



Councillor Adam Zair

A message from the outgoing Mayor, Adam Zair

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Bishop Auckland as the 11th Town Mayor.

Over the last year I've had the great pleasure of meeting many Mayor's from around the area, who have been very kind and supported me in my term of office. It was with great pleasure that I met with the Mayor of Oroso in Spain, and officially welcomed him to our fantastic Town!

There have been many highlights from the year, it has always been an ambition of the Town Council to own its own premises and during my time in office the Council has taken one step further in hopefully securing a property in the Town Centre, the Council needs more space to grow and help serve the community of Bishop Auckland.

A welcome addition to the town is the 8th Battalion the Rifles and I was honoured to be invited to mark the occasion of their new HQ at the Armoury, I was absolutely in awe of a military display by the regiments' Band and Bugles.

It has been a privilege to work with the Air Cadets 2505 (Bishop Auckland), they invited me along to the Newgate Centre for their fundraising coffee morning, and provided valuable assistance at my recent Vintage Car Show.

I feel very lucky that during my time in office the people of Bishop Auckland have been so kind in supporting my charity in aid of The Great North Air Ambulance. Support has also been gratefully received from some very unexpected areas. I was extremely humbled when two Chris Rea tickets were donated as raffle prizes, and I would also like to thank Manchester United for donating a signed football to be auctioned at my Civic Ball which was a great success. Janet Strong and her team at the Town Hall did a fantastic job in preparing the hall, in fact they do a tremendous job all year round.

I would like to thank all of the people who have supported me, in particular my parents, Sam and Lesley and also my Grandfather, Arnold Marley. I would also like to thank Cllr Leanda Chappell for her help and support as well as my employers Electrical Waste Recycling Group, North East Theatre Organ Association, the Parish of St Wilfred's RC Church and John Bailey of Tesco's as well as other local businesses

I am very proud to have raised just over £5,000 for The Great North Air Ambulance, the charity is a much needed service which receives no Government funding so every penny counts!

Councillor Dave Fleming Appointed Mayor for 2018/19

Councillor David Fleming was chosen as the twelfth Mayor of Bishop Auckland at the Town Council Annual Meeting held on 8th May 2018. This is David's second term in office at the Council as he was also the Mayor for 2013-2014. David has been a Town Councillor since 2010 and is a keen golfer and rugby enthusiast who loves to travel with his wife Monica.

In accepting his role as Mayor Councillor Fleming said "It is an honour and a privilege to be chosen as Mayor for Bishop Auckland and I am looking forward to working hard to support the local community at such an exciting time for the Town"

His chosen charity for his term as Mayor will be announced shortly



Cllr Adam Zair congratulates Cllr Dave Fleming on his appointment as Mayor

Supporting our Communities

Bishop Auckland Town Council has allocated up to £5,000 to support local organisations working for the benefit of the residents of Bishop Auckland. Community groups and local charities are invited to apply for grants of up to £500.

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 2017/18 financial year showing the variety of projects that can be assisted. A full list of all donations approved during 2017/18 is detailed on page 11.

Woodhouse Close Food Bank



The Crisis, Welfare and Intervention Project at Woodhouse Community Centre project includes food bank provision and support with utility bills for those suffering crisis and hardship. It relies totally on the generous donations from local people, parishioner and churches in the local area to support the organisation in delivering much needed and valued service in the area.

The project was awarded £2,500 to help the service continue to work to stop hunger and break the cycle of poverty.

2505 Air Cadets



The Mayor with the 2505 Air Cadets

The 2505 (Bishop Auckland) Sqn ATC was awarded £540 to assist with a month long programme of events in April to mark the 100 year centenary of the RAF, including a memorial service at St Anne's Church and raising the RAF Ensign on the Town Hall Balcony. The squadron which consists of thirty cadets and eight adult staff volunteers is based at the Army Reserve Centre in Bishop Auckland also does a fantastic job of supporting the local area, veterans and the public.

Christmas lunch 2017



The Mayor with Father Dennis Tindall

Fellowship of Christian Churches was awarded £150 to provide a Christmas dinner for any person or couple who would otherwise have no company on Christmas Day. Meals were provided free of charge and hosted by friends of Bishop Auckland Methodist Church.

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 609852 for more information.

Youth Awards

Recognising and celebrating the achievements of our town's young people



Mayor Adam Zair with all nominees 2017

Far too often the focus is on negative stories about young people which means that their achievements are sometimes forgotten and overlooked. These awards focus on the good things that young people contribute to Bishop Auckland, which deserve acknowledging and celebrating.

