



Message from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Katie Eliot



*"Representing this community as Mayor for 2021-22 has been a privilege. I have enjoyed every moment and opportunity that the role has given me. It has been fantastic to meet so many people from across the town, region and even internationally.*

*Welcoming HM Queen of Spain, and HRH Prince Charles to the Town are memories I will treasure forever. I am confident that Bishop Auckland will again be a thriving town, as the commitment and passion of local people shines through.*

*I hope my fundraising donations helps those on the frailty ward at Bishop Auckland Hospital have a more comfortable stay. I am thrilled to have raised over £3,000.63. A special thank you goes to all those who supported my fundraising efforts by attending events and donating prizes, including some wonderful businesses in Bishop Auckland. The final fundraising event hosted at Bishop Auckland College was wonderful, the staff and students were a real credit to the town.*

*I wish the incoming Mayor the best of luck."*



Left to Right: Mayor Louise Mather, Shildon Town Council, Mayor Harry Trueman, Sunderland City Council, Mayor Pat Hay, South Tyneside, Stacey Stoker Bishop Auckland College, Mayor Katie Eliot, Bishop Auckland Town Council, Judith Layfield Vice Principle Bishop Auckland College, Cllr, Watt

## Looking Back 2021-22



### Local Heritage Recognised

In May 2021, her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowdon, in the presence of a small number of invited guests including the Mayor of Bishop Auckland, unveiled a Blue Heritage plaque at Sam Zair's Cafe on Fore Bondgate.

Paganini's most iconic and recognisable piece is the fast and furious Caprice 24 – when heard you immediately associate it with the Melvin Braggs South Bank Show. The piece was digitised and remixed by Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber and his brother Julian and remained the theme tune for over 10 years.

### Blooming success in Bishop Auckland

On Saturday (25<sup>th</sup> September) Bishop was a blooming with an array of bright chrysanthemums, dahlias and vegetables, as the Bishop Auckland Town Council Horticulture and Town Show, return for its 6<sup>th</sup> year after having to be cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The show was held in a new venue, No.42 Market Place.

The Show had over 40 classes, which brought together exhibitors, young and old to showcase a range of disciplines from growing champion flowers, to giant leeks, onions, carrots, to children's craft classes, flora art to jams, pies and cakes. The quality of exhibits was again very high with chrysanthemums and dahlias being judges to national standards.

Councillor Katie Eliot, Mayor of Bishop Auckland, paid tribute to everyone that had contributed to this the first Town Council community event since the pandemic, by saying *"It was wonderful that we were able to host the show again this year as it was such a miss in town last year. I am very grateful for all the hard work and partnership working which goes on for months in the background to make this excellent show. It was great to see all of the fantastic entries across all 43 classes. It was so nice to enable people to take part and it was wonderful how people came together to celebrate the achievement and talent of their peers."*



Kids Corner classes included Mr Potato Head and Friends, Wonky veg, Decorated Biscuit, garden collage picture, and make a flower out of recycled materials. All classes had exceptional entries, with additional awards going to the Wallace Gang, who help on their Dads allotment for their gigantic pumpkin, and Etherley Lane Primary school for their fantastic recycled flowers, and garden collage log!





## Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2021 & 2022



Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2022

Thousands of people attended the 2021 & 2022 Bishop Auckland Food Festival as it returned following the Coronavirus pandemic. Two festivals within six months saw thousands trying tasty dishes, taking part in workshops, and watching exciting entertainment in the town. The Town Council are a proud sponsor of this event.

Cooking enthusiasts got to watch a variety of top TV chefs and bakers demonstrate their skills in the outdoor cookery theatre, which was hosted by TV presenter Chris Bavin.

The 2021 cookery line up included MasterChef's John Torode, Great British Bake Off star Briony Williams, world-class chocolatier Paul A Young, contestants from this year's MasterChef Tom Rhodes and Mike Bartley, as well as Epivegan Brett Cobley and TV presenter and chef Joe Hurd.

