



Biddulph Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT



2022-23

Mayor's Review of the Town Council's year 2022-23

In opening my review of the last 12 months, I would firstly like to thank the Biddulph Town Council for giving me and my wife the opportunity to serve as Mayor & Mayoress of Biddulph, in what has been a unique year in recent history, something we feel privileged to have been a part of. I would also like to thank the officers and town hall staff who have supported us throughout our year in office, and our Deputy Mayor & Mayoress, Chris Perkin and his daughter Harriet, who have stood in for us on those occasions we have not been able to attend.

When Sue and I were asked to represent our town as Mayor & Mayoress back in May 2022, the country was a different place. It was starting to emerge from the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic that had blighted the previous two years and we were looking forward to celebrating the unique event of the Platinum Jubilee as the biggest event of the year ahead. While this was a truly wonderful weekend of celebration, it was overshadowed a couple of months later by the unexpected and sad news of the death of our sovereign Queen Elizabeth. Along with these royal events, we have seen another unique event for the town, with the inauguration of our first "Freeman of Biddulph", Councillor Tony Hall, who has been recognised for his 50+ years of service to the town as a councillor & our first town Mayor in 1974.

In addition to the multitude of town events, we have organised numerous Mayoral events throughout the year. We have highlighted the heritage of our town through the Craft & Textile Event, as well as providing some slightly risqué entertainment by the History Wardrobe. And, while all these events were enjoyable in themselves, their purpose

was to raise money for our chosen charities: Approach Dementia Support, Alzheimer’s Research UK, and the Biddulph Youth Initiative. These events have raised just over £10,000. It has been hard work, but immensely rewarding, and it is thanks to all those who have come along and supported us and our events, that enabled us to achieve this. During our year in office, we have also had the opportunity to promote Biddulph throughout the surrounding towns in Staffordshire and Cheshire, and most notably in our twin town of Fusignano, where we enjoyed participating in their town festival. It has been quite a roller-coaster ride, with the multitude of town events and civic duties. These were interspersed with sad losses of fellow councillors, Hilda Sheldon and Ian Lawson and local hero Gerard Booth, not to mention a cost-of-living crisis to deal with. However, when we look back, while it has been quite a year with many landmark events, it is the people we have had the opportunity to meet that we will remember most of all; the local characters, visiting dignitaries and the huge supporting cast of sponsors, volunteers, event organisers and fundraisers, who have helped to make this such a memorable experience.

Councillor JIM Garvey



Tree planting with the U3A (above)

Proclaiming the Accession of King Charles III (left)

The work of the Town Council

2022-23 was the end of the term of office for those Councillors in post since 2019. We spent some time at the end of the year reflecting on the achievements and challenges during this period. As 22 Councillors were elected in 2019, they could not have foreseen the Covid pandemic, changes within our monarchy or the cost-of-living crisis. As a Town Council, we worked hard to support our community, providing opportunities to engage and responses to changing levels of need.

As this year concludes, we welcomed **new faces** to the Town Council, and **said goodbye** to Councillors who had represented their communities for many years. Councillors Adams, Baddeley, Davies, Hall, Redfern and Swift retired at the end of the year, and we were pleased to welcome new and returning faces to start 2023-24, following the local government elections.

This photograph was taken at the close of the 2022-23 year.



In 2022, we were saddened to hear about the deaths of a number of ex-Councillors. We marked their deaths by lowering the Town Hall flag and reflecting on their service to the town. We were also devastated to lose two serving Councillors: Councillor Sheldon and Councillor Lawson. It takes a very special person to 'stand up and be counted' in local government; they will be much missed.

In 2022-23, the Town Council was awarded the Local Council Award Scheme **Quality Gold**. We are incredibly proud of this achievement, which reflects the forward-thinking and innovative approach the Town Council has adopted over the past few years.



The Local Council Award Scheme was created in 2014, designed by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), to 'celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential.'

We put together a portfolio of evidence to show how we met the criteria. A Gold Award means the council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and performance management, while constantly seeking opportunities to improve at the cutting edge of their sector. Our award letter said: 'this award shows that your **council has gone above and beyond the legal obligations; you lead your community and continuously seek opportunities to improve and develop even further.** Therefore, the council is to be congratulated immensely.'

