym equipment is part of the master plan for Alderley Edge Park (the playing fields) and is being part-funded through Section 106 funds, with match funding of £4,000 from Alderley Edge Parish Council. I am sure this equipment will make a great and welcome addition to our main village park.

