

Lichfield City Council

Donegal House, Bore Street, Lichfield, WS13 6LU



Annual Report 2018-19

To Annual Town Meeting
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ANNUAL REPORT – OVERVIEW

2018/19 was another full year for the City Council. As detailed in this report, a number of notable projects were undertaken, together with a full civic diary incorporating the City's traditional events, alongside the more general operations of the council such as acting as a consultee on all planning applications submitted within the City boundary.

The Guildhall continued to be a very popular venue for weddings, wedding receptions and concerts as well as for our many regular commercial hirers. The Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum enjoyed its most successful year in terms of visitor numbers and also featured on BBC TV's 'Walks of Life' programme. Nick Burton, the City Council's Open Spaces Officer, played a pivotal role once again in the 'Bloom' competition that resulted in 'gold' for Lichfield and was covered as part of BBC TV's 'Britain in Bloom' series. On a more sombre note, the City Council commemorated the centenary of the Armistice that ended World War One with a moving ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot.

The City Council allocated some of its first Community Infrastructure Levy payment to the procurement of new signage for the City Centre in partnership with Lichfield District Council; further CIL allocations will be made during 2019/20. The City Council also provided more than £27,000 of grants to local good causes during its annual grants programme.

With 28 councillors and just 14 full-time equivalent staff, the City Council is the smallest of the three local authorities serving the City area. The budget set by Council for the 2019/20 financial year is based on a precept of £63.00 for a Band D property and totals £757,180.

Residents are welcome to attend the Council meetings. Dates of meetings, contact details for City councillors and much more information about the Council and the City are available on our website at www.lichfield.gov.uk.



*Cllr Mark Warfield
Council Leader*



*Cllr Deborah Baker
Mayor*



*Tony Briggs
Town Clerk*

ANNUAL REPORT – 2018-2019

OPEN SPACES

The Council looks after 76 acres of public open space, 4 miles of footpaths, 12 acres of allotments, 17 bus shelters and 120 footway lights. A major focus is to ensure LCC owned and managed footpaths, churchyards and open spaces are as secure as possible for users and to avoid damage to property. The City Council has a Service Agreement with Lichfield District Services to undertake most of the routine grounds maintenance on City Council land.

The long wet March of 2018 was followed by a warm early summer that served as a prelude to one of the hottest summers on record. The wet start to the year created a lot of tree and verge plant growth early in the season with several hedges and trees needing to be cut back, including those near the entrance to Christchurch.

The exceptional weather over the summer put some stress on the trees, with branches down in several areas and also turned the grass brown; though money was saved on reduced grass cutting this was balanced by increased watering of flower beds and hanging baskets.

The good weather provided ideal conditions for contractors to undertake much needed repairs to the cracked and damaged brickwork and balustrade in the Garden of Remembrance and these were completed in good time for the Armistice centenary celebrations. Both the wall and the balustrade are Grade II listed. Repairs to the damaged wall at the entrance to the Heather Gardens from the Walsall Road were also completed at this time.

The City Council obtained licences to plant the roundabouts at Capper's Lane and the Friary. Planning permission for the sponsorship boards was also obtained allowing the Whitewall Gallery and Jukes Funeral Services to sponsor a welcoming colourful flower display on both roundabouts.

Most of the benches on City Council land have now been renovated and repainted, including those sited in the Heather Gardens, Friary Remains and Market Square. The bench outside the Friary Library was moved further from the bus stop to provide a little more space for the safety of pedestrians using the footpath. Replacement litter bins were installed along Poolside Walk and a set of two goal posts have been installed at Hillside. This was requested by a number of residents in the area to help promote healthy activities, especially for youngsters.

The work at St. Michael's Church to remove diseased trees was completed. This generated an added benefit in that Thomas Law's Mausoleum now has pride of place and is visible from the road once again. The structure originally included a clock with two dials which were illuminated at night by gas. The Mausoleum is Grade II listed.



The Minster Pool up-lighters were repaired in time for the thousands of visitors on their way to the Cathedral illuminations in December. They were also a spectacle to be enjoyed for visitors and residents during the Christmas period.



A review of all Lichfield City Council owned lights in the city resulted in the approval of a three year project to switch to low energy LED lighting. A total of 132 lamps will be replaced with LED alternatives, with 44 to be modified in the first year (2019/20). After the project has been completed there will be only 6 stylised lamps not lit by LED as these are not suitable for conversion. The brighter LED lights can generate comments from nearby residents about being overly bright but the new lamps can be fitted with shields to reduce the glare.

Following inspections of the City Council owned footpaths it was decided that all high and medium priority issues should be addressed during 2019. This has enabled the council to take advantage of economies of scale, and the results can already be seen on Bishop's Walk and The Windings.

Dovehouse Fields

Dovehouse Fields, located off the Birmingham Road approximately behind the Arbury Peugeot dealership, is a former allotment site owned by the City Council and previously leased to the Lichfield and District Allotments Society (LDAS). The lease was surrendered to the City Council as the site had been unused for some years and it had become badly overgrown.

In September 2017 local residents carried out a leaflet drop to gauge interest in a proposed 'Community Garden' located on the Dovehouse site. The response was very positive and a Committee was formed to take the project forward. Once formed, the Committee put its proposals to the City Council and these were considered at its meeting of 29 January 2018. The City Council resolved that it welcomed the efforts of the Dovehouse Community Group and that it would assist with some elements of the work required to return the site to beneficial use. A short term lease would be agreed with the Dovehouse Community Group and the Council would retain a close oversight on progress, notably through the work of the Open Spaces Officer.