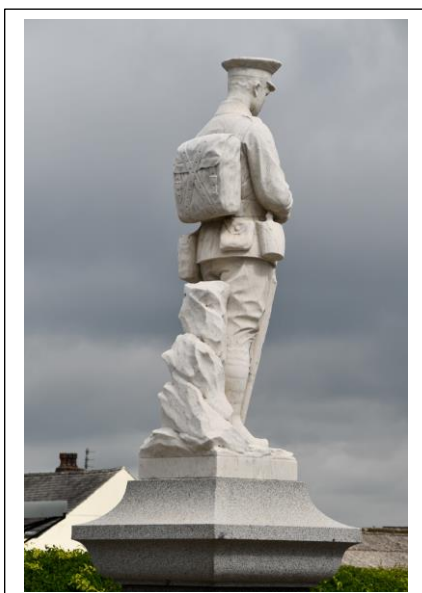
In 2022-23, we celebrated the **centenary of the cenotaph** in Biddulph Town Centre.



The Town Council is the custodian of the cenotaph (fondly known as ‘Albert’), which was funded by public subscription and was unveiled on 29 April 1922 by Corporal J.J. Gibson.

On 1 May 2022, the Town Council worked with partners to re-create the unveiling ceremony. We were joined at the cenotaph by members of the Mercian Regiment, Biddulph Male Voice Choir, British Legion, local churches and community organisations.

We were delighted that the Biddulph and District Genealogy and Historical Society produced an interesting presentation about this period in history, which they delivered the following week.



Later this year, the cenotaph played a vital role in bringing together the community for a period of reflection for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

We were pleased to partner with the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce in May 2022 to deliver a **Business Roadshow**, providing advice about a range of subjects - from grants to support with legal issues.

In March 2023, we held a Business Networking event in the Town Hall, providing support to a range of organisations in our town:



The Town Council has an **Environment and Climate Change Working Group**. We are clear that there are some issues where our influence is limited, but there are others where we can make a difference.

In 2022-23, we planted over 500 trees in our town. We supported the District Council's orchard initiative at the start of the year and also planted over 400 trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project. We were pleased to be joined by lots of volunteers, which makes such a difference to the speed at which we can plant and in making sure the trees are cared for in years to come.



We are incredibly lucky in our town to have a **proactive and dedicated voluntary and community sector**. At the start of Autumn 2022, a wide range of groups helped to pull together a programme of events and warm spaces that were free (or low-cost) for the community to attend. The 93 Bus Service was also available at a reduced rate to help people get to crucial appointments and link with services within the town.