The 2017 Bishop Auckland Town Youth Awards attracted a record number of nominations. All nominees were invited to a presentation evening held at the Town Hall on Monday 26th June, where awards for special achievements were announced.

Hosts for the evening, The Mayor of Bishop Auckland Councillor Adam Zair and Andy Mitchell from Bishop FM told a packed 180 guest audience that the standard and calibre of nominations had been exceptional.

All of the nominees received a certificate and Special Awards were handed out to eight outstanding nominees and one group:

- Inspirational Volunteer – Abi Forster from Bishop Auckland Rugby Club
- Sports Achievement – Niamh Dawson from Spectrum Roller Skating
- Community Champion Award – Georgia Grace Powell Abbott
- Overcoming Adversity – Adam Summerbell, St John's School
- Music & the Arts – Millie Cairns, St John's School
- Outstanding Personal Achievement – Libby Burns, St John's School
- Community Mentor – Ellie Anderson, Bishop Barrington
- School Champion – Jayellen Dixon, Bishop Barrington
- Youth Team of the Year 2017 – Stockton and Darlington Railway Youth Team

Coach of the Year 2017 was shared between Matt Porter and Lee Tinkler who were awarded £500 for their team, Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club.

Arrangements for the 2018 Youth Awards are well underway. The closing date for the nominations has now closed. Nominees and special awards will be announced in June by the Mayor and other Councillors at an awards ceremony to be held in the Town Hall.



Adam Summerbell, Libby Burns and Millie Cairns pictured with the Mayor

Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2018



The Town Council is a major sponsor of the Festival which is worth an estimated £700,000 a year to the local economy, and it is hoped that the event will continue to grow each year.

A staggering twenty-seven thousand foodie fans flocked to the great festival this year making it a huge weekend for two days of fabulous food, live music and inspiring celebrity cookery demonstrations.

The 13th annual Bishop Auckland Food Festival boasted a line-up of top chefs and saw tens of thousands of people descend on the market town, with traders from County Durham and further afield reporting record sales. Nearly 900 people attended the celebrity cookery theatres and more than 300 people attended the array of foodie workshops on offer. The event brings vital income into the region, boosting sales for all of the traders involved as well as for the local businesses in the area

TV chef Phil Vickery was just one of the celebrity chefs cooking up a storm in the festival's Cookery Theatre.

Visitors got the chance to sample food from right across the world as well as products from towns and villages within the county including Weardale Cheese, Harvey's Sausages, Sweet Sally Cinnamon, Auckland Cupcake Company and Beedle's Chippy.

Local shops and cafes within the town also reported an increase in sales during the event.



Bishop Auckland Horticultural and Produce Show



It was another impressive year for the show with over 400 visitors flocking into the Town Hall, while judges praised the high standard of entries during a challenging growing season for many local gardeners.

There were plenty of gorgeous blooms and impressive vegetables to look at with growers from Bishop Auckland and around the area exhibiting in the show. With forty different categories, including everything from chrysanthemums to cauliflowers, there was plenty of scope for competitors to pick up a prize.

Much gratitude was extended to Tam Mayor from Auckland

Project who worked for weeks with different groups, and as a result the children's section was particularly busy with over 40 'garden in a seed tray' entries, photographs, paintings and poems.

Those who helped to organise the show, Trevor Hogg, Joan Hogg, Chris Davidson and Liz Drake were delighted to see their hard work pay off having been preparing for a number of months.

Left over produce was auctioned at the end of the show, and thanks to the generosity of the exhibitors just over £250 was raised for the Mayor's chosen charity the Great North Air Ambulance'

Flowers and Vegetables that were left over were also used in an 'Invention Test' at St Anne's Church as part of the 'Encounters with Hope' themed weekend of prayer at the church.

Calling All Budding Gardeners



Are you interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables, but need more garden space? If so, have you ever considered an allotment?

Allotments provide an excellent opportunity for people to grow their own produce and at the same time get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Produce grown can contribute to a healthy balanced diet. It is also a great social activity.

The Town Council is responsible for 9 allotment sites within the Council's area which come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The size of the plot will determine the amount of rent charged. The standard charge is 50p per square meter, but a 50% discount is applied if over half of the plot is cultivated and maintained.

Anyone wishing to rent an allotment should contact the Town Council (Contact details on page 12)

Woo Woo!

The Mayor officially opened the Woo Woo with Councillor Leanda Chappell, Andrew Walker from the AAP and Liz Drake the Pollards Association Secretary

The Pollards Allotment site are celebrating the arrival of the new Woo Woo! An environmentally friendly composting toilet. The toilet was funded by the Town Council, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP and the F&P Charitable Trust to improve the facilities on site.



