

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ELECTORS

Year: 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

Introduction As in previous years, Council continued its commitment to deliver and provide improved facilities and projects in Euxton for its residents.

Chairman of the Council was, myself Councillor Katrina Reed, together with Vice Chairman Councillor John Bamber, both for our third term of office.

Councillors 2016/17 There were several changes throughout the year. Leaving the Council were Mr John Prayle, Mr Terry Cook and Mr Mark Parr. Joining the Council to fill these vacancies were Councillor Gemma Rypel, Councillor Neil Hall and Councillor Helen Tune.

Council employees Clerk to the Council, Debra Platt, continued to guide the Council through its business and carry out all the tasks required to ensure its decisions are met. Council also employs three part-time Village Caretakers who are all conscientious and fully dedicated to their work in Euxton - Ron Bridge, Jack Storton and Stephen McCarthy.

Euxton Web Newsletter moved into its 18th year of continuous production with the 68th issue in March 2017, the first issue being in 1999. The Euxton Web is full colour 12 page publication which is well recognised and read by many Euxton residents.

Social Media The website, which was rebuilt and launched in January 2016, has proved to be a success. It posts important notices such as consultations, keeps residents informed regarding ongoing or forthcoming events or important notices. The Facebook site and Twitter account have also been received well – with some facebook posts, during the closure of Euxton Lane reaching over six thousand readers.

Village Caretaker Service continues to keep Euxton's streets clean and tidy and the Village Caretakers, as mentioned above, do an excellent job around the village ensuring the play areas are clean and tidy, the streets are clear of litter and swept regularly. The caretakers also work throughout the year to improve areas including additional litter picking at new facilities, and much more.

Awards Euxton received a Silver Gilt Award placing at the North West in Bloom Competition in October 2016. The North West Bloom Competition is part of the Britain in Bloom National Competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society. The village also won a Chorley Civic Society Award for its new War Memorial, which the Parish Council had entered on behalf of the village.

Projects and Activities A comprehensive Defibrillator project, by the All Purposes Committee, was delivered with five public access AED sites throughout the village being provided along with two AED portable units for use at other sites. The public access sites were installed at Euxton Library, Greenside Recreation fields, Euxton Skate Park site, at Euxton PC Community Centre and at Euxton Villa football club

site. Mobile AEDs are now based at St Mary's Church and Euxton Cricket Club through this Parish Council project. Also, the Council funded a CPAD kit for the local Community First Responder from the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, which is used by first responders when attending emergency calls. Also in delivering training sessions of which the Council has hosted two free public sessions so far.

The Council donated a tree and plaque to each of our five primary schools in Euxton, to commemorate and remember HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday. The schools got involved in choosing, siting and planting the trees and we featured the trees, and schools in the newsletter in September.

The village received more flower features in the year with the installation of two hanging basket trees, one in front of the community centre on Wigan Road and one at Pincock Bridge boundary – this one also had solar Christmas Trees hung from in during that period.

New and replacement wayside seats were installed during the year, and a programme of new or replacement seats mapped out for this coming year. New seats were located adjacent to the duck pond in Buckshaw, Pear Tree Lane, and the old seat at the Bay Horse corner was replaced with a new one.

Council also designed and had installed four ornamental, coloured Euxton marker signs in prominent positions to help people identify the village of Euxton when driving through and for villagers to appreciate.

The Bowling and Boules project moved much further forward in this period, with planning permission being granted. The Committee aims to deliver the bowling green facility in the village in the coming months.

The Millennium Green had a major restoration and enhancement project started on it, which will run into the 2017/2018 period also. New path sections were installed, with bridges where necessary, through the centre woodland and most of the existing perimeter path was renovated, which involved digging, widening, re-edging and a new surface laying on top of it. A new disabled ramped entrance was also created suitable for wheelchairs and push chairs to make accessing the green easier.

The All Purposes Committee created a volunteer kit of equipment so it could arrange volunteer litter picking days – and delivered over 10 events, which were well attended through the year. A programme of events has been arranged for the coming year and the kit expanded to include children's sized hi-viz as was required.

