



# HALEWOODTOWNCOUNCIL



## Annual Report 2021/2022



Council of the Year 2017

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## Town and Parish Councils



Town and Parish Councils are the level of local government closest to the needs of local people. Parish and Town councils are created in law and are required to act within the laws, by exercising the powers and functions, which have been conferred on them by Acts of Parliament. However, these laws give the Parish and Town council a wide remit within which to improve the lives of their local community. The Council collects a precept each year, (a sum collected with the annual council tax each year from the householders in the township) specifically intended to maintain and improve facilities and services for local people. The Halewood precept for 2022/23 is £488,874, an increase of 3% per household.

Parish and Town Councils are the least bureaucratic and most cost-effective form of local government in existence. All sums collected are invested in the needs of the Parish itself. They are elected bodies, and as such, are responsible and responsive to their local electorate. Every meeting of Halewood Town Council for example, includes a 'Public Forum'. This enables residents to raise questions, concerns, or compliments to Councillors.



## Mayor's Foreword

### Cllr Ken Dalton - Chair of the Town Council & Mayor of Halewood, 2021/22

2021/22 has certainly been a year to remember for us all, and for so many different reasons. Our town has begun its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, which is good news, but we must acknowledge the economic impact it has had on many residents, businesses, and organisations. We should be very proud of the response to the pandemic in Halewood, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to those volunteers who swung into action immediately, managing all the things that were needed to ensure people kept themselves safe and well and had enough to eat. I have had so many people tell me just how grateful they were for a much-needed parcel from the Food Bank, about how their relative was able to get their prescriptions delivered or how welcome it was to have a friendly, calm voice on the end of the phone to bring a sense of reassurance.

We should also mention the fantastic work of our health partners in delivering the vaccination programmes to keep us all safe and well. The way this small community pulled together regardless of political differences or personal relationships in a time of fear and uncertainty is something we should not forget as we return to our usual day to day business. I would like to see 2022/23 as a year where we continue to build on those positive partnerships, so that Halewood Town Council can continue to forge a progressive path for the benefit of its constituents and continue to support the work of our voluntary services.

A big thank-you to the hirers, users and participants of Halewood Town Council services or buildings for their trust as we have returned to some normality. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the rest of the Town Council staff and my fellow Councillors who have stepped up to give their time and energy to our community.

2022/23 will be a big year for Halewood Town Council with many exciting events planned for the township. Look out for the Big Jubilee Lunch on 5th June, the Halewood Carnival in July, and our Festive Lighting switchon in November. If Covid permits, we also hope to round the year off with the annual Christmas Concert in December.

So, an exciting year ahead and a lot of work to still be done. I am confident that we have the right people here to do it. I also wish my successor elected at the council's Annual Meeting on 12th May the best of luck in his/her role as first citizen of Halewood.

**Cllr Ken Dalton**

# Town Manager's Report

Gerry Allen, Town Manager



I am pleased to be introducing Halewood Town Council's Annual Report for 2021/22. After a further complex year, our council is now back operating to its full staffing strength and our buildings are busy once again.

I want to thank the staff team at Halewood Town Council for their hard work and flexibility over the past year. During times of challenge, especially those challenging Covid outbreaks, they responded fantastically to ensure our buildings and services remained open for business. We have also completed a major restructure of the council's team over the past year, my hope is this will stabilise over the next year as staff get to grips with their new roles. I have enjoyed working with and collaborating with all of the members on Halewood Town Council. It isn't widely known that Town Councillors are not paid for their roles and do it as part of a civic duty to their fellow residents across the township. Their hard-work, commitment and selflessness is commendable and – I think – under-appreciated.

As Mayor Dalton notes, we have exciting plans for 2022/23, and I hope our plans for free community events in particular will prove a welcome distraction for many hard-pressed families and residents across the township.

**Gerry Allen**

# Halewood's Wonderful Greenspace

For our Annual Review of 2021/22, we want to focus on the seven parks and green spaces managed by Halewood Town Council. A significant portion of your precept funds the maintenance of these green spaces, and the staff undertaking this important work. We are proud of those green spaces and we hope you are too! Here are the green spaces with some images of them in their glory. For your reference, one acre is equivalent to half the size of an adult football pitch (or 16 Tennis Courts!).

Hilton Grace Recreation Ground (10 acres): Also known as Hollies Field and lying adjacent to Hollies Road/Church Road.