Following this endorsement from the City Council, working parties were arranged in March to prepare half of the site for the official opening on 6 April 2018.

The Dovehouse Community Gardens is now approaching one year old, with the day to day running of the site being the responsibility of the Dovehouse Community Group.

Strategic aims drawn up for the first year have been achieved; some 10 households now have growing spaces of their own to work on and enjoy, and monthly group gatherings are arranged with other residents in Lichfield to work on communal areas. These include a soft fruit bed, a cut flower bed and a small orchard created from donated trees.

The tree work carried out by LCC contractors has reduced the potential hazards to neighbouring housing, and a new fence supplied by LCC has improved security.

The transformation of the Dovehouse site has been a tremendous success to date, returning an unwanted, disused site back to use and promoting a sense of community among residents; several projects are currently being progressed – including the preparation of the ground for a donated greenhouse. Funding from the SCC Community Grant, South Staffs Water and the City Council has proven invaluable.



The Dovehouse Community Group, plot holders and volunteers are all justifiably proud of their achievements and are looking to the future of the site with great optimism.

Some of the early work at Dovehouse was shown in an episode of the BBC2 programme 'Britain in Bloom', more detail of which follows overleaf.

Heart of England in Bloom

Following the success of 2017, preparations for the 2018 entry began in earnest with exciting new projects including new vegetable beds at Swinfen to greet the judges; a narrow boat planter by the Tamworth Rd, and a reed bed and small pond at Dovehouse Fields. The Scouts also planted out a medieval flower bed in the Friary Garden.

The judges visited on 26 July and had a full tour, seeing the best of Lichfield in terms of horticulture, the environment and the community. Projects such as the new Garden of Reflection at Gallows Wharf (pictured) were showcased along with Netherstowe allotments, demonstrating the best of horticulture, composting and community projects.



Plants had to be watered every day for months to maintain the high standards expected, but the result was another 'Gold' for Lichfield. Following similar success in 2017 this was very rewarding for all the groups and individuals who worked so hard over the year to attain it. Anyone wishing to help in 2019 or future years is encouraged to contact the City Council.

The preparations and judging were filmed by the BBC for their 'Britain in Bloom' Series, which aired on 4 April 2019 on BBC2. This national coverage showed the City and the efforts made for 'Bloom' at their best and it is hoped that it will raise the profile of Lichfield and encourage more people to visit our beautiful City.

GUILDHALL & COMMUNITY HALLS

The Council owns Darwin Hall, Cruck House, Curborough Community Centre and Boley Park Community Hall, all of which are usually operated by local Management Committees. The Committees manage the buildings, paying the running costs and receiving income from lettings, but with the Council being responsible for maintaining the external fabric.

Since January 2016 the City Council has taken control of Boley Park Community Hall after key members of the management committee stepped down after many years' service. There was great optimism for a new Committee in 2018 when discussions with a local group progressed to an advanced stage, but unfortunately it did not come to fruition. Several improvements have been made to the Hall in the past 12 months including the redecoration of the main hall, new flooring to the entrance hall and toilets and the installation of destratification fans to assist with heating in the winter and cooling in the summer.

During 2018, as well as the regular hirers, there were 84 other bookings including 54 children's parties, 3 Baptism celebrations, sales events, 6 Stamp Fairs, 3 dances, an Art Exhibition, New Year's Eve Dance and on Christmas Day a family dinner party.

The Council also owns and manages the Guildhall which is let for private and commercial events and for use by local organisations. It serves as the main venue for concerts organised by Lichfield Arts and is a popular venue for wedding receptions and civil wedding ceremonies. The popularity of the venue continues to grow and the City Council has developed a medium term repair and renovation plan to ensure the building offers appropriate facilities while retaining its historic nature.

The Guildhall has seen considerable improvement over the past few years and this continued during 2018/19, most notably with the replacement of the ageing ground floor kitchen to the rear of the Guild Room with a modern alternative and new appliances. In conjunction with these renovations, comparatively minor improvements are regularly undertaken; these include the replacement of light fittings with LED alternatives and ad hoc redecoration. In 2019/20 the focus will be on preparations for improvements to the main hall, including restoration of the timber panelling, redecoration and replacement floor.

During 2018/19, and in addition to the many regular bookings, highlights in the Guildhall included 6 Wedding Ceremonies, 14 Wedding Receptions, 15 parties/dinners, several craft fairs, 2 leather sales, a wedding fair, market research bookings, a Twinning social evening, U3A Showcase Day, Bower Model Fair, a student's Fashion Show, sword fighting demonstration, student film night and numerous concerts by Lichfield Arts, Sinfonia and the City of Lichfield Concert Band. The Donna Louise Hospice held a Gin Tasting Day (2 sessions, both of which sold out) and the NSPCC held a charity concert. Lichfield Arts held 2 Beer Festivals, a Blues and Jazz Festival and Folk Festival.

The 2018 Guildhall Prison Cell season came to an end in October, with a total of 4867 visitors on Saturdays from April. A programme of minor repairs and improvements is included within 2019/20 budgets to improve the visitor experience and further develop the cells as a tourist attraction in the City. The cells open free of charge on summer Saturdays and are staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Darwin Hall, Curborough Community Centre and Cruck House are all operated by management committees under licence from the Council. All three facilities are extremely popular and well run, and the City Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the management committees, staff and volunteers for their hard work over the past year. The City Council funded the installation of an updated CCTV system in Darwin Hall during 2018/19 and has approved funding for replacement outer doors at Curborough Community Centre during 2019/20. A quinquennial architect's inspection of Cruck House has been scheduled and any issues identified in the report will be considered and addressed.

