



Message from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Joy Allen



“Living in Bishop Auckland and representing this community has been a privilege. I have been fortunate enough to be able to fundraise for two wonderful, hardworking local charities during my back to back terms as Mayor and I hope the money we have raised as a community will help both charities well into the future.

I chose Angel Trust for my 2019-2020 term because they are a well loved Bishop Auckland based charity who do amazing things for the people in our communities, especially those suffering hardships. The team at Angel Trust are some of the most dedicated people I have had the pleasure to work with, and I am pleased that I have been able to raise a total of £4,792.14 for them, of which £498.79 was donated from my Mayor’s allowance. I would like to add a special thank you to Cello Electronics who donated a raffle prize of a TV which helped to raise over £300.00 for the charity.

SSAFA are a charity close to my heart, and I am thrilled that I will still get to work with them as their first Durham Branch local Patron, as I take up the role of Durham Police and Crime Commissioner. Whilst fundraising has been difficult during the Covid-19 pandemic, I have still managed to raise £1,205.09 for their social isolation fund, of which, £205.09 was from my Mayor’s allowance.

It is heart-breaking that the Covid-19 pandemic will have a lasting impact on small businesses and charities across our region, I hope my fundraising donations help these local charities to continue their great work. A special thank you goes to all those who supported my fundraising efforts by attending events and donating prizes. I wish the incoming Mayor the best of luck with their fundraising efforts.”

Looking Back 2019-20

Blooming good success at the Town Council’s 5th Horticultural and Produce Show 2019



The 2019 Horticultural Show saw another impressive year with hundreds of visitors through the doors at the former McIntyre Store in Newgate Street.

Visitors were impressed with beautiful flowers, bumper sized vegetables and stunning floral arrangements, with growers from Bishop Auckland and surrounding areas exhibiting in the show. With forty-one different categories, including everything from chrysanthemums to cauliflowers, exhibitors went head to head for prizes including medals and certificates from the Chrysanthemum and Delilah Societies to which the show is affiliated.

Mayor Joy Allen and Beryl Anderson from Angel Trust at the 2019 Show

Special thanks went to the shows organisers, Trevor Hogg, Joan Hogg, Chris Davidson and Liz Drake, who were delighted to see their hard work pay off having been preparing for a number of months, and to Beryl Anderson from the Enterprise Agency who provided valued assistance with the organisation of the show.

The Mayor of Bishop Auckland Joy Allen praised the show saying: “It was fantastic to see so many vegetable entries, beautiful flowers, children’s entries and home baked goods’ and importantly everyone joining in and having a good time.”

“I am also so very grateful to the exhibitors and members of the public who made generous donations for my chosen charity in aid of The Angel Trust, where a massive £270 was raised!” she added.

It was disappointing not to have held a show in 2020, however we are thrilled to be planning for the 2021 Show which takes place on 25th September 2021. Visit our website for more details.

Bishop Auckland Remembers

Huge crowds gathered in Bishop Auckland Market Place on Remembrance Sunday 2019 to pay tribute to those who had fought and lost their lives in war. The Cenotaph Service at St Anne’s Church in the Market Place is organised annually by Bishop Auckland Town Council in partnership with The Royal British Legion and an estimated 2,000 people attended this year’s Remembrance Service and Parade, led by WO2 MacFarlane from 8th Battalion the Rifles.



Followed by Bishop Auckland Pipes and Drums, 2505 Air Cadets, Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force Cadets, Motivational Preparation College for Training, the Scouts, Guides, veterans and members of the public, the 8th Battalion the Rifles set off from the Newgate Centre and marched to the War Memorial in the Market Place.

The Service at the War Memorial was led by Reverend Matt Keddily, St Anne’s Church. Two minutes’ silence was impeccably held at exactly 11.00am marking the Anniversary of the end of World War One.

Pipes played ‘Abide with me’ as Dr. Robert McManners, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, representing HRH Queen Elizabeth II, laid the first wreath followed by Joy Allen, Mayor of Bishop Auckland who laid a wreath on behalf of the town. A further thirty two wreaths were laid by representatives of the forces, police, fire service and many other organisations and individuals associated with the town.

The Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Councillor Joy Allen, said: “I cannot praise the people of Bishop Auckland enough for the tremendous turn out today which was dignified, poignant and showed that our community has not forgotten the sacrifice made by so many.”