Wood Road (11.25 acres): Also known as Grace Park, Wood Road Field skirts the length of the road.



Elwyn Gardens (4.5 acres): Off Elwyn Drive and monitored by residents in the vicinity. A tranquil little space, perfect for a sit down and reflection on a sunny day.



Doorstep Green (36.5 acres): Our largest green space and known colloquially as 'Dista Field' or 'The Backy'.



New Hutte Woods (6.94 acres): A hidden gem that lies adjacent to Old Hutte Lane. Popular during the day with dog walkers, it is a space we aspire to transform for the greater benefit of residents.

Frederick Lunt Playing Field (6 acres): Off Abberley Road in the Markets Lane area of Halewood. Arndcliffe Centre / Markfield Crescent (11.6 acres): The land adjacent to the Halewood Triangle and well-used by football organisations and other residents.



# About Halewood Town Council

## Elected Representatives (Town Councillors)

The Town Council has twelve Members (Town Councillors) who (ordinarily) serve for a period of four years. At the end of the municipal year, for which this report is produced, the Elected Members of Halewood Town Council were as follows:



Cllr. Ken Dalton  
Labour Party  
Representing North Ward



Cllr. Clare Rose  
Labour Party  
Representing North Ward



Cllr. Fiona Martin  
Labour Party  
Representing North Ward



Cllr. Bob Swann  
Halewood Independent Group  
Leader of Majority Group  
Representing South Ward



Cllr. Barbara Dunn  
Halewood Independent Group  
Deputy Mayor  
Representing South Ward



Cllr. Tony Lucock  
Halewood Independent Group  
Representing South Ward



Cllr. Yvonne Graves  
Halewood Independent Group  
Representing South Ward



Cllr. Andrew Hesford  
Halewood Independent Group  
Representing North Ward



Cllr. David Samuels  
Independent Socialist  
Representing North Ward



Cllr. Suzanne Harvey  
Independent  
Representing South Ward



Vacancy  
North Ward



Vacancy  
South Ward

Whilst Town Councillors may be paid an allowance, Members of Halewood Town Council receive no allowance at all and give of their time freely and voluntarily to serve their community.

The Community Governance Review carried out by the Principal Authority during 2018/19, confirmed the number of Elected Members of the Town Council at twelve, with six Members each being elected to represent new Town Council wards, Halewood North and Halewood South wards.

Details of the current elected representatives are shown on the Town Council's website.

## Council Structure & Governance

The responsibility of the Council is to take policy decisions about how its services are carried out, what the priorities should be and how the Council's resources should be allocated.

Each year, at the Annual Meeting, the Council elects a Chairperson who becomes the Mayor of Halewood for the forthcoming year. For Town Councils, there must be a legal basis for everything it does. Governance arrangements for Town and Parish Councils in England goes back many years, the most recent significant piece of legislation arguably being the Local Government Act 1972. However, the overall package of legislation goes back well before that, even to the 19th century.

Standing Orders are intended to regulate and control how the Town Council conducts its business. Whilst there is no obligation to adopt Standing Orders, it is good practice to do so and for many years Halewood Town Council considers and adopts on an annual basis, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

The Council has a statutory duty, under the Localism Act 2011, to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Elected Members and Co-opted Members Code of Conduct. This is adopted on an annual basis and sets out the standards which the Council therefore expects such Members to observe. The current Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct are available on the Town Council's website [www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk).

### Public Access to and participation at Town Council meetings (including public recording)

Meetings of the Town Council are not public meetings, but members of the public have a statutory right to attend any meeting of the Town Council but only as an observer. Unless invited to do so by the Chairperson, members of the public have no right to speak at Town Council meetings. A 'Public Forum' is currently available at all meetings of Halewood Town Council when, preferably by prior arrangement with the Town Manager, members of the public in attendance at the meeting may, at the Chairperson's discretion, address the Town Council on matters appertaining to the Township.

There are occasions when meetings must go into 'private session' when dealing with matters of a confidential nature. On these occasions, members of the public (and press if any are present) must leave.

In line with national legislation, and in accordance with the Town Council's Policy, the filming and recording of public Town Council meetings is permitted. Anybody wishing to film and record public meetings is asked to inform the Town Manager 24 hours in advance of their intention to record a meeting, this is to ensure that the necessary arrangements can be made.