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS	
<p>Biddulph Mosaic Children's Centre, Albert Street 10.30am-12.00pm. Free drop-in session for families with 18m+ inc. hot drink and food provided.</p> <p>Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank St James Church, Kingstree 11am to 1pm.</p> <p>Biddulph Library, Young and Thrifty, 10.30am, free parking</p> <p>St Lawrence's Church, Dagenham Road 10.30am-11.30am, board games and refreshments</p> <p>Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road</p> <p>93 Bus Service Fares Starts Monday 14 November 2022 Adult day ticket: £1.00 Young person (under 18): day ticket: £1.00 You can: • Use it as a return ticket to attend one of these sessions, or access other services in the town. • Make a break in your journey • Use it for a recreational/social ride around the route. This promotion is for the winter period only and will end on Friday 31 March 2023.</p>	<p>Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road Community Café in partnership with Oak Community Centre 9.30am to 12pm, tea, coffee and refreshments</p> <p>Biddulph Local Parents Group Biddulph Town Hall 10am to 12pm, free parking</p> <p>Over 50's Social Group 10am to 12pm, Arts & crafts, board games, book exchange £1.00 refreshments and refreshments included. Free hot food 12.15pm.</p> <p>The Green Tree Food Club & Tea Room, 72 High Street Community Café, 10am to 2pm</p> <p>St Lawrence's Church, Dagenham Road, 10am-12.30pm, £1 per family; refreshments included</p> <p>Life Stream Church, Newport Road 11.30am, simple church service aimed at people aged 60+ open to everyone. Tea, coffee and a hot drink provided after the service.</p> <p>Victoria Centre, Station Road 10.30am to 12.30pm, £1.50 inc refreshments, Armed Forces, sports, craft, table football</p>	<p>Hill Top Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Biddulph Moor Coffee Morning 10.30am-11am and 1.15pm-2.15pm. Tea and refreshments of each month, hot and cold.</p> <p>Biddulph Town Hall Each January 10.30am to 12pm New Year musical *Wednesday of each month, 11am-12pm</p> <p>Biddulph Town Hall Tea and coffee 12.30pm to 1.30pm Refreshments by a fire</p> <p>Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road Board Bowling 1.30pm to 3.30pm, £1.50 inc refreshments</p> <p>Community Family Centre Biddulph Town Hall Wednesday 14 December 10.30am, includes tea/coffee and cake in the interval. Although open to all, designed to be accessible for people with dementia. These free events are open to everyone.</p>	<p>Over 50's & Young, Gospel Mission Hall, Church Road 9.30am to 11am £1.00 drinks, free refreshments</p> <p>Biddulph Mosaic Children's Centre, Albert Street Breakfast with coffee/tea/Club, 9.15am-10.30am Tea and coffee and refreshments, light breakfast</p> <p>The Green Tree Food Club & Tea Room, 72 High Street Community Café 10am to 2pm</p> <p>Biddulph Local Parents Group Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road 10.30am to 12pm, Arts & crafts, board games, book exchange, £2.00 refreshments and materials included. Free hot food 12.15pm</p> <p>Biddulph Town Hall Agree it! Campaign Carer support talk, 12.15pm to 1.30pm, 1st Thursday of each month</p> <p>Life Stream Church (by invitation term only) Parents & Toddlers 10.15-11.30am Hot coffee and snacks, £2 per family (£1 for every additional adult)</p> <p>Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road Community Party 11.30am to 1.30pm, free food Refreshments 1.15pm to 2.30pm, £2.50 per person. Pre-order by 1pm previous Friday</p>	<p>THURSDAY CONTINUED</p> <p>English Martyr's RC Church, Church Road 10.30am to 11am Hot hot drinks, hot and cold refreshments</p> <p>Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road 10.30am to 11.30am £1.50 inc refreshments Lettuce to music, take part in a local club game</p> <p>Over 50's & Young, Gospel Mission Hall, Church Road 10.30am to 11am £1.00 drinks, hot and cold refreshments</p> <p>Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank English Martyr's Church, 6.30pm</p>	<p>Biddulph Library, Office Morning Cheery cakes, 10am to 12pm</p> <p>Victoria Centre, Station Road Friday Coffee Morning & Children Aid Sale 9.30am to 12.30pm, hot drink & a cake</p> <p>The Green Tree Food Club & Tea Room, 72 High Street Community Café 10am to 2pm Soup and Sandwich</p> <p>Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road Football Club 10.30am to 12.30pm, £1.50 inc refreshments, Armed Forces, sports, craft, table football</p> <p>Over 50's & Young, Gospel Mission Hall, Church Road 10.30am to 11am £1.00 drinks, hot and cold refreshments</p> <p>Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank English Martyr's Church, 6.30pm</p>	<p>The Green Tree Food Club & Tea Room, 72 High Street Community Café 10am to 2pm Soup and Sandwich</p> <p>Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Church Road Football Club 10.30am to 12.30pm, £1.50 inc refreshments, Armed Forces, sports, craft, table football</p> <p>Over 50's & Young, Gospel Mission Hall, Church Road 10.30am to 11am £1.00 drinks, hot and cold refreshments</p> <p>Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank English Martyr's Church, 6.30pm</p>

Biddulph Works Together A Warm Welcome

Stations with small fee
Food available
Free food and activities

The Town Council has become a referring agency for the Foodbank, linking with key agencies and ensuring vulnerable people have gas and electricity in their homes. In 2022-23 we welcomed **key partners** from the Department of Work and Pensions and Adullam into the Town Hall to provide support with their finances or housing situations. These were crucial partnerships at a time when there were increased pressures for our community.