“The Council would also like to say a huge thank you to those behind the scenes who ensure the Act of Remembrance is made possible each year, particularly Ruth Wright from the Royal British Legion, WO2 MacFarlane from the 8th Battalion the Rifles, Rev Matt Keddily and Clergy from St Anne’s Church, members from the 2505 Air Cadets, Mike Donne from SSAFA, Bishop Auckland Police, The Army Cadets – Bishop Auckland, Bishop Auckland Pipes and Drums and the DLI Bishop Auckland Branch.”

The 2019 Bishop Auckland Remembrance service was closed with prayer by Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler.

2021 Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 10th November.

Christmas in Bishop Auckland 2019

Bishop of Durham Paul Butler and the Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Councillor Joy Allen took great pleasure in officially opening the Town Council's Countdown to Christmas Event in the Market Place on Friday 29th November with an estimated 1,500 people flocking to start the festive season.

Bishop Paul Butler blessed the event before Alex Winters from CBeebies hosted a range of performers and entertainment from the stage in the Market Place. Entertainment was provided by Connor Thomas, Innovations, Khalysis and the StarKidz Elves.



Visitors enjoyed delicious food from the Full Moon Street Food Market and attractions that were on offer including, children's rides and a Santa's grotto in St Anne's Church.

The H.O.G. Geordie Chapter helped Santa find his way to the Market Place on the back of a Harley Davidson so he could switch on the Christmas Tree Lights and really get Bishop Auckland into the Christmas spirit.

The evening closed with Innovations on back on stage with Santa to perform a classic Christmas hit!

The Mayor, Joy Allen, said: "It was a great evening with lots going on and I was really pleased to see so many people enjoying themselves, the look on the children's faces when Santa arrived by motorbike was priceless."

The Mayor went on to thank people behind the scenes who made the event possible including, AH Events, St Anne's Church, and Innovations.



Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2019



The 14th annual Bishop Auckland Food Festival attracted around 29,000 people to the town, boosting the takings of local businesses and more than 150 traders from County Durham and beyond.

This year, the Durham County Council event, which is sponsored by Bishop Auckland Town Council, featured more traders than ever before, meaning visitors could devour dishes inspired by international cuisines, along with the finest produce the North-East has to offer. Interactive workshops encouraged people of all ages to discover more about the delicious drinks and foodie treats on sale, while live music and children's entertainment added to the feel-good atmosphere.



Jayden and John Tomlinson were visiting from the local area and dad John said: "It's a great day with so much choice, I've been tempted by the Vietnamese food because I've never had that before and that's what the food festivals all about isn't it – trying something new." Son Jayden added: "It's a lot bigger than it was before and I think that's great because it's going to attract more people to buy more things which is great because the stalls will be making a lot more money than they would have last year."

Hundreds of people enjoyed demonstrations by celebrity chefs and food personalities including BBC MasterChef co-presenter Gregg Wallace who said Bishop Auckland "may be one of the nicest, friendliest places I've been and you have got some cracking food out there" while actress and restaurateur Jennie McAlpine, best known for playing Fiz in Coronation Street said: "these festival are great because its local producers altogether and there is a really lovely sense of community."

Television presenter Angellica Bell shared recipes perfect for getting youngsters excited about cookery, while Stefan Gates captivated families with his explosive experiments inspired by the human digestive system. BBC MasterChef champion Kenny Tutt and Great British Bake Off semi-finalist Briony May Williams completed the line-up and won over festival goers with their mouth-watering creations.

The festival also upped its green credentials this year, with traders encouraged to ditch single-use plastic packaging and Northumbrian Water's tap water bar providing a place for people to fill up reusable bottles.

Cllr Simon Henig, Durham County Council Leader, said: "Bishop Auckland Food Festival has really put our county on the culinary map and shines a light on the brilliant producers we have here. It also attracts thousands

of people into Bishop Auckland, which boosts the local economy and helps to promote the other fantastic attractions in the area.

Cllr Dave Fleming, Mayor of Bishop Auckland, said: "This is a fantastic event that I look forward to every year. It just gets better and better. Bishop Auckland Town Council is proud to continue to sponsor the event, which brings tens of thousands of people to our lovely town and does so much to help the local economy, not just for the weekend, but also with return visits. I've spoken to so many people who say they will come back to Bishop Auckland to explore more of what's on offer.



Sadly the 2020 festival was cancelled, however the 2021 festival will take place on the 2nd and 3rd October 2021.

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Supporting Our Communities 2019-20

Bishop Auckland Town Council allocates £5,000 each year to support local organisation working for the benefit of Bishop Auckland residents. Community groups and local charities can apply for grants of up to £500. Applications are considered twice a year. Firstly, in June and then again in December.