SAMUEL JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

2018/19 was another busy year for the Birthplace Museum with 21,472 visitors, representing a 17% increase on the previous year. Together with increased visitor numbers and an expanded programme of events, preparations are underway for a redevelopment of the museum to include disabled access, new technology and revitalised displays.

Some of the event highlights at the Museum included an Easter family trail devised by volunteer Margery Dunlevy; the return of code-club 'Spy School', led by Museum Attendant Kevin Lynch; A small exhibition 'Who was Richard Greene?' created by volunteer Nicola Young; *Dr Johnson's Wikiwords* year-long drama collaboration with Fired Up theatre; *'Blazing Words, Glitt'ring Gold: Illuminating Art from Lichfield Calligraphers'* exhibition; Sue Bray delivered a popular History Workshop on Johnson's heir 'The Extraordinary Journey of Francis Barber'; *Writing Spaces* was an event for National Writing Day led by the Museum's writing group, and the popular Johnson Family Christmas Weekend. In March, the Museum was a partner in the Lichfield Literature weekend, with outreach events including a poetry installation at Stowe Pool Boat House created by Museum Attendant Sarah Dale.



Staff and volunteer teams visited St Michael's Church to see the Johnson family memorial and find out more about the history of the churchyard with local historian Dr Trevor James and received training from bookbinder Roy Fell on traditional bookbinding methods.

The Birthplace also took part in Staffordshire Day, providing a venue for filming an online video on 'Staffordshire Heroes', and organised a 'Johnson's Heroes' walking tour of the city in partnership with local tour guide Jonathan Oates.

The Birthplace Museum partnership with Lichfield Art's L2F festival is growing, and the house provided a venue for the 'studio' with a programme of events. The Museum team also took part in the annual L2F Arts & Heritage parade.

The Birthplace collection is now online, with over 8,000 records accessible by the public. This public version shows a selection of available information taken from the larger in-house 'modes' database, and marks the culmination of two decades of work on inventory and cataloguing. The basic entries will be continuously updated with information and images. The catalogue can be found at the Museum's main website 'Collections' area, or directly at <http://collections.samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk>.

The Museum Volunteer team was treated to an evening at Birmingham Hippodrome as finalists in the West Midlands Volunteer Awards. Although they did not win their category of 'Museum Champions', being shortlisted for this prodigious industry award was a fantastic achievement and their certificate is on display at the Museum.



The Museum was ranked in the top 20 free attractions in the West Midlands published by Visit England in August, based on 2017 visitor numbers and the BBC filmed several pieces at the Museum for a new major programme 'Walks of Life', which was aired in Spring 2019.

Emma Bown, this year's 'History in the Workplace' student from the University of Birmingham, completed her 4-month placement. Emma re-catalogued 100 pre-1750 items from the Museum library wrote a piece for the Museum website and curated a small display about her research on books owned by Samuel's father Michael. A student from South Staffordshire College also completed a two-week placement project in November, reviewing and creating content for the Museum's social media streams. In January, Keele University Post-graduate student Amy Blaney began a placement which included creating a new Blog for the Museum featuring



features articles written by Birthplace volunteers, staff and students and a variety of partners and academics.

Late February and March was a particularly busy period, when the Museum hosted two study weekends and a week of A-level school sessions as the completion of a long-running collaboration with Keele University.

Redevelopment Project

Museum Consultants Susan Dalloe and Huw Edwards compiled a report that reviewed the Birthplace displays, access and facilities. They presented their report to City Councillors, staff and the volunteer team from the Museum. The report was well received and will inform plans for a redevelopment of the Museum and funding applications to outside bodies to support the work. Information gathering for a funding application to the newly named National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) is ongoing and has included meetings with the District Conservation Officer, Museum design companies, and gaining expertise on Museum access issues.

MARKETS AND MARKET SQUARE

2018/19 saw the recruitment of two new Markets Officers, Chris Wilkes and Harriett Hastie. The changes to the shopping habits of the public, relying ever more on online sales to the detriment of local shops, puts all markets under pressure due to falling trader attendance and footfall. The trend cannot be dismissed and the City Council is keen to promote the market and ensure its vitality for many years to come. To that end, the City Council launched an advertising campaign in March 2019; the campaign includes promotion on the rear of buses in surrounding towns as well as posters at railway stations. The campaign ties in with the broader 'Visit Lichfield' theme and it is hoped that it will encourage visitors to the market and to other attractions in the City.



In August, a Family Fun Day was organised for the Farmers' Market to maximise footfall during the school holidays. The Town Crier and Georgian Jono (Jonathan Oates) were on hand to promote the day and the Mayor and Mayoress added their support visiting stalls and engaging with the public. Activities included face

painting, a children's treasure trail, 'guess the weight of the cake' and other activities provided by Lichfield library. There was musical entertainment from a local saxophone player and the 'Owl Experience' proved very popular, giving visitors the opportunity to get up close and handle the birds.

The markets have been particularly busy in the build up to Christmas with the Saturday market being very well attended and vacant stalls being filled by casuals.

The re-opening of St Mary's in late December finally saw the removal of the hoardings thus restoring the Square to its former glory. It is hoped that the relocation of the Library to this site will increase the footfall to the Markets and the square as a whole. To complement the refurbishment of St Mary's over the Autumn all the benches, railings and fencing on the Square were repainted.