Meetings normally start at 7.00 p.m. and confirmation of dates and the locations of the meetings will be available on the Town Council's website [www.halewoodtowncouncil.com](http://www.halewoodtowncouncil.com) They are also posted on the Town Council's notice boards throughout the Township.

### Principal Council

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council is the Principal Council and serves the Borough with most local services, such as schools, social services, waste collection and roads.

### How is the Town Council Financed?

The net cost of the Town Council's activities is financed by levying what is known as a precept, which is added to the Council Tax levy set by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

In 2021-2022, the Town Council raised £447,039 via the precept. Up until 2017-2018, the Town Council also received a grant from Central Government called the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant (CTRSR). Each year, the Town Councils' accounts are prepared by the Town Manager and are audited by the appointed Internal and External auditors.

Each year also, as required by law, electors of the Township can 'Exercise their Rights' to inspect the accounts of the Town Council within a given period, details of which are posted on the Town Council's website, and on the Town Council's notice boards throughout the Township.

The table below shows the aggregate levels of income and expenditure for 2021-2022, and at this stage, they are subject to final audit. Once audited, details of the accounts are available for residents' inspection.

### Expenditure & Income – 2021-2022

	Budget Allocation 2021/22	Outturn at 31/03/2021
Staff & Training Costs	£305,974	£305,974
Administrative	£36,760	£36,760
Community Provision & Events	£25,190	£25,190
Public Open Spaces	£36,725	£36,725
Hollies Hall	£45,075	£45,075
Arncliffe Centre	£50,565	£50,565
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£499,889</b>	<b>£499,889</b>

## 2021-2022 Budget and Precept

Background Halewood Town Council is aware of the challenges faced by many residents across the township with a rise in the cost of living. The council, however, deems it necessary to increase the 2022/23 precept (our share of the council tax raised by Knowsley MBC), and wishes to provide additional clarity on the increase and address residents' concerns.

### What is the change?

The Town Council sets an annual precept which is collected as part of Council Tax. For 2021/22, the cost to a Band D taxpayer in Halewood was £85.87 per year. In 2022/23 this will increase to £88.87 which is an increase of £3.00 over 12 months.

This change sees the council collect £488,874 in terms of precept income, an increase of £41,835 on the 2021/22 figure of £447,039.

### Why the increase?

Like many household budgets, the council will face an increase in its day-to-day costs over the next twelve months that forced the issue – costs for utilities and building repairs are all increasing. This comes from a very small precept increase levied by the council in 2021/22, which tried to take account of the difficult year faced by many through the first 12 months of the pandemic. In addition, the Town Council's staff budget has increased over the past year. During 2020/21, the Town Council undertook a root and branch review of its staffing. This resulted in the creation of several new roles, to improve the council's ability to run the very busy democratic service functions it is required to provide, but also new capacity in terms of community activities and buildings management. It is Councillor's view that this new capacity will result in greater output from the Town Council, in particular for free or low-cost events/activities for residents.

The new staffing structure will ensure the council has the staff it needs to deliver the varied services we provide to the Halewood community. Additionally, some of the funding that contributes towards staff costs has been achieved through successful funding applications, and it is hoped to achieve more of this in future years.

### What does the Town Council do for £88.87?

Here are just a few of the things we do for the £88.87 to be charged to a Band D property.

#### Halewood Town Council:

- Manages the town's green spaces and parks on behalf of Halewood residents.
- Provides funding support to local charities and community groups.
- Provides community access to its two local settings – Hollies Hall and The Arcliffe Centre
- Will be launching a 'Halewood in Bloom' project to promote greater civic pride in Halewood and improve use of the town's parks and green spaces.

- Has commenced a Neighbourhood Plan to review important aspects of life in the township – Parks/Green Spaces, Heritage, Transport, Infrastructure and Community Involvement
- Organises the Community Fun Day, Annual Christmas Concert, Christmas Lights and Christmas Markets to help keep our town thriving.
- In 2022/23, will be organising and supporting events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the events to be organised by Knowsley MBC for the 'Borough of Culture'.