Lest we Forget



Pipes, drums and a parade was held for the first time in over 20 years at the 2017 Remembrance Service
Photo courtesy of Chris Percival

As custodians of Remembrance, each year the Royal British Legion calls on the nation to unite in commemorating Remembrance Sunday.

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.

Bishop Auckland Pipes and Drums proudly led the parade into the Market Place, which was the first time a parade had taken place in twenty years. Members of the parade included the Rifles, Cadets, Scouts and a number of veterans.

It was another fantastic turn out by the people of Bishop Auckland who attended in their hundreds to show their respect in honouring those who had lost their lives defending our County and its values. The service also serves as a reminder of the debt we owe to those have served.

The newly appointed Reverend of St Anne's, Matthew Paul Keddily was able to lead the service, and was wished a warm welcome to the town.

Special thanks are extended to everyone involved who made the Act of Remembrance possible, particularly Ruth Wright from the Royal British Legion who organised the parade in such a small amount of time, Kevin Stephens, St Anne's Church, members from the 2505 Air Cadets, Parade Marshall Daniel Barron, Mike Donne from SSAFA, Bishop Auckland Police, The Army Cadets - Bishop Auckland, Bishop Auckland Pipes and Drums, the WI - Bishop Auckland and members of our new 8th Battalion The Rifles

'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 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.



Now Light 1000 Christmas Lights Festival



Bishop Auckland Market Place was turned into a winter wonderland on 1st December when the town celebrated the beginning of advent.

Bishop Auckland Town Council, together with St Anne's Church, The Auckland Project, Advent Windows and the Town Hall, organised the town's celebrations to mark the beginning of the festive period. The weather played its part by supplying snowfall the previous evening making the Market Place look very Christmassy.

The whole event was in danger of being cancelled because of the icy conditions, but Durham

County Council's Green and Clean team came to the rescue doing a fantastic job in clearing the market place.

The event was opened by the Rt Rev Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, who blessed the celebrations and the 1,000 plus strong crowd. Children from local schools led Christmas carols from the stage.

The first of the town's advent windows was unveiled at the Town Hall by the Mayor, Adam Zair. This year Advent Windows in association with the Town Team have obtained funding to hold an advent window project in the town centre. Twenty-four businesses have joined with twenty-four local schools to turn the town centre into a giant living advent calendar. Each day throughout December until Christmas Eve a window is to be unveiled, which has been decorated by a local school on the theme of a Christmas carol or song.

The first window, located in the Town Hall, was decorated by children from Woodhouse Primary School who sung 'Now Light One Thousand Christmas Lights' as their artwork was unveiled.

To coincide with the theme of 1,000 lights St Anne's Church, in conjunction with The Auckland Project had created lantern templates which had been distributed to local schools for them to decorate and bring along to the event.

Santa Claus' sleigh broke down on the way to the event, but the Police Interceptors came to the rescue by delivering him to the Town Hall with blue lights flashing and sirens sounding just in time for him to turn on the Christmas tree lights.

The event also included performances from Belle from 'Beauty and the Beast and Friends' a Santa's grotto, children's fairground rides and street food.

The event worked really well and it was testament to the way the community organisations worked together to make this a lovely festive evening for everyone.

Be a Responsible Dog Owner - Scoop that Poop!

The Town Council works in partnership with Durham County Council to encourage dog owners to act responsibly and clear up after their dogs. We currently issue around 55,000 dog bags a year which are available free of charge from The Four Clocks Centre.

Dog fouling spoils the environment, upsets local residents and visitors and can cause serious health risks particularly to children.

It is an offence if you do not clean up your dog's mess and you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80. If taken to court you could face a maximum fine of £1,000.

It takes very little time and effort to clean up after your dog and it is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions. Always carry a "poop-scoop" when walking your dog, a plastic carrier bag is all you need.



MAYOR 2017/18

A year in pictures

Photos of just a few of the events attended by the Mayor, Councillor Adam Zair, during his year of office.



Seaside Special
Pictures with Graeme Scarlett



Retailers help with raising funds for GNAA



Presentation at Bowls Club



Horticulture and Produce Show 2017
'Allotmenters'



Cheque presentation to Memory Club



Opening of first advent window
Woodhouse Close School pictured



Classic Car Show



Bishop Auckland gains World Host
Status



Valentines Ball



Cheque presentation to GNAA

Plans for the Future

The Council has identified a number of issues which are of concern to local people based on research and consultation. Regeneration of the town centre remains a key priority for the Town Council. We are working with partner organisations and various groups to influence and co-ordinate regeneration activity. More detail on this is given on the next page.