Grants are limited and are made available to organisations that can demonstrate a need for assistance. Grants cannot be awarded to Individuals, commercial businesses, political organisations or for the promotion of religious activities.

The following are just some of the community groups that have received grants during 2019/20 financial year showing the variety of projects that can be assisted.



Mayor presents Community Fund Grant to the Angel Trust

The Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Councillor Joy Allen presented a cheque for £500 to the Angel Trust on Friday 10th May 2019.

This grant was awarded from Bishop Auckland Town Council's Community Fund, to help towards the renovations of the new Angel Trust Headquarters in Kingsway, Bishop Auckland.



Bishop Auckland Bowling Club

A grant of £500 has been awarded to Bishop Auckland Bowling Club from the Town Council's Community Fund. The Mayor, Councillor Joy Allen presented the grant to the club on Monday 24th June 2019 and will be used towards the purchase of a new lawnmower and leaf blower to maintain the bowling green.



Bishop United CIC awarded Community Fund grant

Bishop United CIC has been awarded a grant of £499 from the Town Council's Community Fund which has been used to purchase PA system for the Radio Play Project. The Mayor, Councillor Joy Allen presented the grant to the on Tuesday 25th February 202



2025 Bishop Auckland Squadron

A grant of £500 has been awarded to 2505 Bishop Auckland ATC Squadron from Bishop Auckland Town Council's Community Fund. The Mayor, Councillor Joy Allen presented the grant to the club on Thursday 31st October 2019 and has been used towards their Great Three Bridges Adventure project.

A year in pictures

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Joy Allen, attended numerous engagements during 2019-20 to celebrate and support local people and promote Bishop Auckland. These are just a few



Coffee Morning with the Mayor



Celebrating Art in Care - Bishopsgate Lodge Care Home



100th Birthday Celebration



104th Birthday Celebration



Celebrating Art in Care - Eden House Care Home



A 26 mile sponsored Walk for Angel Trust and Prostate Cancer UK



Bishop Auckland recognised as WorldHost Destination



Mayor's Curry & Quiz Night



Opening of 'House of Smudge'



Mayor signs The Armed Forces Covenant

Town Council's Aspirations and Forward Plan

The Town Council has recently adopted a number of aspirations for the town. These are described below and reflect comments made during consultation on the parish plan.

They are intentionally bold statements. They describe what local people have told us what they want Bishop Auckland to become, and we as a Town Council agree.

We acknowledge that we cannot achieve these aspirations in isolation. We will therefore work with relevant organisations and local groups toward a future that they describe. The aspirations are aligned to Durham County Council's key vision and priorities which should make it easier to co-ordinate activities and our efforts.

The parish plan and the Council's action plan is available in full on our website -

<http://bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk/council/parish-plan/>

A WEALTHIER BISHOP AUCKLAND

A vibrant and thriving town that provides opportunities for businesses, training and employment. A place where people realise and maximise their potential.

- W1. Regeneration of the Town Centre
- W2. To promote the availability and accessibility of apprenticeships and training for local people
- W3. To influence development within Bishop Auckland
- W4. To influence decisions over transport and parking

GREENER

A clean and attractive place to live, work and visit. A place that makes the most of its natural environment and built heritage.

- G1. Tackle issues of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping
- G2. Protect green areas in the town
- G3. Enhance environment, green spaces, flowerbeds etc
- G4. Protect the environment from damage to air quality caused by traffic congestion

A HEALTHIER BISHOP AUCKLAND

A place where people make healthy choices, live long and happy lives.

- H1 Support and promote healthy lifestyles, healthy eating and exercise
- H2. Improve social wellbeing, sense of belonging and social inclusion
- H3. Improve health provision

A SAFER BISHOP AUCKLAND

A safe place to live, work and visit.

- S1 Support social inclusion and diversity
- S2. Support Neighbourhood Policing
- S3. Reduce crime / anti-social behaviour

A BETTER FOR BISHOP AUCKLAND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A place where children and young people realise and maximise their potential, make healthy choices and have the best start in life.

- CYP1. Support development of young people
- CYP2. Tackle child poverty and disadvantage

OVERARCHING

- O1. Enhance democratic representation

New Town Council Premises



Bishop Auckland Town Council has realised long term goal of purchasing its own offices.

The Town Council had rented an office in the Four Clocks Centre on Newgate Street since it was established in 2007. Over the past few years the Council has been looking to purchase its own building rather than renting as this would be more cost effective. In October 2015, following publication of its intentions in the Bishop Press, it agreed a maximum budget of £350,000 for the purchase and renovation of a suitable building or to build new premises if suitable land could be acquired.