The cookery line up 2022 included TV chef and presenter John Whaite; Great British Bake Off favourites Crystelle Pereira, Karen Wright and Chigs Parmar; Matt Pritchard, also known as Dirty Vegan; MasterChef The Professional's finalist Philli Armitage-Mattin; and Bishop Auckland's own celebrity chef and MasterChef contestant Mike Bartley. Some visitors also got to experience the luxury of fine dining with a special



DCC Cllr E Scott, Bishop of Durham, The Mayor & DCC Vice Chairman  
Cllr B Bainbridge & Consort 2021



event hosted by Mike, who provided a gourmet four-course evening menu at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, created from local ingredients.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, Durham County Council’s Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said:



Mike Bartley, Master Chef finalist

“It’s been great to see so many people turn up and enjoy all the stalls, demonstrations, workshops and entertainment while also supporting hundreds of local traders and businesses within the town. This festival is responsible for a significant economic boost for businesses, which has been even more vital this year following the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Events like Bishop Auckland Food Festival are also a key part of County Durham’s bid to be UK City of Culture

2025, as they demonstrate the power of culture to bring people together and enhance the vibrancy of our communities.



Town Clerk & Assistant Town Clerk 2022

The 2022 food festival saw the Town Council have a stand to engage with the public to promote the services provided and work we do.



The Mayor & DCC Chairman 2022



Visitors enjoying the food



John Torode October 2021

## Bishop Auckland Remembers

Huge crowds gathered in Bishop Auckland Market Place on Remembrance Sunday 2021 to pay tribute to those who had fought and lost their lives in war. The War Memorial 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 Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force Cadets, 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.



Remembrance Sunday 2021



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



Dr. Robert McManners, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mayor Katie Eliot, MP Davison, Cllr A Jackson, PCC Joy Allen assembled ready to pay their respects.

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

### **2022 Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

## **Christmas Town 2021**



The Town Council partnered with Bridge Creative and Baccanalia to host a weekend of Christmas Activity. However, Storm Arwen did dampen the spirits a little as the Christmas Light Switch on and Ice-rink had to be cancelled, however Santa's Grotto, Christmas Market, comedy events, Wreath Making and Children's Magic show all went ahead.

With some reorganisation the Christmas tree was lit on the Sunday instead.

Over 800 children were able to access the free Santa, plus more than 60 disadvantaged families were able to access free event tickets, and more than 10 young people with learning difficulties gained credited work experience over the weekend.



### **Mayor @Home**

The Mayor Katie Eliot hosted her first event, where she introduced her chosen charity, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity – the Frailty Ward at Bishop Auckland Hospital.

The event hosted at Fiteas Vintage Tearoom brought together 30 Mayors and Consorts, plus Prof. Paul Keane, Chair of the County Durham Foundation Trust Charity came along to speak about charity and what difference the Mayors Fundraising could make.

## Spanish Art Gallery gets double Royal Opening

The UK's first gallery dedicated to the art of the Spanish Golden Age received the Royal seal of approval on Tuesday, 5 April, 2022 as Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain, accompanied by HRH The Prince of Wales, officially opened the Spanish Gallery in Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

A civic delegation including HM Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowdown, the High Sheriff for County Durham Shona Harper Wilkes, Chair of Durham County Council (DCC), Cllr Watts Sterling, Chief Executive DCC, John Hewitt and the Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Katie Eliot were all in attendance to welcome the Royal guests, who then unveiled a commemorative plaque to officially open the venue.



The Mayor & Civic Delegation meeting HM Queen Letizia of Spain & HRH The Prince of Wales

After signing the guest book, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were presented with specially produced leather-bound Spanish Gallery catalogues by Otheay Wilson, aged 8, and Kadie Searle, 11 – both from St Wilfred's RCVA Primary School and their Deputy Head Teacher, Brigit Kinsey.



The Queen of Spain and The Prince of Wales then left the Gallery and were greeted by around 250 local schoolchildren and people from local business in the town who had gathered to give them a warm farewell, cheering and waving British and Spanish flags.



HM the Queen of Spain & HRH The Prince of Wales meeting well wishers

## Supporting the Community

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.





King James WI Knitted Christmas Tree

**Knitted Christmas Tree** - The Council supported King James WI with funds to procure wool and materials to create a knitted Christmas tree. The squares of the Tree would then be sewn together to form blankets for veterans.

**Clock repairs** - The Council have supported Bishop Auckland Community Partnership with getting a new control unit for the clock, at the Four Clocks Centre.

**Van repairs** – The Council helped Woodhouse Close Community Centre with some van repairs to keep the vehicle on the road to ensure vital supplies get to the food bank.

**Activities** – the Council supported the local Girls Friendly Society with some funds to provide activities for the young women as part of their coronavirus recovery project.