A number of other key issues were raised during consultation. These were in the broad areas of Social Issue, Environment and Transport, Education, Training and Employment, Natural Heritage and Urban Design, Health and Leisure. Other areas of concern are democratic representation and social inclusion and diversity. Not all areas of Bishop Auckland are included in the Town Council's area and therefore further work is required to identify how these areas can be represented. Social inclusion and diversity came through very strongly as an issue that was of concern among people. Again further work is required to ensure that all people living in our area are valued and diversity is celebrated.

Most of the issues raised are not within the direct responsibilities of the Town Council and therefore we will need to work with partner organisations to address these. The Council will be reviewing its priorities over the coming months and in consultation with various partners will develop a plan tackle the issues. Further engagement will take place on this in due course.

New Town Council Premises

Bishop Auckland Town Council is close to realising a long term goal of purchasing its own offices.

The Town Council has 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 have now been identified in Bishop Auckland town centre which would cost around £220,000 taking into account a degree of building work that would be required. The exact location or identity of the premises cannot be disclosed at this time due to commercial sensitivity, but the building is ideal for the Council's needs and would meet its current and long term requirements. The premises would also provide income from renting out surplus office accommodation.

Purchase of these premises could be accommodated within the Council's existing budgets and given the potential for rental income could be accommodated within its current accommodation budget.

New Town Council Website



The Town Council is to launch a new updated version of its website to promote the town and its events and link people with community groups

Residents will soon be able to find out more of the information they need from a new and improved website for the Town Council. The site has been designed around giving residents easy access to all the information about the town and the council whenever they need it.

A few of the new features on this website include:

- Local events and clubs feeds from Bishop FM and Bishop Auckland Town Hall with guides about what events and local groups are on in Bishop Auckland
- Live news feeds from the Northern Echo, with live feeds from Bishop Press planned in the future
- A visit Bishop Auckland page with a guide to what visitors can expect when they visit the town, including Kynren, The Auckland Project and the Food Festival
- A link will also be provided to a new Town Team website which is being renewed as part of the same project.

All of the information about the Town Council will continue to be available on the new website, including details of meetings, finance, policies and such.

We welcome any feedback on the new site when it is launched and hope provides useful information for our communities.

Town Centre Regeneration

The Town Council identified regeneration of the town centre as a priority soon after it was established in 2007. Like many other towns Bishop Auckland has suffered in the recent recession and changes in our shopping patterns. The Town Council is working with partners, including The Auckland Project, Durham County Council and Kynren, to help influence and co-ordinate regeneration activities. Key groups are set out below.

Bishop Auckland Town Team

The Town Council was a founding partner of the Town Team and continues to be an invaluable and active member of this important partnership, key aims are to create a vibrant, attractive and thriving town centre.

The Town Team is an open group of local people, businesses, public sector bodies and other interested parties with the objective of working in partnership to regenerate our town.



Anyone with an interest in improving the town centre can attend meetings and become a member of the Town Team. Further details can be found on the Town Teams website www.bishopaucklandtownteam.org

Brighter Bishop Auckland

The partnership comprises statutory, voluntary and community agencies namely Durham County Council, Auckland Castle Trust, Eleven Arches, South Durham Enterprise Agency, Bishop Auckland College, Bishop Auckland Town Council and Historic England.

The new body is chaired by the Bishop of Durham The Rt Reverend Paul Butler.

The aim of the partnership is to bring about and co-ordinate development in the heart of Bishop Auckland with a view to improving its economic performance, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of its heritage, and social and spiritual life.

The new body is to produce a masterplan for the town centre which will be based on the following vision:

"An ambitious, long term strategic framework for the town centre based on a deliverable masterplan which balances the needs of residents, businesses, visitors and investors alike, to enable the town and its community to capitalise on the opportunity presented by current and emerging developments."

The first phase of consultation was undertaken at the end of 2017. Further consultation is planned in the coming months.

Heritage Action Zone

Bishop Auckland's Heritage Action Zone has been established to revitalise our historic market town and to help regenerate it as a vibrant place for locals, businesses and visitors. It will build on major investment at Auckland Castle which is transforming the traditional home of the Durham Prince Bishops into an international faith, art and heritage destination.

The town will undergo a 5 year programme that aims to reinvigorate the market place and high streets plus other parts of the conservation area, including Auckland Castle and its park.