Unauthorised parking on the Market Square remains of concern, notably following the opening of St Mary's library and the potential for accidents with vehicles driving on the Square and a greater number of pedestrians now going to and from the St Mary's building. "No Parking" signs have been put up on the Market Square and we are working closely with Staffordshire County Council to try and resolve the issue. On non-Market days the Square is coned off and bollards reinstated in an effort to ensure the safety of members of the public accessing the library via the Market Square.

On Friday 21 December 2018 the Mayor and, Mayoress visited the market to bid farewell to one of its longest standing traders after 54 Years. Lichfield Country Market (formally known as Lichfield WI Market) first stood on the market on Friday 4 December 1964 offering a wide variety of homemade goods including cakes and jams. Manned entirely by volunteers who have braved every type of weather imaginable, the stall was always popular with members of the public. Joyce Deakin, a member since 1983 said *"The fact that a lot of our members are looking towards retirement has led to us making the difficult decision to vacate the Lichfield Friday Market."*

Over the years the Lichfield Country Market has made cakes for many Civic occasions such as the Town Criers competition, Mayoress at Home and Simnel cake for Shrovetide celebrations.



Market Closures

The Winter of 2018/2019 began relatively mild and calm compared to the previous year, which brought a number of storms with strong winds, snow and ice and led to several cancelled markets. Unfortunately the calm weather did not last and a number of markets had to be cancelled during early 2019 due to high winds. In total there were seven cancelled markets during the Winter period; this compares to seven cancellations during the winter of 2017/18 and three cancellations during the same period in 2016/17.

Non-Market events

During recent years the hire of the Square on non-market days has increased greatly, and this trend continued during 2018/19. From 1 May 2019 this 'ad-hoc' hire of the Square will be subject to Street Trading legislation as introduced by Lichfield District Council. This will result in extra charges being levied on Traders, that charge to be collected and retained wholly by the District Council.

The City Council believes that as the landowner and being responsible for the maintenance of the Square and its associated facilities, and indeed for payment of business rates as applied to the Square, it should continue to make a charge to those who wish to trade on the land and a resolution to this effect was passed by Council in April 2019.

Market Traders' Liaison Committee

A Traders' Liaison meeting was held in November 2018 and a further meeting in April 2019, with Councillor Peter Hitchman as Chairman. Both meetings were constructive and informative, with the next meeting scheduled for November 2019.

Facebook

The dedicated Lichfield Markets Facebook page is now into its second year and is proving very popular, with over 500 "likes" and growing. Individual traders are selected for promotion on the page on a rolling basis and the instant nature of social media makes the page a great asset in advising of latest developments with the market, be they of a positive nature such as the advertising campaign mentioned above, or indeed of a negative nature such as informing of cancellations.

The page can be viewed at www.facebook.com/lichfieldmarkets and includes general market information, historical information and new photos of current stalls. Visitors to the page also have the option to immediately call or message the markets team.

Twitter

The Lichfield Markets Twitter account has recently been created, increasing the online presence and furthering the outreach of the markets across social media platforms.

The page can be viewed at www.twitter.com/LichfieldMarket and will include concise information regarding general market information, historical information and upcoming events on the Market Square.

Farmers' Market

Following a resolution at its meeting in April 2019, the City Council will be working with Cocker Hoop Creative Ltd (organisers of the many festivals in the City) on a trial basis to relaunch the monthly Farmers' Market. With Cocker Hoop's proven expertise in promotion of events, sourcing reputable traders and generating public interest in their events, it is hoped that the partnership will be a great success.

CIVIC EVENTS

The Mayor, Councillor David Leytham and Sheriff, Mr Michael Mullarkey, completed a very successful year of civic engagements, supported by Deputy Mayor Councillor Peter Hitchman and their consorts.



This year marked a special occasion for the 1206 Mercian Squadron Air Cadets. The Mayor presented an Illuminated Scroll incorporating the City of Lichfield into their squadron name on Bower Day. Over 300 Cadets and staff from across Staffordshire were on parade after months of practice in preparation for this special occasion. This year's Lichfield Greenhill Bower Queen, Charlotte Mace and Ambassador, Danielle Cliff were then crowned by the Mayor before the procession continued the traditional route around the city.



On Saturday 7 July the City Council hosted the fourth Lichfield Town Criers' Competition. Thirteen town criers from all over Great Britain came to take part in this year's competition. Our own Ken Knowles was not allowed to compete, but nevertheless provided a 'benchmark cry' for the judges prior to round one. The first round of cries at Speakers Corner gave the competitors an opportunity to tell the judges and audience about their home towns. After a break for lunch the second

round was held, and the Criers were asked to proclaim on this year's theme "*The Year of the Woman*".

The overall winner was Terry Ford from Otley, 2nd Prize was awarded to Adrian Holmes from Sandwell and 3rd Prize was awarded to Paul Gough from Nuneaton and Bedworth. The Lonza Atkin award for Best Dressed Crier was awarded to Brenda Willison from Newmarket and Best Dressed Couple went to Terry Stubbings and his wife Trish from Liverpool.



On Saturday 8 September the Sheriff, Mr Michael Mullarkey, led the first and final parts of the Sheriff's Ride in a spectacular horse drawn carriage. The Sheriff chose not to ride and was driven in a support vehicle over the remainder of the day. This year we had a total of 54 riders taking part in the traditional historic 20+ mile perambulation of the city boundaries.