This year, the people of Biddulph showed tremendous generosity of spirit. We **provided toys** for over 100 children who were identified through social services, schools and local support agencies. The support from partners and businesses has been incredible. We, collectively, made a better Christmas for families within the town.

Every one of the chairs in this photograph represented a child who was gifted a toy as part of the project.



The Town Council is working towards becoming a **Dementia Friendly Community**. In 2022-3 we were proud to partner with Approach Staffordshire (<https://approachstaffordshire.co.uk/>) to provide a Carer Support Café on the second Thursday of each month, 10.30-12.30 at the Town Hall. This is an opportunity for those living with dementia and their carers to come together to meet others who are experiencing the same issues. We still offer a popular Dementia Friendly Cinema screening within the Town Hall.

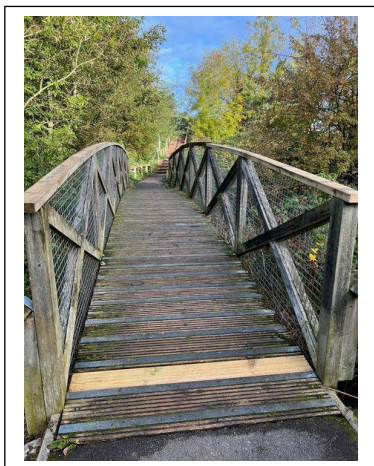
This year, we also welcomed the Beth Johnson Foundation into the Town Hall to provide a Bereavement Friendship Group. This takes place on the second Wednesday of the month, 10.30-12pm. In 2023-24 we are hosting Douglas Macmillan, who will be providing a group to support those with a range of diagnoses.

The Town Council supports a number of **large events** within the town, either by arranging them ourselves or by providing funding for others to organise them. 2022 was a tremendous year for large events, with the Jubilee activities across a range of venues within the town, the

The Town Council raises money through Council Tax (the precept), services provided and by accessing grants that are available from **external funders**.

In 2022, we were fortunate to receive funding from Severn Trent Water for repairs to the footpath and bridge at Briarswood (photo below). We also had an allocation from Western Power to raise awareness of energy saving.

Awards for All funded Jubilee celebration activities, and Staffordshire County Council provided funds for temperature monitors that we have been able to give away through the Town Hall activities. The Welcome Back fund helped with town centre activities. The Woodland Trust and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council supported our tree planting projects.



Each year the **Town Council allocates £74,000** to support groups within our community. You can find more about the grant schemes here: <https://www.biddulph.co.uk/grant-awards-schemes/>

Many of these groups are published on the 'Clubs, Groups and Societies' booklet, which provides information about different activities that you could get involved with: <https://www.biddulph.co.uk/clubs-groups-societies-5/> (paper copies are available in the Town Hall).

Our aim is to fill the **Town Hall** with events and groups that help to support our community.



In 2022-23, the Town Council agreed that a key focus was **Health and Wellbeing**, and we created a Working Group to guide this work. We hosted the GPs surgeries as they completed their annual covid and flu booster scheme. In April 2023, we organised a Health and Wellbeing Day in the Town Hall, and provided blood pressure checks through our regular 'Feast and Flicks' event. We also worked in partnership with a local business to complete First Aid training. We are planning defibrillator training for the 2023 Biddulph Festival, for the whole community.



Each month we publish a guide to all the activities that are taking place in the Town Hall. Pop into reception for the latest copy. You can also find more about what is happening within our town, by viewing the Town Guide.

In addition to projects that we plan throughout the course of the year, we maintain a large burial site, two allotment sites and several areas of green space. We fund the 93 bus service, offered by D&G (timetable information is here: <https://www.biddulph.co.uk/93-bus-service/>) We are also responsible for the annual servicing of three public clocks within the town.

At the **Burial Grounds**, 102 people were interred in 2022-23. To ensure our sites are well managed, we completed a tender exercise for a three-year maintenance agreement in 2022-23; this also included management of the Springfield Road site.

In early 2023, we completed a drainage project within the conservation area at the Town Burial Ground to ensure safe access to graves by visitors. We also completed tree management and path renewal this year.



Our **allotment sites** continue to be full, with around 30 people on the waiting list. Current allotment holders met at the start of 2023 to agree priorities for development for 2023-24.



