



Value for money

The Council remains committed to providing the best possible value to Council Tax payers. It has a three year programme of efficiency savings to ensure there is no increase to the Neston Town Council component of Council tax, unless any service currently undertaken by Cheshire West & Chester Council is transferred to the Town Council. There is again no increase in the Town Council tax bill for 2017-18.

Council has appointed Cheshire Telecom as the new provider of telephone and broadband services in the Town Hall, with the aim of improving efficiency and reducing the monthly telephone and broadband bill, which will offset the initial installation cost.

For the last three years the Town Council has managed the Town Hall and Market for the owners, Cheshire West & Chester Council. The Council's success in progressively reducing costs has led to the management agreement being extended for a further two years, with a view to promoting a range of new uses and activities in the Town Hall.

The restructuring of the Council's small but dedicated professional team has enabled a clearer focus on the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives, and a new simplified decision-making structure with fewer but more focussed committees agreed for the new Council year.

Communication

Tenders have been invited for a redesign of the Council's website, www.neston.org.uk to provide easier access to crucial information, originating both from the Council, and from third parties (for example transport providers). The Council continues to seek professional input into the production of a less frequent but more attractive Council newsletter (Neston Matters) to better present such information in print form.

Economy

After successfully jointly commissioning with Cheshire West Council an Economic Plan for Neston, the Town Council took the initiative in establishing the Neston Economic Plan Delivery Group. Comprising representatives of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Neston Town Council, and the private sector, the Delivery Group is charged with driving forward the Neston Economic Plan. The group has undertaken a range of tasks including consideration of how unsightly sites and buildings within the town centre might be improved, and how opportunities for walking in and around Neston could be used to enhance the town's visitor economy.

Environment

The Council has actively promoted environmental enhancements at Neston Station, a key gateway for the town. Repainting of the station subway and replanting of land at Raby Road have been commissioned and improvements to Sytchcroft Park. CWaC is no longer passing to the Council a proportion of New Homes Bonus which the Town Council has been able to use to enhance the environment.

The council has also taken action to make the town safer. Two mobile CCTV cameras have been funded, one of which will be located at Neston Station. The Town Council is working with CWaC officers to ensure there is a thorough review of junctions on the A540 and has made a series of suggested improvements. Neston Town Council is also actively engaged in supporting residents seeking safety enhancements on Brook Street and Lees Lane.

A waymarked Neston Countryside Trail based on the Wirral Way has been established with points of interest and a map included in an associated leaflet, and the flower bed planting programme has been extended

Community

As well as supporting many community groups and events during the year, the Town Council delivered the successful Victorian Christmas Festival in partnership with Neston Rotary Club and Neston & District Churches Together, and ensuring the cost did not exceed the previous year's Christmas festivities.

The Mayor, assisted by the Deputy Mayor, has continued to represent the town and council at events both in the town and the wider region, many of which are featured in the Mayor's Blog at www.neston.org.uk

In common with Town Councils in Winsford and Frodsham, Neston will have a "Junior Mayor" (and deputies) from May. The role

will rotate round our primary schools with the Junior Mayor accompanying the Town Mayor on important town events.

The Council acknowledges, and is grateful for, the assistance it receives from many members of the local community. Its various task groups provide invaluable support and enable the Council to tap into voluntary expertise outside the Council: Transport Group (Phil Lloyd, John Allcock), Neston Looking Better (David Johnson, Eileen Slack, Rosemary McMahon, Robina Hetherington, Celia Garvey), website community information (Rob Ward, Jerry Harris), Neighbourhood Plan implementation (Phil Baker, Robina Hetherington, Mary Eveleigh, Robin Hughes, Terry Nolan, Pat Hughes).

Council Membership

Members of Neston Town Council receive no allowances for their representational role. They give their time and effort freely in support of the community in which they live. Indeed because they must provide their own internet connection, computer facilities and telephone they make a financial contribution to their work.

Inevitably pressures of work, changes in domestic circumstances and changes in location result in members having to relinquish their role. During the year Malcolm Cox, Phil Lloyd and James Wilkie left the Council and Jean Clayton, Angus Montgomery and Dominic Roberts were co-opted. The following indicated their intention to leave at the end of the Council year in May: Susan Chambers, Abdul Jilani and Ceri Lloyd (who has since changed her mind). If residents in the wards affected do not call an election, the Council will be seeking to co-opt members. Residents who wish to serve the community in this way should contact the Council Manager.

Council Members' attendance at Council & Standing Committee Meetings 2016-17

	FULL COUNCIL						FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES				PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT				SOCIETY & CULTURE				TOWN CENTRE				HUMAN RESOURCES																					
	17-May	12-Jul	30-Aug	18-Oct	06-Dec	17-Jan	21-Feb	04-Apr	07-Jun	26-Jul	20-Sep	22-Nov	13-Dec	21-Mar	14-Jun	02-Aug	04-Oct	08-Nov	24-Jan	07-Mar	02-May	31-May	28-Jun	06-Sep	25-Oct	29-Nov	10-Jan	28-Feb	18-Apr	24-May	19-Jul	13-Sep	01-Nov	31-Jan	14-Mar	25-Apr	21-Jun	21-Jul	27-Sep	15-Nov	07-Feb			
Barker	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														✓	✓		A	A	✓	A	✓																
Carter	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
Chambers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
Clayton				✓	✓	✓	✓																	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
Cox	A	X																				X	X							X	X													
Cray	A	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	A							✓	A	✓	X	A	A		A	X																					
Fleetwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Griffiths	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						S		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									S														S	
Jilani	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	X											✓	A	X	X	X		A	✓	A	X	X	X									
Kynaston	X	A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓														✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
C Lloyd	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											S	S					A	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
P Lloyd	✓	✓						✓	✓																				A	A														
Loch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A		A	✓	✓	A		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Marlow	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	A																											✓	A	✓	✓	
Montgomery			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																																					
Priley	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A							X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A																									
Roberts			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A							✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓																								
Shipman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																															
Wilkie	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	A	✓	✓										✓	✓	A	✓	✓											