The town council also have made donations and sought donations to support other projects such as:



Example of the holiday lunch

### Support for School Holiday Meals

In Early 2021 the Town Council pledged £2,000 to provide meals for children during the school holidays to help tackle hunger. The first part of this project took place during the Easter Half Term and the second project took place in May Half Term 2021.

The project saw over 800 children supported with meals and activity packs.



Cllr M Siddle, Cllr L Zair Deputy Mayor Blackburn and Cllr S Zair at the launch of the donation appeal

### Town Council appeal for personal care and non-prescription items for refugees

Bishop Auckland Town Council appealed for donations of non-prescription medication for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. The ongoing situation the Ukraine continues to cause great concern. Town Councillors are in support of helping those fleeing the devastation and are appealing for donations of non-prescription medication, personal hygiene and baby products. These donations will be used to support refugees.

## Plans for the future

### Town Council's Aspirations and Forward Plan

The Town Council has adopted a number of aspirations for the town. These are described below and reflect comments made during consultation on the parish plan. The parish plan and the Council's action plan is available in full on our website - <http://bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk/council/parish-plan/>

However, we acknowledge that we cannot achieve these aspirations in isolation, and we need to review that they along with associated action plans are updated to reflect the many changes which the town has seen over the recent years, as well as the inward investment which is coming from the Future High Streets Fund and Stronger Towns Fund.

Therefore, we will be looking to review and update the parish plan in 2022. However, the themes of the plan as the currently stand are:

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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 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



## Free Wi-Fi in Bishop Auckland

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

A partnership project between Durham County Council, the Town Council and the Town Team sees free public Wi-Fi availability in the Market Place, Fore Bondgate and Newgate Street.



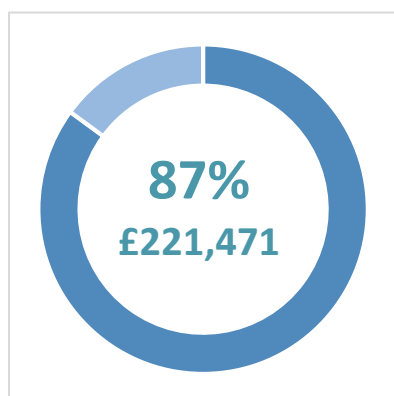
This is part of the regeneration of the town centre. Recent research shows that the public now expect free Wi-Fi provision in retail centres.

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 Wi-Fi 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.

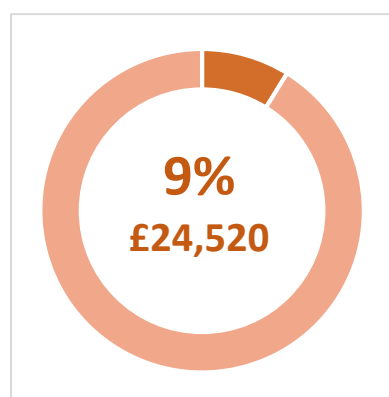
## Financial Summary

### Total Budget 2020-21 £254,880



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

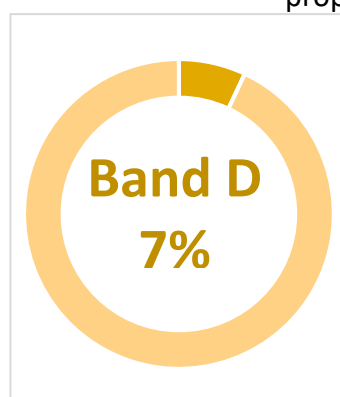
### Town Council Council Tax

There are eight council tax bands which range from

**Band A** - Properties valued at below £40,000 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1991, to

**Band H** - properties valued above £320,000 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1991.

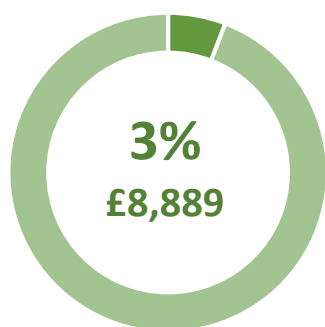
Council Tax is usually quoted at **Band D** so that comparisons can be made with other councils. However, this does not give the full picture as the majority of people within our area live in Band A properties



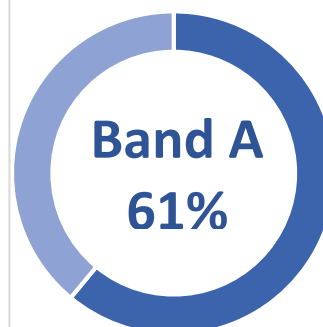
Only 7% of council tax  
payers in the Town  
Council area live in  
Band D properties.