The Town Council is keen to work with **young people** in our town. In January, we welcomed back the **Schools Learners Forum** into the Town Hall, with representatives from schools around the town. It's really important that young people tell us how they want the town to develop, and what the priorities should be.

We spent some time this year working with young people at Woodhouse Academy around the importance of elections, as part of their PSHE Day. We explained the process and the importance of voting. We had some very enthusiastic debate and quite a lot of exciting manifesto promises!

Officers from the Town Council also provided advice and support at the High School Careers Fair in April 2023.

The reception at the Town Hall aims to answer or provide signposting in relation to a wide range of queries, and we were delighted to welcome our first Customer Service Apprentice in October 2022.



As the year drew to a close, we worked with a range of partners across the town to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. We also presented pin badges to young people at local first schools as a memento of the time.

BIDDULPH CELEBRATES THE CORONATION

*Biddulph
In Partnership
Supporting Community Activities*

WHAT'S ON

Friday 5th May

In partnership with Biddulph Youth & Community Zone, Family Disco at the Town Hall from 6.00 pm till 8.00 pm. Food available. Free Entry but please book via Eventbrite for catering purposes. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-friendly-disco-tickets-623600224057>

Youth Club Coronation Street Party & BBQ, BYCZ Church Road, From 6.30 pm till 8.30 pm.

Mumbo Jumbo-No Hit Wonders, Biddulph Moor Village Hall, From 8.00 pm till late. Tickets are available from Moor Stores: £12 and Concessions £10

Saturday 6th May

Coronation Street Party, The Rose & Crown, Biddulph Moor, From 11.00 am

Family Fun Day, The Gardeners Arms, Brown Lees, From 2.00 pm till 8.00 pm

Sunday 7th May

Coronation Garden Open Day, Biddulph Old Hall. Garden open from 12.30 pm till 5.00 pm, Ticket Only. Tickets £20 available from Sue on 07961093332 or Biddulph Town Hall.

Civic Service at St Lawrence's Church, 6.30 pm. Open to all.

Monday 8th May

Community Litter Pick, Church Road Park, From 12.00 pm. Deb Evans on 07943865339

WWW.BIDDULPH.CO.UK



Our **Business Plan** contains the following vision:

Biddulph is loved for its beauty, with a distinctive identity and independent retail experience. Biddulph is a good place to live, attracting investment and tourism, providing services that support our residents. Biddulph is innovative and proactive with environment and climate change projects, working to enhance and protect our community spaces.

Thank you to all those who helped us work towards achieving this.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023 (UNAUDITED)

Biddulph Town Council BALANCE SHEET 31/03/2023

<i>(Last) Year Ended</i> 31 Mar 2022		<i>(Current) Year Ended</i> 31 Mar 2023
£	CURRENT ASSETS	£
	Stocks and stores	
	Work in progress	
37,742.90	Debtors (Net of provision for doubtful debts)	19,575.17
3,600.58	Prepayments	
6,572.77	VAT Recoverable	9,181.09
	Temporary lendings (investments)	
765,901.69	Cash in hand	743,347.48
813,817.94	TOTAL ASSETS	772,103.74
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
26,081.64	Creditors	41,772.65
<u>787,736.30</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>730,331.09</u>
	Represented by:	
336,692.30	General fund Balance	282,547.99
	Reserves:	
	Capital	
451,044.00	Earmarked	447,783.10
	Adjustments	
<u>787,736.30</u>		<u>730,331.09</u>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31 MARCH 2023 (UNAUDITED)