## What Do We Do?

### Services currently provided by Halewood Town Council.

- **The Arndcliffe Sports and Community Centre** – The administrative centre of the Town Council, The Arndcliffe provides a community sporting facility including a Sports Hall, two synthetic pitches, and junior sized pitches used by Halewood Junior Football League. The Centre has a large function room complete with bar, extensive kitchen facilities, audio visual equipment, and is home to many community and special interest groups who use the facilities for meetings and activities. 'The Arndcliffe' is also available for hire at competitive rates for a variety of business, family or fundraising events.
- **Hollies Hall** – In 2021 we still housed the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme. The other setting for Halewood Town Council, it also has a large function room complete with bar and kitchen facilities. Audio visual equipment compliment the facility, which is also available, at competitive rates, for private, or business hire. Hollies Hall too, is home to many community and special interest groups who use the facilities for meetings and activities. Outside, Hilton Grace Recreation Ground, extensively used by Kingsthorpe Junior Football Club, is available for outdoor sporting and recreational activities.
- **Open Spaces** – The Town Council manage around 90 acres of open space. In addition to the open space associated with 'The Arndcliffe' and Hollies Hall, the Town Council chiefly manages land on Wood Road, Halewood Doorstep Green (Dista Field), Frederick Lunt Playing Field, New Hutte Woods and Elwyn Gardens.
- **Playgrounds** – Within our Open Spaces, the Town Council is responsible for the up-keep and maintenance of the current young persons' playgrounds at Hollies Road, Arndcliffe Sports and Community Centre, and on Wood Road. Sadly, anti-social behaviour and vandalism has left the Town Council with little alternative but to control access times to playgrounds wherever possible.
- **Festive Lighting** – The Town Council funds the provision of a Christmas Tree and Christmas lighting in the Shopping Centre on Leathers Lane. There is a free community Christmas light switch on.
- **Street Furniture** – mainly within its own land, although not exclusively, the Town Council owns and maintains some of the benches and seats within Halewood, plus newly designed and erected Town Council notice boards throughout the Township.

- **Civic Services** – The Mayor of Halewood is always pleased to support any Halewood-based resident, organisation or group as far as diary commitments allow. If you would like the Mayor to attend any event, please contact Sue Edwardson for The Office on 0151 443 2063.
- **Halewood Community Grants** – the Town maintains a fund, designed to support Halewood-based projects. Preference will be given to those schemes that stimulate new ideas and approaches which benefits the community.
- **Planning Applications** – the Town Council monitors all planning applications applicable to area the Township, making representations to the Planning Authorities as necessary.
  - **Events** – This year, the Town Council have a plethora of events including **Halewood Carnival**.
  - **Queens Jubilee** – Picnic in the Park event, with free activities for the whole family.
  - **HAF** – A summer of activities and hot nutritious food
  - **Halewood Carnival** – A Day of entertainment, excitement and plenty of free activities for all the family.
  - **Christmas Light Switch On** – An early evening event for all residents in Halewood to join us in the switching on of our festive lights with free hot drinks and a visit from Santa Claus.
  - **Christmas Concert** – Manchester Camerata Orchestra perform for Halewood along with Knowsley school choirs.
- **Council Offices and Support Services** – From its base in the Arndcliffe Sports and Community Centre, the Town Council provides the full range of management, financial and administrative services to the Council, the Mayoralty and Civic events.

## Mayor's Charities

Over the past year, due to the pandemic, lockdown and restrictions, Mayor Dalton was unable to host as many charity events as he would have liked to. It is with great pleasure that we can announce that despite these obstacles, Mayor Dalton raised £1236 towards his chosen charity, Knowsley Foodbank.

Some of the events that Mayor Dalton held, which contributed to raising this fantastic sum of money are:

A Mayor's raffle, organised during a very successful Christmas Craft Fair, with many lovely prizes donated by local businesses and the community.

A charity night in early March 2022 with 'The King of Swing', Asa Murphy, and 'The Swinging Rock and Rollers'. This event was well supported by the community.

Below are a few photographs from another event, Afternoon Tea with the Mayor. This event was enjoyed by all attendees and guests enjoyed a game of bingo and a raffle along with music entertainment.



# The Arncliffe Sports & Community Centre

Situated in Arncliffe Road, the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre is a popular venue for a variety of social and community events. With car parking available, a fully stocked bar and function room complete with audio visual equipment, the Centre is an ideal venue which can be hired for business events / meetings or for family celebrations, including christenings, 18th and 21st birthday parties and many other birthday celebrations, children's parties, anniversaries and funeral receptions.

As well as being the administrative base for the Town Council, it is also the base from which many groups deliver their activities and is the home of Halewood Town Sports Association and the Halewood Junior Football League (HJFL).