These households will  
pay

**£52.10**  
per year



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

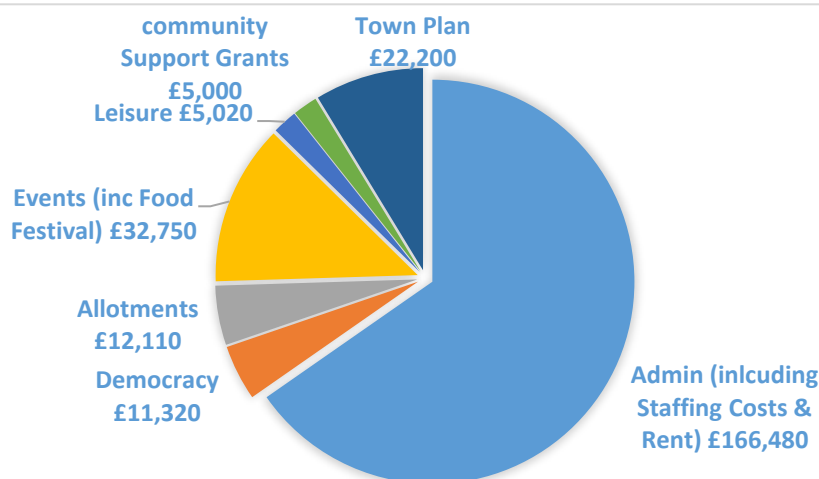


61% of council tax payers in the Town Council area live in Band A properties.

These households will pay

**£34.13** **66p**  
per year per week

### Where was the Money be Spent 2020-21



### Budget 2020/21

Description	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Administration		
Accommodation	18,201	18,599
Administration	3,660	5,560
Fees	£8,550	8,560
Publicity	£2,000	2,000
Staffing Costs	125,876	128,661
Citizens Advice	3,000	3,000
Democracy	11,320	11,320
Allotments	12,000	12,110
Events	32,750	32,750
Leisure	5,020	5,020
Mayor		
Community Support (Grants)	5,000	5,000
Council Plan	22,500	22,500
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>249,877</b>	<b>254,880</b>

### 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 2020/21.

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



<b>Income 2020-21</b>		
Income - Allotments	12,000	12,000
Income - grants	2,520	2,520
Income - LCTS Grant	12,065	8,889
Income - Rent	10,000	10,000
Income Mayor		
Income - Interest		
Income - Precept	213,292	221, 471
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>249,877</b>	<b>254,880</b>

### 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](http://www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk) to download an application form or contact the Town Council on 01388 207110 for more information.

### Community Grants Awarded 2020/21

A full list of community grants awarded during 2020/21 is detailed below.

Prince Bishop Community Broadcasting (Bishop FM)	£500.00
Woodhouse Close Community Centre Foodbank	£299.99
Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway	£50.00
King James Women's Institute	£244.73
Bishop Auckland Music Society (BAMS)	£400.00
Woodhouse Close Community Centre Foodbank	£99.00
Auckland Youth & Community Centre Ltd.	£900.00
Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	£300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,793.72</b>

## Town Councillors

Cockton Hill Ward		Woodhouse Ward	
	<b>Councillor Michael Siddle</b> 32 Prescott Way Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 6FL		<b>Councillor Jamie Blackburn</b> 28 Granville Road Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 6UD
	<b>Councillor Leanda Chappell</b> 17 Dene Hall Drive Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 6UF		<b>Councillor Harley Balmer-Howieson</b> 55 Murphy Crescent Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 6QH
	<b>Councillor Lesley Zair</b> 3 Walcher Gardens Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 7GA		<b>Councillor David Wilson</b> 28 Proudfoot Drive Woodhouse Close Estate Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 6NX
Henknowle Ward		Town Ward	
	<b>Councillor Katherine Eliot</b> 50 Ennerdale Drive Crook Co. Durham DL15 8NU		<b>Councillor Adam J Zair</b> 3 Walcher Gardens Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 7GA
	<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Councillor Sam Zair</b> 3 Walcher Gardens Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 7GA
	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL</b> Kingsway Court 54 Kingsway Bishop Auckland Co Durham DL14 7JF TEL: 01388 207110 <a href="mailto:council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk">council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk">www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk</a>	