Not a member
 In attendance
 Not present: apologies accepted
 Not in attendance
 Substitute

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended March 2017

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

31st March 2016

March 2017

31st March 2016

March 2017

31st March 2016		March 2017
	Operating Income	
265,034	Administration	228,558
19,216	Town Centre Management	1,007
13,409	Environment	3,000
0	Publicity	350
0	Events	280
1,141	Grants & Donations	308
131,162	Town Centre Assets	107,680
429,962	Total Income	341,184
	Expenditure Summary	
5,813	Marketing & Promo	3,472
5,813	Sub Total	3,472
	Running Costs	
0	Administration	0
79,438	Civic	1,286
2,799	Town Centre Management	22,276
28,217	Human Resources	111,540
82,019	Environment	28,134
48,767	Planning	0
0	Transport	25
624	Publicity	2,184
39	Events	21,071
15,523	Grants & Donations	32,452
43,801	Community Projects	59
2,500	Town Centre Assets	106,110
136,194	Earmarked Reserves	0
0	Total Expenditure	376,154
	General Fund Analysis	
193,147	Opening Balance	189,154
429,962	Plus : Income for Year	341,184
623,109		530,338
445,733	Less : Expenditure for Year	376,154
177,376		154,183
-11,778	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	8,142
189,154	Closing Balance	146,041

31st March 2016		March 2017
	Current Assets	
211	Debtors	346
10,964	VAT Control A/c	7,059
1,798	Prepayments	12,807
221,246	Unity Trust current account	181,011
132	Alto / FairFX Card	539
53,489	Fixed Rate Deposit - 65536027	54,090
287,840		255,852
	Total Assets	255,852
	Current Liabilities	
2,275	Accruals	5,258
2,275		5,258
	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	250,594
	Represented By	
189,154	General Reserves	146,041
600	EM Reserve - Benches	600
3,987	EM Reserve - Flor-Greening/tre	4,620
2,500	EM Reserve - De-silting	7,320
5,000	EM Reserve - Parkgate Marsh	8,000
34,288	EM Reserve -TownHall/Market Sq	18,481
12,687	EM Reserve - Marktg&Promo s106	10,802
3,400	EM Reserve - Bus&Transport Sup	3,064
33,949	EM Reserve - Unsp New H Bonus	21,764
0	EM Reserve - TH/Market Income	25,000
0	EM Reserve - Gateway Walls	4,902
285,565		250,594

NESTON TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2016/2017

Neston Town Council's Grants scheme is open to voluntary and community groups and organisations operating within the Neston area and is intended to

- enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities
- help the Neston area's voluntary and community groups improve their impact on the community.
- ensure the provision of services needed by the residents of the Neston area, via the voluntary sector.
- support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.
- ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Neston area residents to the services it provides and funds.
- improve or enhance the local environment

Main Grants Programme

Awarded in the last Council year for use this year and from 2016-17 budget

Hip & Harmony	Ladies Day Entertainment 2016	£4,500
Hip & Harmony	Big Lunch 2016	£1,750
		£6,250

Awarded in this Council year for use this year

Hinderton Guides	Trip to Copenhagen	£1,000
Little Actors	2016/17 Programme	£3,000
Neston & District Art Society	Annual Exhibition 2017	£475
Train to Change	Lift Up 2 Work	£3,000
Train to Change	Lift Up 2 Work II	£4,974
		£12,449

Awarded in this Council year from 2016-17 budget for use in 2017-18 year

Little Actors	2017/18 Repertoire	£2,000
Friends of West Vale Park	Family Fun Day 2017	£1,220
Neston Village Fair Committee	Village Fair 2017	£2,113
Wirral Narrowboat Trust	Cruises for elderly Neston residents	£1,825
		£7,158
TOTAL		£25,857

Awarded in this Council year from 2017-18 budget for use in 2017-18 year

Hip & Harmony	Ladies Day Entertainment 2017	£3,984
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Small Grant Awards Programme (Not Exceeding £300)

1st Ness Brownies	Purchase of tops for a Brownie trip	£250
1st Ness Guides	Purchase of commemorative badges	£250
Little Neston Methodist Church	Purchase of vacuum cleaner	£299
Neston Entertainers	Purchase of new sound equipment	£300
Neston Netball	Purchase of new kit	£300
Neston Players	Support for venue hire costs	£300
Neston Riverside WI	Purchase of wool	£150
Rainbows (Hinderton Division)	Purchase of commemorative badges	£160
		TOTAL £2,009

Donations

Neston Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	£100
Neston Players	Henry V production	£1600
Ladies Day costs	Road closure costs & bunting	£2886

This Annual Report will be formally presented at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting being held at Neston Town Hall at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 9 May

The Annual Meeting of Neston Town Council will take place on Tuesday 16 May at 6:10 pm at Neston Town Hall immediately following the inauguration at 6:00 pm of the first Junior Mayor and Deputies