Working in partnership with Durham County Council, the Brighter Bishop Auckland Regeneration Partnership and local people through an advisory group, it aims to strengthen the town's economic, social and cultural regeneration through grants, specialist support, community events and other activity.

The Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone will:

- **Tackle heritage at risk** and look at buildings that have suffered from years of vacancy and retail decline.
- **Carry out historic building assessments** to help understand and record the condition of key buildings
- **Deliver conservation and regeneration** projects focusing on urgent repairs.

Other projects are planned to rejuvenate public spaces and help to bring empty floor space back in to use.

The partnership will work together to offer opportunities to develop heritage skills training and Heritage Schools resources, alongside projects involving local people to promote and interpret the area's rich history and architectural legacy.

Financial Summary

Council Tax 2017/18

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Cost Per Year	£30.85	£36.00	£41.14	£46.28	£56.57	£66.85	£77.14	£92.56
Cost per Month	£2.57	£3.00	£3.43	£3.86	£4.71	£5.57	£6.43	£7.71
Properties in each band*	4845	923	1233	529	235	38	28	7
(* as at Oct 2015)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H

Budget 2017/18 – 2018/19

Service	Budget 2017/18	Actual 2017/18	Budget 2018/19
Where the money comes from			
Council Tax Payers	168,539	168,539	190,771
Local Council Tax Support Grant	13,746	13,746	14,095
Allotment Rent	15,000	21,012	12,000
Other Income		14,130	2,520
	197,285	217,427	219,386
Where the money goes			
Accommodation (including utilities)	8,805	8,803	9,000
Admin	4,000	3,416	4,500
Allotments (Self financing)	15,000	34,955	12,000
Capital Programme (Office Building)	8,218	1,125	3,256
Citizens Advice		2,000	3,000
Civic & Approved Duties	1,000	733	1,000
Community Fund / Donation	5,000	4,518	5,000
Community Toilet Scheme	1,080	2,160	2,520
Council Elections	4,000	12,078	4,000
Floral Displays	2,000	0	2,000
Members' Allowances	6,000	5,280	6,000
Membership/Training	2,500	2,900	3,000
Parish Plan	0	45	0
Parish Plan (Delivery Fund)	9,000	0	29,610
Professional Fees			5,000
Salaries, Superannuation, NI	86,648	83,781	90,000
School Council	2,000	0	2,000
Skatepark lighting bills	500	104	500
Website / Publicity	2,000	0	2,000
Women's Vote Centenary	0	1,000	0
Events			
Horticultural Show	3,500	2,436	3,500
Christmas	6,000	6,154	8,000
Food Festival	10,000	10,000	10,000
Music Festival (Wannasee)	2,864	2,864	0
Remembrance Day Ceremony	750	657	1,000
Summertime Activities			2,000
Youth Awards	5,000	1,408	5,000
Velo 29	5,000		0
Contingency Events	7,500	1,967	5,500
TOTAL SPEND	198,365	188,384	219,386

Councillors Allowances Claimed

In accordance with the Local Authorities (England) Regulations 2003 actual allowances paid to Councillors for the 2017/18 financial year are:-

Councillor	Basic Allowance	Mayor's Allowance	Travel Expenses
Anderson, Alan*	£36.67		
Allen, Joy	£403.37		
Blackburn, Jamie	£440.04		
Brownson, Lee	£440.04		
Chappell, Leanda	£403.37		
Cullen, Jack	£403.37		
Fleming, David A.	£440.04		
Golightly, Ann*	£36.67	£36.67	
Lethbridge, John*	£36.67		
Race, Colin*	£36.67		
Tucker, Tanya	£403.37		
Wilson, David	£440.04		
Zair, Adam J.	£440.04	£403.37	
Zair, Lesley G.	£440.04		
Zair, Samuel	£440.04		

* Former members Term ended May 2017

Community Grant Awarded 2017/18

The following Community Grants were awarded during 2017/18.

Christmas Day Dinner	£150.00
Four Clocks Club (BATC)	£100.00
Memory Club (BATC)	£258.93
Time for Toddlers (BATC)	£400.00
Bishop Auckland Remembrance Garden	£240.00
Bishop Auckland Sports Bar F.C.	£100.00
Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club	£500.00
Cockton Hill Bowls Club	£301.84
Durham Miners Gala Association	£45.00
Holocaust Memorial Day	£200.00
Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC)	£540.00
South Church Allotment Association	£165.00
Woodhouse Community Centre - Crisis and Welfare Intervention Project	£2,500.00
Total	£5,500.77

TOWN COUNCILLORS

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BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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