The Johnson Birthday Celebrations were held on the Market Square on Saturday 22 September. In keeping with tradition, just after midday, the Mayor placed a laurel chaplet on the statue of Dr Samuel Johnson after which St. Michael's choir sang Johnson's last prayer to music by Peter Hawksworth, their musical director.

The annual Remembrance service was held in the Cathedral on Sunday 11 November. Following the church service, the Deputy Lieutenant, The Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, accompanied by the Mayor, led the civic party into the Remembrance Gardens at 10.55am for the national two minutes silence and wreath laying ceremony. The City Council proudly played a part in the historic international event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War. To recognise the contribution and sacrifice made by the men and women from our own community, the names of the fallen soldiers listed on the Cenotaph were read out by Town Crier Ken Knowles, as the 1206 Lichfield Squadron Air Cadets sprinkled poppy petals onto Minster Pool. This was a moving tribute to honour the fallen soldiers.

As part of the national commemorations to signify the light of peace that emerged from the darkness after four years of war, a Beacon was lit outside the West Gate at

Lichfield Cathedral. At 7:00pm as the last post was played, the Mayor, Cllr David Leytham ascended the steps to light the Beacon, watched by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Peter Hitchman, Sheriff Mr Michael Mullarkey and Chairman of Lichfield District Council, Cllr Bob Awty. At 7:35pm the Town Crier joined more than 140 Town Criers around the world to perform a specially written “Cry for Peace around the World”. The Beacon then faded during the Reveille before being extinguished at 8:00pm.



On Tuesday 5 March the traditional Pancake Races took place on Bore Street. Over 30 people took part in the Ladies, Men's, Under 10's and Mascot's Races. Retaining her title for 2019 was Hannah Bull from Talent Match Staffordshire, winner of the Ladies Race. Glen Picknell from The George Hotel won the Men's Race, Alfie Coleman, aged 6 years won the Under 10's race and Richard Barber from Talent Match won the Mascot's Race.



City Jewellers are very proud to be the new sponsors of the Mascot Race.

Other civic events have included:

- 14 May, Mayor's Banquet
- 27 May, Bower Sunday
- 29 May, Court of Arraye and Bower Procession
- 27 June, Swinfen Broun Bowls Tournament
- 28 July, Mayoress at Home
- 4 December, Mayor's Carols
- 22 March, Sheriff's Show at the Friary School
- 8 April Entertainment & Tea
- 21 April, Easter Sunday
- 23 April, St George's Court

The Mayor and Sheriff's Charities for 2018/19 were St Mary's on the Market Square and the Lichfield Greenhill Bower Charitable Trust. A series of well attended charity

events during the year plus other donations led to a total charity fund of approximately £9,400, which will shortly be split evenly between the two charities. The Mayor and Sheriff would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed in any way to this fantastic total.

The Mayor for 2019/20 is Councillor Deborah Baker, supported by Councillor Robert Yardley as Deputy Mayor and Dr Daryl Brown as Sheriff.

OUTSIDE BODIES

During 2018/19 the Council gave grants totalling £27,770 to the following organisations as indicated below. Grants to organisations marked * are made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, this being expenditure which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the whole area or some or all of the inhabitants and will bring benefit in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

No	Organisation	£
1	Lichfield Arts	4,100
* 2	Citizens Advice South East Staffs	4,000
3	Lichfield Greenhill Bower	3,000
4	Erasmus Darwin Foundation	2,500
5	Lichfield Festival	2,500
* 6	Alzheimer's Society	2,000
* 7	Lichfield Trent Valley First Responders	1,000
* 8	Voluntary Transport for the Disabled	1,000
* 9	City of Lichfield Royal British Legion	520
10	City of Lichfield Friends	500
11	Friends2Friends	300
12	Dr Milley's Hospital	500
13	Lichfield District Council Proms In The Park	1,500
14	Lichfield Mysteries Community Arts	300
15	Open Door of Hope	250
16	Abacus Pre-School Playgroup	400
17	Lichfield & Burntwood Social Club for the Blind	300
18	Lichfield Festival of Music	250
19	St Michael's Church Choir & Camas Group	150
20	Lichfield Sinfonia	100
21	Worshipful Company of Smiths	100
22	Lichfield Twinning Association	100
* 23	Lichfield Darby & Joan Club	50
24	Darwin Walk Trust	100
25	Lichfield Rail Promotion Group	50
26	City of Lichfield Concert Band	500
27	Embroiderers' Guild Lichfield Branch	50
28	Lichfield & District Allotment Society	1,150
29	Lichfield Chamber of Trade & Commerce	500
		27,770

TWINNING

Over the bank holiday weekend of 4 – 8 May, the Lichfield Twinning Association was host to a group of 50 visitors from Lichfield's German twin town of Limburg. A full and varied programme was organised for the guests on Saturday which included a City tour, visits to the Sandfields Pumping Station, the Johnson Birthplace Museum, Darwin House and a day out for some to the Barber Institute and Winterbourne House in Birmingham.

On Sunday, Peter Walker gave a tour and explanation of his latest exhibition in the Cathedral "The Consequence of War". The visitors then returned to the Guildhall where they were greeted by the Mayor. Peter Barrett, chairman of the Lichfield Twinning Association also gave an informative presentation on Regalia and Traditions of Lichfield.

