



Stocksbridge Town Council

Annual Report 2025/2026

CHAIR'S REPORT

As my year as Town Mayor comes to a close, I can look back at all the fantastic events I have attended and the wonderful people I have met. From the Yorkshire Day parade held this Year in Bradford and Ilkley, to the local events such as community functions, Christmas card judging and more recently Easter bonnet judging at our local Schools and Nurseries, it's been great fun and I have enjoyed every single minute.



I followed Alan Law, last Years Mayor, who this year turned 80, and has represented the Town as Mayor on no fewer than 3 separate occasions, whilst also holding the position of Lord Mayor of Sheffield in 2010. I think I'm right in saying that Alan has been a member of Stocksbridge Town Council since 2007, so from me and all at the Council, thank you immensely for all your efforts.

You will see from the following report that, once again, The Town Council has handed out grants of varying amounts to worthwhile organisations and groups, all providing services in our valley. It was my pleasure to present these cheques that help to maintain these worthwhile services.

Remembrance Sunday and the Parade through the Town to the Clock Tower grows bigger year on year, and we as a Council are pleased to not only organise the event but also fund the Royal British Legion and the Poppy appeal. The Senior Citizen's Christmas lunch was once again sold out, and I would like to thank the management and staff at "The Venue" for preparing and delivering such a fantastic afternoon - not forgetting the many volunteers that also help out on the day.

I have had such a wonderful time this past year meeting some wonderful people - more recently at the Civic Service for Sue Davidon, the Chair of Ecclesfield Parish Council, where I once again met with next year's Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Andrew Sangar, where we reflected on old time on opposite sides of the Council.

I have to say though, my visit to Little Einstein's Nursery was such a special occasion where the stars of the show were the children, especially baby Dawson who crawled over to me and when I picked him up he refused to be taken away, I was nearly in tears and the morning continued in that way. I left assuring them that The Mayor would, if available, attend their first year anniversary in July.

Before I close my report, I must thank our Town Clerk Teresa Bisatt, and her new Assistant Helen Jolley, who really are the ones that keep us, the Councillors, on the right side of LCA law. We all really appreciate your help.

Finally, as we are currently living in a world of global conflict which has seen fuel and energy costs soar, it is always refreshing to stop and chat with friends and acquaintances out and about, putting the world to rights and having a laugh and a joke. Hopefully sooner rather than later, the powers that be will get around the negotiating table and return things back to somewhere near normal.

May I close by wishing the incoming Mayor, Richard Crowther, and his deputy all the very best in their year. Richard is a very intelligent, well-schooled gent with a wicked sense of humour. If you see him out and about stop and say hello.

Hoping you all enjoy a wonderfully warm and pleasant summer. Stay safe and thank you all for your support.

Cllr. Keith Davis

Mayor/Chair 2025/2026

FINANCIAL REPORT 2025/26

The Town Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2025/26 of £233,454. 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 £15,611 were awarded to local groups for activities/projects in the area. The Town Council contributed £30,000 to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre towards running costs. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £136,902. The balance was met from reserves and miscellaneous income. The Town Council are the facility managers of The ARC Town Hall building and income and 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 2026/27, budgeted expenditure amounts to £185,862 with a precept of £140,508.



CHAIR FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2026/2027

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 14th May 2026, it was resolved that Councillor Richard Crowther be elected as Town Mayor and Chair, and Councillor Julie Grocutt was elected as Deputy Mayor and Chair.



ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2026/2027

East Ward – Cllrs. Keith Davis and Leanne Fox; North Ward – Cllrs. Richard Crowther and James Wheeler;
South Ward – Cllrs. Julie Grocutt and Alan Law; West Ward – Cllrs. Clare Wilson and Joseph Staniforth

GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2025-26

Stocksbridge & District History Society (Office Rent)	£ 4,576
Stocksbridge Pentaqua Swimming Club	£ 1,200
Stocksbridge & Penistone Fairtrade	£ 390
Valley in Bloom	£ 1,200
Bolsterstone Parochial Church Council	£ 500
Steelers Healers – Men in Sheds	£ 900
The Venue	£ 1,000
Stocksbridge Photographic Society	£ 500
Stocksbridge Community Care Group	£ 1,200
Upper Don Community Energy	£ 895
Monday Art Group Stocksbridge	£ 750
The Steel Valley Project	£ 1,200
Lip Reading Group	£ 300
Valley Music Festival	£ 1,000

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING SCHEME WINNERS – PUBLIC VOTE

Steel Valley Beacon Arts	£10,188
Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre	£17,618
Bolsterstone Village Hall Trust	£20,000
The Steel Valley Project	£ 7,194

Clerk to the Council:- Teresa Bisatt

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