

Leek Town Council



Annual Report 2018-19

Leek Town Mayor, Cllr. Roy Tomkinson

It has been a great privilege to serve as Mayor and to meet so many individuals who give their time and energy to their community. There have been many highlights during the year, including my Civic Service at St Edward's Church, the trip to Este for Eurofest and the Remembrance events to commemorate the end of Armistice. Party in the Park and the Christmas Lights switch on were also very enjoyable and thanks go to the volunteers who organise these very popular events. I would especially like to thank my wife Pat, who has been a great support to me throughout the year, the Nicholson War Memorial tour guides, Bill Lomas, the Leek Town Crier who does a great job in promoting Leek and not least our very hard-working Town Clerk, Mrs Julie Taylor.



EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events Committee staged a two day Country and Western event in May in Sparrow Park, followed by Party In The Park in June. An added attraction was the Leek and Moorlands Carnival Queen's parade, which wound itself through the town centre, finishing with the crowning of the new Queen in Brough Park. Other highlights included: local live bands, fairground rides, free face painting, the Buxton Billerettes, Tribe Academy and community stallholders. The Town Council provides the Christmas decorations for the town centre and the switch on event always attracts a large crowd. The enthusiastic "vindaloo"

team led the parade and the Leek Town Mayor switched the lights on promptly at 7.00pm. Christmas Carols were led by Leek Salvation Army Band and the crowd was entertained by Smile and tribute act, Diva Mix.

ALLOTMENTS

Leek Town Council is responsible for 235 full plots and 50 half-plots spread over seven sites. There is still a demand for allotments with 30 people on the waiting list.

The annual allotment competition organised by Leek Allotment Holders & Gardeners' Association took place at St Paul's Community Centre, Novi Lane in August and the winners each received certificates and a discount on their annual rent!

The rent this year remains the same at £30.00 for a full plot and £15.00 for a half plot.

FRIENDS OF THE NICHOLSON WAR MEMORIAL

To commemorate the Armistice centenary in November 2018, the Friends organised a series of activities and events. 420 postcards were delivered to the former homes of the fallen and 420 trees were planted at Westwood First School to create an Armistice Centenary woodland. The saplings were planted by Westwood First pupils, scouts and guides, Leek Royal British Legion and members of the community. The woodland was dedicated in December by Revd. Nigel Irons.

Volunteers also turned the clock faces into red poppies, which proved popular with everybody and the images made it on to Midlands TV.

The Friends group is now planning the centenary of the Nicholson War Memorial in 2025.

The free monthly tours attract local residents and tourists and are organised by volunteer guides from April to September on the first Sunday from 1.00pm to 3.00pm and third Saturday from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Between twenty to forty visitors attend each tour and additional tours are arranged for community groups and schools.

There are eight flag flying commemorative services held at 11.00am, organised by Leek Royal British Legion on the following dates:

8th May VE Day, 14th June The Falklands, 1st July The Battle of the Somme,
31st July Passchendaele, 15th August VJ Day,
15th September Battle of Britain Day, 24th October El Alamein,
11th November Remembrance Day.

Further information about the Nicholson War Memorial and the Friends group may be found at: www.nicholsonmemorial.org.uk

BALL HAYE GREEN RECREATION GROUND

The new play equipment installed in 2017 remains very popular with the local community. The bronze plaques on the memorial arch commemorating the fallen from World War One were refurbished in September 2018.

GRANTS

£18,200 was donated to the following organisations: Leek Citizens Advice Bureau, Support Staffordshire, Leek Sports Council. Leek Arts Festival, Leek Blues Festival, 5th Leek Scout and Guide Band, The Meadows School, Leek Musical Theatre, Historia Theatre, Brough Park Running Club, Leek Allotment & Gardeners, Leek Town Ladies FC, Jo Cox Foundation and Friends of Brough Park.

FINANCE

Leek Town Council's element of the Council Tax in 2018/19 was £141,074 representing £21.95 per annum for a Band D property. The Council Tax in 2019/20 has increased by 5.86% to £23.24 per annum for a Band D property.

COUNCILLORS

Leek Town Council has twelve councillors, who are elected to represent one of the six wards in the town and they have a four-year term of office. The next elections take place on 2nd May 2019.

Leek North

Cllr. Margaret Lovatt
Cllr. Charlotte Atkins

Leek South

Cllr. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Susan Coleman

Leek East

Cllr. Brian Johnson
Cllr. Pamela Wood

Leek West

Cllr. Ben Emery
Cllr. Neal Podmore

Leekbrook

Cllr. John Povey
Cllr. Gail Lockett

Birchall

Cllr. Roy Tomkinson
Cllr. Stephen Wales

The Town Council meets in the Council Chamber at Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek at 7.00pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. There is a public participation session at the beginning of each meeting.

The remaining meetings this year are:

Tuesday 21st May at 7.00pm AGM in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm

Tuesday 28th May at 6.30pm, General Purposes and Planning in the Town Council Office

Tuesday 18th June at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 16th July at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 20th August at 6.30pm, Planning Committee in the Town Council Office

Tuesday 17th September at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 15th October at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 19th November at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 10th December at 6.30pm, Planning Committee in the Town Council Office

Leek Town Council
Financial Statement for 12 months to 31 March 2019

	Income £		Expenditure £
Balance b/fwd	52,914	Staff/Office/Admin/Storage	69,082
Allotment rent	7,500	Allotments	7,726
Precept/grant	143,739	Grants	21,200
Vat	19,598	Vat	18,048
Events/Christmas	7,075	Events	8,817
Monument	1,015	Christmas	39,855
SMDC	5,160	Bank House	20,782
Gazebo hire	2,192	War Memorials	2,908
Sundry	240	Russell Street	1,026
Bank House	20,763	Mayor/Deputy Allowance	2,900
Neighbourhood Plan	4,838	Street lights	2,117
		Ball Haye Green	1,510
		Summer flowers	2,221
		Gazebos	2,759
		Insurance	2,760
		Elections recharge	9,687
		Audit	524
		Flags and bunting	3,063
		Sundry	1,989
Total	265,034		218,974
Cheques unpresented	3,872	Bank accounts	49,932
Grand Total	268,906		268,906