



# *Stocksbridge Town Council*

## *Annual Report 2024/2025*

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I am so proud and grateful for the opportunity of being the Mayor of Stocksbridge for 2024/2025. I have lived in Deepcar for some 65 years since leaving Barnsley as a young teenager. My two children Nicola and Mark, were brought up in this exceptionally wonderful valley. No doubt a few of you remember them from your school days! During my year, I've seen at first hand the strength of our special local community and the unbelievable number of local people involved in local community activities and enterprises.



The support of last year's Mayor, Cllr Mark Whittaker has been invaluable, as has been the support of the Deputy Mayor. Initially Cllr Julie Wood, who regrettably had to stand down for personal reasons, and successfully followed by Cllr Keith Davies. Both of them gave me great support during the year, and I particularly wish Keith well next year. I would particularly like to thank the Council Clerks Teresa Bisatt and until her recent retirement Karen Lindley. Karen has held this role for over 20 years and was a true professional, a pleasure to work with and deserves a super retirement. I would also like to welcome Helen Jolley to this role, and wish her well.

Like many of my predecessors I was invited to the local schools. I particularly recall the honour of judging our annual Christmas Card competition. An unbelievably difficult task with over 200 entries. I then had the pleasure of going to the schools and presenting prizes to the winner and nine runners up. I have had the brilliant opportunity of attending and in some cases judging Easter bonnet competitions, summer fetes/gala's, dog show at the Inman Pavilion. I had the pleasure of opening the new florist shop in Fox Valley and Bolsterstone Fayre among many other events.

Remembrance Sunday during my year held a special significance as it was the 100th Anniversary of the annual event. I had the great honour of working with our local British Legion Committee in what transpired as a superb, unbelievably well attended event. With helpful funding from your Town Council of the large individual poppies, each one personally dedicated to a local hero who sadly lost their lives in the last two world wars, displayed on lamp posts throughout our magnificent valley. I also had the honour of representing the Town Council at a similar event at Ecclesfield.

Regarding funding, this year Stocksbridge Town Council has been delighted to announce an increase in its support for Stocksbridge Leisure Centre. This decision reflects our commitment to strengthening the longstanding strategic partnership that has greatly benefited the Leisure Centre and the community. We look forward to continuing this collaborative journey, enhancing the Leisure Centre's offerings and promoting the well-being of all our residents. Our annual Elderly Citizens Christmas Party was again a well attended event. This year I had the honour of opening as well as my usual role of calling out the bingo numbers, ably assisted by my colleague Cllr Richard Crowther. I also officially opened the relaunch of STEP at the Venue. This included a successful Community event.

To complete my year I had the pleasure of working with local friends and colleagues at Stocksbridge and Upper Don Tenants and Residents Association, and Stocksbridge at War, to have successful Victory in Europe 80<sup>th</sup> Celebration events. A busy year, that I've thoroughly enjoyed. Apologies if I've forgot to mention some of the other events I attended on behalf of the Town Council.

Finally, to wish the new Mayor, Keith Davis and Deputy Mayor, all the best for the year to come.

***Cllr. Alan Law***

***Mayor/Chairman 2024/2025***

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2024/25

The Town Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2024/25 of £217,240. The main items of expenditure being:- contribution to Stocksbridge In Bloom and Steel Valley Project; Christmas Illuminations contract and maintenance and cleaning of the public toilet block at Bolsterstone. Grants of £13,734 were awarded to local groups for activities/projects in the area. The Town Council contributed £20,000 to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre towards running costs. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £131,494. The balance was met from reserves and miscellaneous income. The Town Council are the facility managers of The ARC Town Hall building and income/expenditure for the building is also shown within the Town Council's accounts. The Town Council's accounts are subject to internal and external audit. The final audit report will be displayed after completion of the external audit. For the current year 2025/26, budgeted expenditure amounts to £182,777 with a precept of £136,902.



### CHAIR FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2025/2026

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 it was resolved that Councillor Keith Davis be elected as Town Mayor and Chair and Councillor Richard Crowther was elected as Deputy Mayor/Chair.



### ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026

East Ward – Cllrs. Mark Whittaker and Keith Davis; North Ward – Cllrs. Richard Crowther plus a vacancy; South Ward – Cllrs. Julie Grocutt and Alan Law; West Ward – Cllrs. Clare Wilson and Joseph Staniforth

## GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2024-25

Stocksbridge & District History Society (office rent)	£ 4,576
Steel Valley Beacon Arts	£ 300
Food Matters – Stocksbridge Food Bank	£ 1,000
Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre	£ 600
Penistone FM	£ 1,000
Stocksbridge Pentaqua Swimming Club	£ 1,000
STEP Business Centre	£ 1,000
Sheffield Lip Reading Group – Stocksbridge	£ 300
Stocksbridge & Upper Don Tenants and Residents – Magic Show	£ 180
Stocksbridge & Upper Don Tenants and Residents – Transport	£ 425
Bolsterstone Archaeology & Heritage Group	£ 178
Stocksbridge Royal British Legion	£ 600
Stocksbridge Photographic Society	£ 500
Valley Music Festival	£ 500
Valley Recreational Activity Community Group	£ 1,000
Bolsterstone Community Group	£ 575