



CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor's Report on behalf of the Town Council – 14th October 2025

This month has seen a mixture of Council meeting /duties, civic activities and fundraising.



Funding Life Saving Equipment

As a Town Council we have invested in a number of LifeVac anti choking devices to help save lives.

Tragically a child dies every 5 days from choking. The simple and effective LifeVac kit has saved thousands of lives of children and adults and this simple to use, non-invasive airwave clearance device (ACD) can be used for all ages including if the individual is pregnant or a wheelchair user, when the Heimlich manoeuvre or chest compression fails.

The devices have been placed in Hutton House, at the Miners Welfare Recreation Grounds and in our local Sainsbury's store with thanks to Steven Booth (Store Manager). They are available for anyone to use in an emergency situation.



Community Grants -update

Every year Chilton Councillors forgo the allowance they receive for covering their public duties to put the funds into Community Grants that support local groups to enhance local lives.

It was a real pleasure for Deputy Mayor Cllr Pearl Malpas and I to be invited to the Community Fund Harvest Festival and see first-hand the great work of one of the beneficiaries of our Community Grants 2025/2026. What a fantastic event to support Chilton residents- well done to Anna, Kimberly and all the volunteers.





We were also delighted to support the re-establishment of the Chilton Taekwondo Club with £250 donation for equipment from the Community Grant.

The funds were presented to Mike Britton club organiser and instructor Paul Metcalf.

Paul was accompanied by his wife and son Samson who is already a red belt and working towards a black tag.

The club is open to both adults and children aged 5 and above and runs every Wednesday evening 6pm at Chilton Academy.

Town Councillor and Volunteer Drop-in sessions

The last round of local elections, quite worryingly, saw a significant number of seats left vacant in councils across the country and national analysis has identified that alongside issues of voter apathy there is perhaps a lack of clarity in what the Town Council does and what it takes to be a councillor. This is a major concern at a time when the government is undertaking a review of local government.

In Chilton we are running a series of drop-in sessions to raise awareness of the work of the Town Council and to hopefully recruit new councillors and volunteers. The first drop-in was on Saturday 27th September in Hutton House, and residents were invited to come along for a coffee and a chat about how they can become involved.

There was a small number of attendees, but we are delighted to have two new co-opted members following the event.

Mayor's Charity

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to our Mayor's Charities Blood Cancer UK and the Chilton Toy Appeal. We have had some very generous donations and continue to accept toys to ensure no child in Chilton goes without a toy this Christmas. Full details of how to donate are available on the Town Council Website

<https://chiltondurham-tc.gov.uk/index.php/2025/09/05/chilton-christmas-toy-appeal/> or by contacting Hutton House.

Thank you to local residents Jimmy and Joy Houlihan who have already donated a number of gifts for the Appeal.



Residents Issues

The council continues to raise concerns with relevant bodies on issues raised by residents, this includes dealing with ASB, the impact of poorly managed private rental properties and incidents relating to HMOs.

In line with feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation we are liaising with our local MP to lobby the NE Mayor for improved public transport links to Bishop Auckland and affordable School Transport. We are also working with Durham Community Action on a CAIRNS Energy Audit to deliver energy advice to individual households and businesses in Chilton which can assist in reducing the cost of energy bills. Detail will be released later this month.

The Council has also agreed the following:

- To install additional fencing in the playpark adjacent to John Herriot's Court following concerns of noise and trespass.
- To support a request to DCC for an additional dog waste bin in the proximity of Avenue 1 and the industrial estate.
- To support the establishment of a fibromyalgia support group

Cemetery, Allotments and Open Spaces

Work continues to improve the cemetery, including ensuring that the building located at the entrance is made safe and the toilet block remains accessible to visitors. Further work is taking place to repair the fence and clean the memorial garden.

Civic Duties

We continue to represent Chilton at Civic Events and as individuals personally support regional fundraising events across County Durham. This month we have attended a number of Mayor's Charity events in Brandon and Byshottles and Durham in aid of St Cuthbert Hospice, Spennymoor for the Spennymoor Town Band and Ferryhill where proceeds were donated to Little Treasures Autism and Stray Aid

Coming Up

Chilton Remembrance Day, Sunday 9th November 2025 will begin this year 9am at the War Graves in Chilton Cemetery by honouring those who served, followed by a service in St Aidan's Church and an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. Everyone is invited to attend.



Tickets are also now available for the Halloween Family Event, Pumpkin Display Workshop, Fireworks Display and Wreath Making. Save the day for our Christmas light switch-on 28th November and Civic Carol Service 4th December.

Cllr Sue Reece

14th October 2025