## **Sports Facilities at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre**

In 2007, a grant of £600,000 from Barclays Bank and the Football Foundation, together with £150,000 each from Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, and Halewood Town Council, realised a major improvement to the sporting facilities at the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre. Thanks to this funding, the Centre has a large Sports Hall, floodlit synthetic surfaces, a multi-use games area and changing facilities.

In 2017, the Town Council funded the complete replacement of the synthetic (sand-based) surface with modern 3G pitches. This floodlit facility is available for hire at very competitive rates.

# Hollies Hall

Like the Arncliffe Sports and Community Centre, Hollies Hall is a 'fully accessible' popular venue, complete with car parking. The centre can be hired for business, social and community functions. It is also used regularly throughout the week and at weekends by a variety of groups.

Situated on Hollies Road, in the heart of the Village of Halewood, Hollies Hall was extensively refurnished and refurbished four years ago and redecorated in early 2017 and now boasts to be one of the premier function rooms in Halewood. It has a dedicated stage area, with a fully stocked bar and in comfortable surroundings, Hollies Hall is an ideal venue for concerts and shows, and regularly hosts events as part of the Halewood Culturefest. It is an ideal venue in which to hold family celebrations of many kinds, including christenings, 18th / 21st and many other birthday celebrations, children's parties, anniversaries and funeral receptions.



**Football Pitches at Hollies Hall**

Hilton Grace Playing Fields is immediately behind Hollies Hall. This large open area is used extensively by Kingsthorpe Junior Football Club but is available for a variety of sporting education and recreational activities; usage of the indoor changing facilities is available by arrangement.

Teams should call **Dave Murphy on 07871643771** for details.

**Examples of Regular Activities at Hollies Hall and at the Arcliffe Sports and Community Centre - For Adults and Older Persons**

Yoga	Healthy Body & Mind Fitness
Tai Chi	Healthy Body & Mind Fitness
Ballroom Dancing (including beginners class)	Dance lessons by a Private Tutor
Councillor Surgeries	Support to residents
Women’s Institute	Tai Chi & Ukelele Classes
Memory Lane	Support Group for Dementia
Liverpool Scottish Pipe band	Practice Sessions
Training & Education Classes	
Indoor Bowls	October to March
Halewood U3A	University of the 3rd Age - Craft & Book Clubs
Pilates & Chorus Line Dance	Health Body & Mind Fitness
Slimming Classes	
Football & other Sport	
Functions	Family & Social Functions with bar facilities
Pensioner’s Bingo	
Ju-Jitsu	Martial Arts Class delivered by specialised coaches

**For Children and Young People**

Ju-Jitsu
Boogie Tots
Mother & Toddler
Diddidance
Stepping Stones -Stay & Play
Amy’s Dance
Singing & Drama Group

**Want to make a booking?**

Whether you would like to book the Arcliffe Sports and Community Centre or Hollies Hall, our staff will do their very best to make sure you have an enjoyable time.

Our room/hall hire are set at reasonable rates. Details of these are published on our website [www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk) or can be obtained by calling 0151 428 1929.

Our named contact is Dave Murphy who can also be contacted directly on 07871643771 or at [dave.murphy@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:dave.murphy@knowsley.gov.uk)

# Community Grants Fund

For over a dozen years now, your Town Council has established a fund to help Halewood based residents and projects, which benefit the health and well-being of our Town, the promotion/representation of the community of Halewood, the Environment, Community and Business Sector or the Halewood economy.

Applications are welcome from organisations, groups, or individuals, with a preference given to applicants who can display a good track record of past achievement, or to new organisations, groups or individuals who can demonstrate future potential.

## During 2021 – 2022 the following were recipients of a Grant:

- Halewood Juniors • Memory Lane • Holy Family Primary School
- Paul Burke • Halewood Community Spirit • St John Vianney

For further information about the Community Grants Fund or an Application Pack, please contact our Community Projects Officer, Lynn O'Keeffe on 07708 61726. Alternatively, you may download the information from the Town Council website, [www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk)



## HALEWOODTOWNCOUNCIL

The Arndcliffe Sports and Community Centre,  
Arndcliffe Road, Halewood, Liverpool, L25 9PA

All bookings : 0151 428 1929

Admin Telephone: 0151 443 2063.

Fax: 0151 443 2064

[www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.halewoodtowncouncil.gov.uk)



@HalewoodTC



Council of the Year 2017