Biddulph Town Council Income & Expenditure Account 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023		
(Last) Year Ended 31 Mar 2022		(Current) Year Ended 31 Mar 2023
	<u>Income</u>	
	Town and Community	3,934.41
	Burial Ground TBG	15,655.66
	Burial Ground WBG	47,068.00
	Burial Ground ST LAWRENCE'S	2,218.00
	Allotments - MOORLAND ROAD	396.53
	Town Hall	247,196.69
	Burial Grounds ALL	4.70
	Other Organisations	888.47
	General Admin	405,180.65
	Allotments - PARK LANE	483.00
	Mayors Charity Account Income	6,385.19
	Green Spaces - ALL	60.00
	Visitor Centre	7,200.00
	Restated	-36,668.60
		£700,002.70
	<u>Expense</u>	
	Green Spaces - STATION ROAD	240.00
	Green Spaces - BUTTERFLY GAR	230.00
	Mayors Charity Account Expenditu	12,149.18
	Green Spaces - FOOTPATHS	1,000.00
	Green Spaces - ALL	10,195.33
	Town and Community	94,727.90
	Burial Grounds ALL	38,386.69
	Burial Ground TBG	1,220.32
	Burial Ground WBG	3,016.54
	Allotments - MOORLAND ROAD	360.00
	Allotments - PARK LANE	665.47
	Town Hall	131,021.69
	Bus Hub	18,054.39
	Visitor Centre	27,934.05
	Other Organisations	468.41
	General Admin	439,144.70
	Restated	-21,406.76
		£757,407.91
	<u>General Fund</u>	
	Balance at 01 Apr 2022	336,692.30
	ADD Total Income	700,002.70
		1,036,695.00
	DEDUCT Total Expenditure	757,407.91
		279,287.09
	DEDUCT Reserves Balance	-3,260.90
	Balance at 31 Mar 2023	£282,547.99
<u>£336,692.30</u>		
	Reserves:	
	Earmarked Reserve Balance	£447,783.10

BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Ward	Address	Contact Number	Email Address
Councillor M A Hopkins	Biddulph East	18 Brocks Croft, Biddulph, ST8 6BX	07970 790967	michael.hopkins@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor J T Salt	Biddulph East	50 John Street, Biddulph ST8 6AT	07949 419647	jill.salt@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor K J Jackson	Biddulph East	110 Church Close, Biddulph, ST8 6NA	07886 265663	kevin.jackson@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor C Wood	Biddulph East	60 Lotus Avenue, Knypersley, ST8 6PS	07771 364114	chris.wood@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor C Brady	Biddulph East	199 John Street, ST8 6HP	07446 244432	connor.brady@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor S Rushton	Biddulph East			sylvia.rushton@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor J T Jones	Biddulph Moor	348 New Street, Biddulph Moor, ST8 7NQ	07747 775203	john.jones@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor D J Hawley	Biddulph Moor		07818 457381	dave.hawley@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor J I M Garvey	Biddulph North	394 New Street, Biddulph Moor, ST8 7LR	07702 499279	jim.garvey@biddulph-tc.gov.uk

Councillor A K Harper	Biddulph North	200 Congleton Road, ST8 7SF	01782 861940	ken.harper@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor S Fletcher	Biddulph North	The Mill House, Grange Road, ST8 7RY	01782 512868	sue.fletcher@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor C Kisicki	Biddulph North	1 York Close, Gillow Heath, ST8 6SE	01782 763699	carl.kisicki@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor A C W Parkes	Biddulph North	9 Halls Road, Biddulph, ST8 6DD	07949 561995	adam.parkes@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor A H Hart	Biddulph North	The Granary Woodhouse Farm, Woodhouse Lane, ST8 7RJ	01782 379431	andrew.hart@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor J P Redfern	Biddulph South	141 Park Lane, Knypersley, Biddulph, S-on-Trent	07395 994839	john.redfern@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor A C Lawton	Biddulph South		07484 281286	adrian.lawton@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor N Eardley	Biddulph West	10 Well Lane, Gillow Heath, ST8 6QX	07469 859788	neil.eardley@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor D A Proudlove	Biddulph West	7 Meadowside, Knypersley, ST8 6NP	07713 133257	dave.proudlove@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor C Smith	Biddulph West	81 Park Lane, Knypersley, ST8 7BG	07837 958096	charlotte.smith@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor N R Yates	Biddulph West	2 Chepstow Close, Biddulph, ST8 6UF	07733 076519	nigel.yates@biddulph-tc.gov.uk

Councillor F A Holdsworth	Biddulph West		07928 496861	alan.holdsworth@biddulph-tc.gov.uk
Councillor W Rogers	Biddulph West		01782 519767	wayne.roger@biddulph-tc.gov.uk