Suitable premises were identified in 2019-20 have now been identified and the Council took ownership in early 2020. Due to the pandemic there has been delays with building work, however the Council looks forward to welcoming residents to the new premises soon.

'Use our Loos' Bishop Auckland Community Toilet Scheme



Residents and visitors to Bishop Auckland will find it more convenient to use facilities in the town in future with the roll out of the Bishop Auckland Community Toilet Scheme.

Seven local businesses have signed up to the partnership to increase the availability of clean, safe, free and accessible facilities for use during normal opening hours without the need to make a purchase. Several of the participating premises offer wheelchair access and baby changing facilities too.

This is a great example of the Town Council working in partnership with Durham County Council and local businesses to provide a simple solution to a lack of available public facilities.

Businesses in the scheme will benefit through more people visiting their premises, showing they are community-minded and that Bishop Auckland is a modern shopping destination that truly welcomes visitors.

Four Clocks Centre, Newgate Street

Newgate Shopping Centre

Zair's Café, Fore Bondgate

Town Hall, Market Place

Fifteas Vintage Tearooms, Market Place

No 42, Market Place

Free Wi-Fi in Bishop Auckland

The Free Wi-Fi will is now available in the town centre.

A partnership project between Durham County Council, the Town Council and the Town Team will see free public WiFi availability in the Market Place, Fore Bondgate and Newgate Street.

This is part of the regeneration of the town centre. Recent research shows that the public now expect free WiFi provision in retail centres.

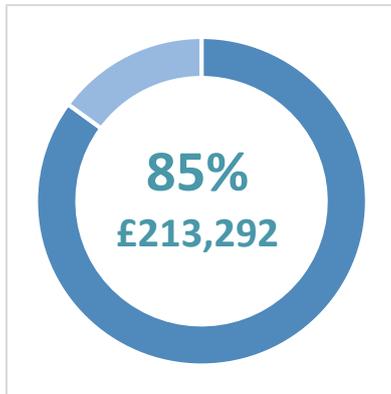
The public are also likely to stay longer and spend more money, in a town centre that offers free wi-fi.

The system provides an open Guest WiFi solution for use by the general public whilst visiting Bishop Auckland. Reporting tools also help to build a visual image of what happens on a day to day basis in Bishop Auckland. How many people are using the Wi-Fi in real time, how many visited over a set period and where users give permission, breakdown of gender and age as well as how far they travelled to get here can be recorded. This will provide useful information when marketing business opportunities to investors and developers. It will also help measure the success of our events so we can more effectively plan and manage future events.



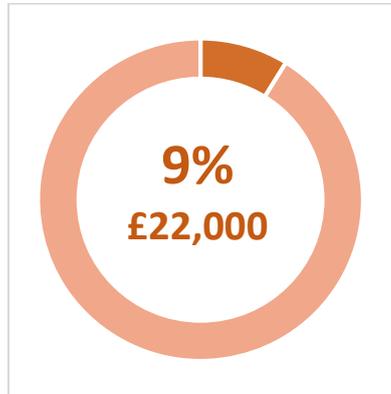
Total Budget 2019/20

£249,877

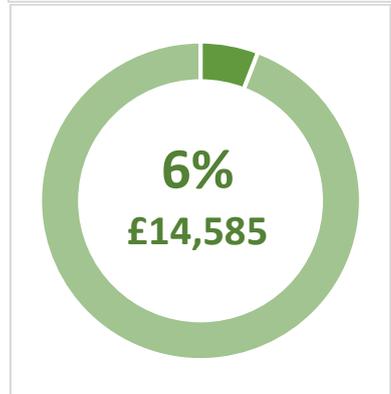


of the budget comes from Council Tax.

The Town Council does not receive any proportion of business rates



of the budget comes from fees and services



of which comes from grants, including Localisation of Council Tax Grant which is passed down from the Government by Durham County Council

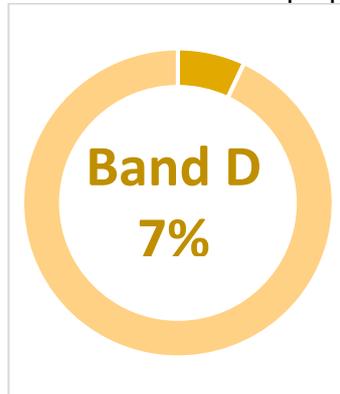
Town Council Council Tax

There are eight council tax bands which range from

Band A - Properties valued at below £40,000 on 1st April 1991, to

Band H - properties valued above £320,000 on 1st April 1991.