Later in the evening the Guildhall was the setting for the Friendship Evening with more than 100 visitors and hosts enjoying a meal in a relaxed atmosphere. The weekend culminated on Monday with an excursion to the Wedgwood Pottery Exhibition in Barlaston, before delegates returned home to Limburg on Tuesday morning.



During the weekend, a new sporting link between the two twin towns was formed when the Friary Judo Club welcomed a member of the Judokwai Association Limburg to their club training on Saturday morning, as well as to a

special Judo Masterclass with British Olympian, Ashley MacKenzie.

Members of the Lichfield Twinning Association and the Lichfield District Ramblers spent a walking weekend in the Rhineland near Limburg with friends from both of our twin towns of Limburg and Ste Foy. A number of walks took place, with breath-taking views of this unique and beautiful waterway. It is planned that Lichfield will be the location for the next international biannual walk in the spring of 2020.



On 29 September, two apprentices from Limburg City Council arrived in Lichfield for their one week work placement to experience British local government structure. The Mayor, Councillor David Leytham, welcomed them to Lichfield and wished them an interesting and enjoyable week. The two students had a varied placement programme, spending time at Lichfield City and District Council Offices, the library, Juniper training centre, Samuel Johnson Birthplace, Erasmus Darwin House, Friends2Friends and at Lichfield Cathedral.



Following the success of last year's Limburg Light Festival, which brought thousands of people to the City for the opening of their Christmas market, the Mayor of Limburg, Dr Marius Hahn, once again asked Peter Walker to stage another Cathedral illumination. The illumination took place over two nights and the main sponsor, the local shopping centre Werkstatt, was very pleased with the increased footfall to the City of Limburg as a result of the event.

Nils Jonas, a student from Limburg spent part of his gap year in Lichfield, playing hockey with the Lichfield Hockey Club's first team as their designated goal keeper. From the beginning of October until the end of December, Nils also worked part-time at a farmer's yard and fishery to subsidise his living expenses, as well as helping out at a charity, Forest Harvest in Yoxall, with some of their woodland projects.



His Lichfield host family from the Wade Street Church community helped him to improve his English language skills greatly. He returned to Limburg just before Christmas and started his University course at Easter. He summarised his months in Lichfield as 'enjoyable and very valuable'.



On 15 February, 3 nursery nurse students from the vocational college ARS in Limburg completed their 5 week internship at Springfields Pre-School & Day Nursery in Beacon Street and returned to Germany to continue their college course. They had a wonderful time in Lichfield and thanked Manageress Helen Marquise for this great opportunity. Helen was very appreciative of their help and dedication to their work and



reiterated that this programme was mutually beneficial for both parties involved. This was the second year that Springfields Nursery had made this European Erasmus+ funded exchange project possible and Helen expressed her hope that it will continue next year.

A drama class of 21 students and 4 teachers from the Limburg vocational college ARS took part in this year's Lichfield Mysteries, performing "Exodus from Egypt", at the Friary School Theatre. They made their long journey to Lichfield by coach and ferry for this short weekend; for most of the participants this was the first trip to Lichfield and for many their first visit to the UK. They performed the play in English and were encouraged by the warm welcome they received. They started their 17 hour return coach journey shortly after their last performance at the Wade Street Church, but not before paying a brief visit to the old prison cells in the Guildhall.

In 1990, the city of Lichfield gifted an original red telephone box to the City of Limburg as a present for the start of the twinning between the two cities. With the help of some soldiers from Whittington Barracks, the telephone booth was rescued from the North Staffordshire "BT telephone box graveyard", loaded on a large lorry and driven to Germany.



With the era of public telephone boxes at an end, Limburg refurbished the old telephone box and turned it into a public "bring and share" book box, complete with shelves and electricity and installed it in its new position outside their library.

The Limburg Mayor, Dr. Marius Hahn, officially opened the book box on 14 March and was very pleased about its renewed use as a visual sign of the friendship between Limburg and Lichfield.

Last year's visit in May by 6 teachers from 2 Limburg vocational colleges to the Lichfield Campus of the South Staffordshire College, resulted in the first ever student exchange this May, with 17 students from Limburg taking part in lessons at the Lichfield college for one week.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The City Council was once again responsible for the Christmas lights in the City centre, and the 'switch on' event on 25 November. As usual the event drew a large, enthusiastic, happy and festive crowd, with entertainment from bands 'The Hustle' and 'Punch the Air' as well as Christmas carols led by Christchurch Primary School choir, followed by a star turn from the cast of the Garrick Theatre's Christmas pantomime, 'Dick Whittington'.



The lights were turned on at 5pm by competition winners Ellie Vinnicombe and Presten-Jay Abbotts, ably assisted by the Mayor of Lichfield, Councillor David Leytham. The erection, inspection, maintenance and dismantling of the Christmas lights is a costly exercise, as is the switch on event itself, but the City Council is proud to be able to continue to provide such a popular event and to make a real difference to Christmas in Lichfield.

PLANNING

The District Council is the Planning Authority, but the City Council is consulted on all planning applications submitted for the city area. The City Council's Planning Committee met on **13** occasions, and examined and commented on **272** planning applications; only **20** of these were decided differently from the comments of the City Council.

A full calendar of Planning Committee meeting dates can be found on the City Council's website.

LICHFIELD CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (LCNP) AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by government as part of its Localism agenda and is a way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work in conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan (as developed and adopted by Lichfield District Council).

The Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan referendum was held in February 2018 and become part of the Planning framework for the City.