Christmas carol singing was popular again this year and residents could sing outside under the tree, with new multi-coloured twinkling lights, as the weather held. Accompaniment again this year was by the Coppull & Standish Brass band who turned out in force and gave a rousing performance.

Euxton war memorial hosted its first Remembrance Service this year, as last year they were rained off into Church. There were visits during the remembrance period from primary schools, relatives, and representatives to the memorial, then on the

Remembrance Sunday there was a full, and very well attended, Peace Service conducted by Churches Together group.

Council Budget for 2016/2017 was set in the previous year. The Precept figure received was £100,323, and this gave residents a reduction on their parish council tax, as it has reduced for the 7 years previous.

Projects and Activities planned The Millennium Green project will continue with the planning of a project to enhance the wet area to make it more a year-round pond for wildlife, with paths, dipping platforms and planting.

The Bowling Green project will be progressed with the aim to be delivered during the 2017/2018 year.

Greenside play area is budgeted for a revamp, with new equipment and play surface, this will begin with design ideas and a plan before moving to getting a scheme costed and programmed in.

Additional ornamental coloured village signs are planned, new seat locations or replacements of old seats, additional flower features, noticeboards and map boards and many other smaller projects to enhance the whole of the village for all of its residents.

Summary. The Council is always looking forward to keeping the village clean and tidy whilst building for its future by supplying new or improved facilities and is always open and welcome ideas for improvements, and provision of additional amenities.

On behalf of the residents of Euxton, I would like to thank all the Councillors of Euxton Parish Council for volunteering their time and efforts.

Councillor Katrina Reed
Chairman 2016/2017
April 2017

Financial Report

The Council maintains its accounts in line with regulations and undergoes each year both an internal audit, carried out by a qualified, independently appointed auditor, and an external audit, by an appointed audit company.

At the end of the Council's financial year, 31 March 2017, it carried forward balances which were allocated to ongoing and future projects requiring funds to get them started, pay for the project, or to be used for match funding. In particular, funds for the Bowling and Boules project were carried forward.

The budget going forward for the financial year to 31 March 2018 is opposite.

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

2017/2018 Precept Budget

Description	Carry Fwd / allocated funds	Precept 2017/2018	Total budget allocation
Employees			
Employees		60000	60000
Payroll Services		900	900
Mileage employees		1800	1800
Training employees		1800	1800
Housekeeping			
General Office - stationery, copy, post, IT, tel		1700	1700
Publicity - newsletter/AnnRep/ Other		3500	3500
Insurance		1950	1950
Subscriptions		1200	1200
Audit		900	900
Legal Fees/Planning Investigations		2500	2500
Website maintenance		780	780
Room hire		1000	1000
Council			
Elections and Parish Poll Fund	5000		5000
Contingency	17900	7100	25000
Training Councillors		200	200
Grants/S137			
Grants		3000	3000
Christmas Celebrations		2000	2000
Special Events/Projects			
Euxton Gala		100	100
Speed Indicator Device new plates	150		150
Neighbourhood Plan	2000		2000
Comms and social media methods		50	50
Increase public involvement work		250	250
Finance software		113	113
Millennium Green project	14545		14545
Heritage/Sign project		1500	1500
Defibrillator project		2500	2500
Services provision		5000	5000
Millennium Green pond		30000	30000
Amenity/Utility			
Utilities		1000	1000
Gardens/Planting		10000	10000
Millennium Green - grass cuts, maint		4000	4000
All Purposes Committee		2500	2500
Play Equipment Replace Scheme	15124	34876	50000
Amenity/Open Space RRM		20000	20000
Large Project Savings			
Land Fund/Amenity Play	18684		18684
Street Sweeping Machine Fund	4000		4000
Bowling/Boules Project	116600		116600
Other			
Healthy Streets	617		617
Ransnap Brook	279		279
CIL	2499		2499

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This budget is draft and may be subject to change following the end of year closure.