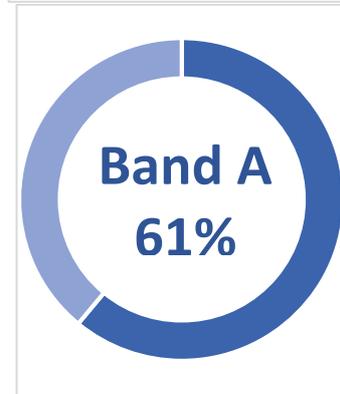
Council Tax is usually quoted at **Band D** so that comparisons can be made with other councils. However, this does not give the full picture as the majority of people within our area live in Band A properties



Only 7% of council tax payers in the Town Council area live in Band D properties.

These households will pay

£51.20 per year **99p** per week



61% of council tax payers in the Town Council area live in Band A properties.

These households will pay

£34.13 per year **66p** per week

Where will the Money be Spent?



Budget 2019/20

| Description | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Expenditure | Budget | Budget |
| Administration | 149,046 | |
| Accommodation | | 18,201 |
| Administration | | 3,660 |
| Fees | | £8,550 |
| Publicity | | £2,000 |
| Staffing Costs | | 125,876 |
| Citizens Advice | | 3,000 |
| Democracy | 13,320 | 11,320 |
| Allotments | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Events | 33,000 | 32,750 |
| Leisure | 5,020 | 5,020 |
| Mayor | | |
| Community Support (Grants) | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Council Plan | | 22,500 |
| Total Expenditure | 217,386 | 249,877 |
| Income | | |
| Income - Allotments | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Income - grants | 2,520 | 2,520 |
| Income - LCTS Grant | 14,095 | 12,065 |
| Income - Rent | | 10,000 |
| Income Mayor | | |
| Income - Interest | | |
| Income - Precept | 190,771 | 213,292 |
| Total Income | 219,386 | 249,877 |

Apply for a Grant

Bishop Auckland Town Council's Community Fund budgets an amount each year which is to be used to support organisations working for the benefit of the people of Bishop Auckland. Applications are considered at the Finance Committee meetings held in June and December.

Visit www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk to download an application form or contact the Town Council on 01388 207110 for more information.

Members Allowances

The Local Authorities Members' Allowances (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to publish details of the actual allowances paid to its elected Councillors for the financial year 2019/20.

| Councillor | Basic Allowance | Mayor's Allowance | Travel Expenses |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Allen, Joy | £440.04 | £403.37 | |
| Blackburn, Jamie | £440.04 | | |
| Brownson, Lee | £440.04 | | |
| Chappell, Leanda | £440.04 | | |
| Cullen, Jack | £440.04 | | |
| Fleming, David. | £440.04 | £36.67 | |
| Wilson, David | £440.04 | | |
| Zair, Adam J. | £440.04 | | |
| Zair, Lesley G. | £440.04 | | |
| Zair, Samuel | £440.04 | | |

Community Grants Awarded 2019/20

A full list of community grants awarded during 2019/20 is detailed below.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Bishop Auckland Bowling Club | £500 |
| Tindale Crescent Homing Society | £500 |
| Angel Trust | £500 |
| 2025 Bishop Auckland ATC Squadron | £500 |
| Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Churches | £150 |
| Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Churches | £500 |
| Bishop Auckland Golf Club | £200 |
| Bishop United CIC | £499 |
| Butterwick Hospice Bishop Auckland | £484 |
| Total | £3,830 |

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Bishop Auckland Town Ward



Councillor Adam J Zair
3 Walcher Gardens
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 7GA



Councillor Sam Zair
3 Walcher Gardens
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 7GA

Henknowle Ward



Councillor Lee Brownson
21 Silver Street
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 7NY



Councillor Katherine Eliot
50 Ennerdale Drive
Crook
Co. Durham
DL15 8NU



Councillor David Fleming
14 Clifford Ave
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 6RZ

BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Kingsway Court
54 Kingsway
Bishop Auckland
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DL14 7JF
TEL 01388 207110
council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk
www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk

Cockton Hill Ward



Councillor Michael Siddel
32 Prescott Way
Bishop Auckland
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DL14 6FL



Councillor Leanda Chappell
17 Dene Hall Drive
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 6UF



Councillor Lesley Zair
3 Walcher Gardens
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 7GA

Woodhouse Ward



Councillor Jamie Blackburn
28 Granville Road
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 6UD



Councillor Harley Balmer-Howieson
55 Murphy Crescent
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 6QH



Councillor David Wilson
28 Proudfoot Drive
Woodhouse Close Estate
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DL14 6NX