



## CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

### Mayor's Report on behalf of the Town Council – 20th<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026



We are already midway through January 2026, a year that will no doubt bring with it new opportunities and challenges but as a Town Council we firmly believe that working together as a community we will face then head on.

It is a centenary year for the Town Council and Miners Welfare Trust an opportunity to promote local achievements and navigate new developments to ensure that our community benefits and is a place that we are all proud to live and work in.

However, I can't quite leave 2025 behind without mentioning the fantastic events where we came together to celebrate and the generosity you have shown to support the Mayor's Charities are a testament to Chilton's community spirit. Always ready to step in and provide support even when times are personally hard; not least with the numerous donations we received for our Toy Appeal which helped to ensure no child in Chilton woke up on Christmas morning without a gift to open. This year 30 local children and their families benefited from your kindness.

And I would like to thank those who have given their time to ensure the success of the many community events we hold, be it summer fairs, firework display, Remembrance and Civic Services, Christmas light switch-on, wreath-making, fundraisers and coffee mornings - even a Santa sleigh. These events bring us closer together with a shared sense of purpose and pride in our town!



## Mayor's Charity

**Save the date:** Mayor's Charity Night Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, on Friday 6th March 2026 at Chilton Community Sports and Social Club commencing at 7pm.

There will be live entertainment from vocalist Oli Patto, a hot food buffet and fundraising activities throughout the night to support the Mayor's charities which include Blood Cancer UK (Durham & Darlington Haematology Dept) and the Chilton Bikes, Boards and Brushes (ASB project).

## Resident Issues

### Avant Homes Development

The Town Council, as a representative body for the Chilton Community has responded to the Avant Homes community consultation and forwarded our comments to DCC Economic Regeneration and Planning Department, raising concerns at the short window for residents to respond for a significant development (149 homes in phase 3 and 400 more in phase 4). We also fed back that residents were frustrated that the online form was restrictive and did not provide them with the opportunity to comment as they would wish. We reiterated residents' concerns that additional housing will put further strain on what is already a highly pressured infrastructure (including access to public services, transport infrastructure etc) and public perception of design and quality of previous developments.

The planning application has now been submitted and awaiting validation, which part of the standard planning process, and the Town Council is working with DCC to facilitate a public information session to feed into the formal planning consultation.

### Chilton residents call for dog owners to pick their dog poop!



Chilton residents have taken to social media to share their disgust at the state of the pavements and walkway in the Town due to some irresponsible dog owners, including some open spaces near the academy where children walk to and from school.

Dog faeces can include bacteria and parasites that are harmful to humans, particularly young children as their immune system is not fully developed. Dogs can deposit roundworm eggs known as *Toxocara Canis* which are quickly transmitted between animals and people causing illness and disease that travel throughout the body to the brain, lungs, kidneys, liver, heart and eyes causing stomach upset, sore throats, asthma, and in some rare cases blindness.

Other harmful disease caused by dog fouling include Salmonella, E coli and Campylobacteriosis which can be life threatening of people with compromised immune systems.

Chilton Town Council has a supply of dog poop bags in Hutton House and the Post Office (70p per pack) and last year additional dog waste bins were installed in multiple locations across Chilton following a request from the Junior Town Council (Chilton Academy) in their plea to help keep our streets and public spaces clean and safe.

So please be responsible - "pick up and bin"

### **Cemetery, Allotments and Open Spaces**

Work is almost complete following the removal of the building near the entrance of the cemetery, retaining the toilets and levelling the ground.

We are now looking at options of how we landscape the area to enhance the space for those who visit our cemetery.



### **Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**

The Miners Welfare Recreation Ground (Charity Trust) announced a £172,895 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the Welfare Pavilion. Once complete the building will function as a heritage centre, featuring exhibitions and a digital archive containing thousands of images, videos and documents relating to the history of Chilton and Windlestone, preserving our history for future generations and making it accessible to the wider community.

The Welfare Pavillion is one the oldest buildings in Chilton and without this funding from the Heritage Fund it would fall into a state of disrepair. In addition, the thousands of photos, documents and stories that have been collected over the years would be lost forever without a place to store and showcase them.

With the addition of a heritage trail and a sensory garden, the Welfare pavilion will be transformed into a community hub that celebrates our rich history. Volunteers from the local community will receive training in a range of roles from archiving to exhibition creation, and with the inclusion of a gift shop and cafe, the project aims to be sustainable for many years to come.

Additional funding has been received from the Green Energy Fund, Livin Housing Ltd, - NEAMSWTF and the Miners Welfare Recreation Ground Charity Trust.

## Coming up – events

**Miners Welfare Recreation Ground: Chilton's Heritage Project** is hosting a community drop-in weekend for residents to find out more about the restoration of pavilion park, heritage centre and digital archive. Members of the public will be invited to drop into Hutton House over the weekend of the 31st January (12noon-2pm - 1st February (10am-2pm) to view the schematic plans, talk to the project development team and find how they can be involved in preserving Chilton's heritage as volunteers, donators and supporters.



**HELP US CELEBRATE**  
**COUNTY DURHAM DAY**  
**20 MARCH 2026**  
A CELEBRATION OF OUR  
DISTINCTIVE HERITAGE  
AND CULTURE

CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL  
CENTENARY YEAR

FLYING OUR  
ICONIC FLAG ● ENTERTAINMENT ● ARTISAN  
CRAFTS ● LOCAL  
PRODUCE ● FUND  
RAISING

**Cllr Sue Reece 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**