The LCNP focuses on economic and employment issues rather than housing. The City is well positioned to increase its economic base, with a highly skilled workforce and excellent road and rail links. The City also boasts numerous attributes and attractions that encourage tourism.

Where a Parish Council has a neighbourhood plan in place, it receives 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions from a developer as opposed to 15% without a Neighbourhood Plan. The existence of an adopted Neighbourhood Plan ensures as much CIL money as possible is retained by the Parish in which the development is taking place, to be spent in consultation with residents and in accordance with the priorities laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan.

There are many competing demands for this funding and a small cross-party working party of City Councillors has been established to consider how this money is allocated. £14,000 of CIL monies has provided new information boards within the City in partnership with Lichfield District Council and these were installed in February 2019 (pictured with former District councillor Ian Pritchard, Brian Pretty and Lichfield City councillor David Dundas).



An allocation of £3,000 was approved in April 2019 to contribute towards the costs of replacing the CCTV system at Curborough Community Centre.

Residents are strongly encouraged to have their say and are invited to make written submissions to the Town Clerk at the City Council Offices at Donegal House, Bore St or by email to enquiries@lichfield.gov.uk to assist in informing this process.

The Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan can be downloaded from the City Council's website at: https://www.lichfield.gov.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_1085.aspx.

ELECTORAL MATTERS

During 2018/19 there were two by-elections, the first was held in Curborough Ward in July following the death of Councillor Mrs Jeanette Allsopp. The second, held in Stowe Ward, was necessitated by the resignation of Councillor Joanne Grange. Following these by-elections the City Council welcomed two new Members, Councillor Colin Ball (Labour) and Councillor Gail Johnson (Conservative).

The May 2019 elections saw elections in all 9 wards. The political composition of the council is now 16 Conservative, 8 Liberal Democrat, 3 Labour and 1 Independent. Several councillors did not stand for re-election, including Bernard Cocksey (Conservative) who had been Leader since January 2018 and John Brooks (Labour) who was first elected to the former City Council in 1968. Other notable retirees include Antony Thompson (Conservative) who served the City Council for 32 years. Further details of retiring Councillors are provided below.

Councillor	Political Party	Length of Service (years)
Mr Robert Awty	Conservative	12
Mrs Norma Bacon	Conservative	20
Mr Brian Bacon	Conservative	12
Mr John Brooks	Labour	29
Mr Bernard Cocksey	Conservative	4.5
Mr Antony Thompson	Conservative	32

CITY COUNCIL STAFF

There have been relatively few staff changes during this past year, though new appointments included Chris Wilkes and Harriett Hastie, both employed as Markets Officers.

FINANCE

The budget set by the Council in January for the 2019/20 financial year was for a council tax of £63.00 for a Band D property, which was a £2.50 increase on 2018/19. The comparison between 2018/19 and 2019/20 budgets is detailed overleaf; the large increase in the 'Democratic Services' budget is, in the main, a reflection of the anticipated costs of the 2019 local elections.

<u>Net Expenditure</u>	BUDGET 2018/19	BUDGET 2019/20
SERVICE AREAS	£	£
<i>Parks and Footpaths</i>	208,866	231,998
<i>Guildhall</i>	72,515	73,505
<i>Community Centres</i>	14,451	15,130
<i>Markets</i>	-31,325	-30,175
<i>Civic</i>	80,802	86,022
<i>Grant Aid/Partnerships</i>	50,133	51,366
<i>Arts/Tourism/Twinning</i>	61,971	65,790
<i>Johnson Birthplace Museum</i>	80,437	98,349
<i>Democratic Services</i>	91,318	152,326
<i>Investment Interest</i>	-200	-4,890
<i>Loan Charges</i>	0	0
<i>Agency</i>	-18,515	-18,174
<i>Repairs and Renewals</i>	107,452	90,933
Total Service Cost	717,905	812,180
<i>Capital Contribution</i>	0	0
<i>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</i>	0	0
SUB TOTALS	717,905	812,180
PRECEPT + LTCSG	717,905	757,180
To/(From) Balances	0	(55,000)

<u>Balances and Reserves</u>	BUDGET 2018/19	BUDGET 2019/20
	£	£
<i>Opening Balance (1 April)</i>	690,758	708,879
<i>To/(From) balances</i>	0	(55,000)
<i>Closing Balance</i>	690,758	653,879
<u>Closing balance held as:</u>		
<i>Repairs/Renewals (Revenue)</i>	353,000	353,000
<i>Rent Deposit Deed Reserve</i>	1,100	450
<i>Parish Election Reserve</i>	40,000	0
<i>CIL Reserve</i>		14,037
<i>General Revenue Reserves</i>	296,658	286,392
TOTALS	£690,758	£653,879

<u>Council Tax Analysis</u>	BUDGET 2018/19	BUDGET 2019/20
<i>Precept</i>	£717,905	£757,180
<i>Apportioned Tax Base</i>	£11,886.20	£12,017.80
RESULTANT BAND D TAX	£60.50	£63.00

CITY COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT:

‘To improve the quality of life of residents of Lichfield City’

TO BE ACHIEVED BY:

- Making best use of the resources and powers available to us to provide high-quality cost-effective services to help meet the needs and wishes of the residents
- assisting and encouraging other bodies to provide such services

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1 To help residents enjoy high-quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities, and to maintain or improve the standard of these facilities
- 2 To encourage and promote the economic and commercial vitality of the city
- 3 To protect and improve the high-quality environment of the city and promote sustainable development to meet the needs of present and future generations
- 4 To preserve the ancient traditions and unique identity of the city
- 5 To represent the views and wishes of the citizens of Lichfield and to promote the interests of the city for the betterment of the local community
- 6 To help to create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all its residents, irrespective of age, culture, income, race or religion, and which seeks to develop their well-being, knowledge, understanding, and mutual co-operation.

Together with these broad objectives the City Council has several specific objectives for the 2019/20 financial year, a number of which are detailed below.

SPECIFIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2019/20

AIM	RESPONSIBILITY	OBJECTIVES	TARGET DATE	ACTIONS
Resident Satisfaction	Clerk/Open Spaces Officer	Replacement of LCC owned footpath lighting with LED alternatives	March 2020 (phase 1 of 3)	Discussions held with SCC and replacement scheduling agreed; phase 2 and 3 to be initiated in 2020 and 2021 respectively to spread cost
Resident Satisfaction	Clerk/Open Spaces Officer	Full inspection and repair of City council owned footpaths	Autumn 2019	Part of 19/20 repair and renovation programme with early commencement; inspections and bulk of repairs completed by April 2019 with further repairs to follow as required over summer
Resident Satisfaction/Increase Tourism	Deputy Town Clerk/Markets Officers	Review Markets operation	March 2020 and ongoing	Liaise with NABMA, identify strengths and weaknesses, co-operative working with outside bodies particularly in relation to the Farmers' Market. Repairs to stalls and trailers.
Improvements to Heritage Assets/Increase Tourism	Museums and Heritage Officer/Clerk	Improvements to Guildhall Prison Cells	March 2020	Repairs and updates to existing displays, replacement lighting and the creation of new displays for visitors in the two recently opened central cells including new interpretation
Improvements to Heritage Assets/Increase Tourism	Museums and Heritage Officer/Clerk	Progress NHLF funding bid for redevelopment of Birthplace Museum	March 2020	Preparatory work for a large funding bid, to include improvements to interpretation of museum libraries, assessment of museum access, available public space and allocation of rooms within the building, large scale redisplay of collection
Resident Satisfaction/Increase Tourism	Open Spaces Officer/Clerk	Support for Lichfield in Bloom 2019	September 2019	Open Spaces Officer support and participation in 'Bloom' activities; secretarial support for 'Bloom' meetings via the City Council

Resident Satisfaction	Open Spaces Officer/Clerk	Assessment of options for verge cutting 2020 and beyond	March 2020	In response to possible withdrawal of funding by SCC, the City Council to work with LDC in identifying most appropriate next steps in regard to the provision of verge cutting
Improve Community Centre Facilities	Clerk	Replacement external doors at Curborough CC	Autumn 2019	Replacement to be progressed in co-operation with the Curborough CC management Committee
Comply with Legislation/Guidelines (Health & Safety)	Deputy Town Clerk	Provide an updated employee Health & Safety handbook	July 2019	Work in partnership with H&S consultants to update documentation as necessary; new policies to be put to Council for adoption in a timely manner
Comply with Legislation/Guidelines (Transparency)	Clerk	Ensure transparency information is up to date, compliant and proportionate	Ongoing	Existing transparency information to be reviewed, newly available relevant information to be uploaded to the LCC website in a timely manner.

How to Contact Lichfield City Council

Lichfield City Council, Donegal House, Bore Street, Lichfield, WS13 6LU

Tel: 01543 250011 Email: enquiries@lichfield.gov.uk website www.lichfield.gov.uk

Officer Contacts

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Tel:</i>
Town Clerk	Tony Briggs	01543 250011
Deputy Town Clerk	Sarah Thomas	01543 309854
Finance	Alison James	01543 309855
Admin/Planning	Celia Freeman	01543 309858
Civic Matters	Lucy Clarke	01543 309852
Open Spaces	Nick Burton	01543 309851
Internal Audit	Graham Keatley	01543 250011

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Tel:</i>
Twinning	Gabriele Lasch-Burden	01543 309857
Markets	Chris Wilkes	01543 309853
Johnson Birthplace	Joanne Wilson	01543 264972
Guildhall Room Hire	Helen Winter	01543 309850
Reception	Jane Varley	01543 250011

City Council Members

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Ward</i>
Hugh Ashton	Lib Dem	Garrick Road
Jeyan Anketell	Ind	Stowe
Deb Baker	Con	St John's
Colin Ball	Lab	Curborough
Gwyneth Boyle	Con	St John's
Jamie Checkland	Con	Leomansley
David Dundas	Con	Chadsmead
Janet Eagland	Con	Boley Park
Matthew Field	Lab	Curborough
Colin Greatorex	Con	Burton Old Rd
Janice Greaves	Con	St John's
Ian Jackson	Lib Dem	Leomansley
Paul Jones	Con	Leomansley
Angela Lax	Con	Stowe
Jayne Marks	Con	Pentire Road
Tim Matthews	Con	St John's
Paul McDermott	Lib Dem	Stowe
Sara Pritchard	Con	Leomansley
Christine Rapley	Lib Dem	Chadsmead
Richard Rathbone	Lib Dem	Stowe
Paul Ray	Lib Dem	Chadsmead
David Robertson	Lab	Curborough
Andrew Smith	Con	Leomansley
John Smith	Lib Dem	St John's
Christopher Spruce	Con	St John's
Miles Trent	Lib Dem	Chadsmead
Mark Warfield	Con	Boley Park
Robert Yardley	Con	Boley Park