



## **The Town Mayor of Meltham's Annual Report** **for 2025/26**

It was an honour to have been elected as Mayor of Meltham Town Council and I would like to thank all members of Council, the Town Clerk, Mark Brook and Tara Ball, the Community Projects Delivery Manager, for their hard work and commitment to their roles and to the chairs of the committees, who will also be submitting their reports this evening.

In May, Cllr Kate Buchanan, resigned from the council and I thank her for her service and wish her well. In September we welcomed Cllr David Batty, who was co-opted onto the Council.

I'd like to start with the exciting news that Meltham Town Council are set to take over the management of Broadbands Recreation Ground. At the time of writing this report, we are very close to completion, but do not yet have a date. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the team who have facilitated this for their diligence.

We have continued with our improvements to Robert Ashton Memorial Park and have updated our aims and requirements for the park, including enhanced landscape quality, improved landscape, opportunities for recreation and sport, provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity and to encourage natural woodland regeneration. The annual Picnic in the Park has become a popular and successful event and once again we have provided a grant to the Friends of Robert Ashton Park Group to support this.

Members of Council spent a lot of time and effort into the plans for the purchase and ambitious development of the park lodge, so it was extremely disappointing that the Kirklees planning advice was that we couldn't proceed with the 2 storey building and with reluctance we decided not to proceed.

Over 500 residents took part in the recent Ask Meltham consultation and Councillors have been sharing the results and asking for feedback at drop in sessions and coffee mornings. I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions at Helme and Meltham C of E Schools, talking to the young people who will most likely be replacing us in years to come! Main issues to be addressed include ongoing efforts to improve the appearance of Meltham, such as hanging baskets, improved Christmas Lights, tackling litter and anti-social behaviour, parking and enforcement of traffic violations, information about community events and promotion of green spaces.

We've already started to address these issues by liaising with local police and ward Councillors, planning events such as the Community Day on May 16th and organising volunteer and litter picking sessions. The Christmas Lights committee rose to the challenge, with their fundraising efforts and volunteers certainly Made Meltham Sparkle. We've continued to support and fund the Library and Youth Provision, and it has been good to see members of the youth group join in community projects, such as the Picnic in the Park, litter picking and the colourful Flowerbomb project.

We support our more mature residents too and held the annual Xmas Gift event, with musical entertainment and refreshments. As Mayor I have really enjoyed taking part in many civic and community events this year. I always enjoy meeting and chatting to people, (as you may have noticed!) and it is lovely to get involved with the Flowerbomb, Light Up the Pleasure Grounds, the Remembrance Commemoration, which was very impressive this year, with beautiful poppies all over Meltham.

As a member of the Communications Group, I'm very aware of the need to ensure that information is received by as many residents as possible and hope that the Meltham Mercury newsletter and new,

Meltham Town Council, The Carlile Institute, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 4AE  
Telephone number: 01484 362927  
E-mail address: [townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
VAT number: GB 427509936

improved information boards around the Town and local parks will address this issue.

In my last month as Mayor, I'm delighted to present the Pride of Meltham awards to the 3 worthy recipients at the Annual Civic Dinner. Thanks once again to everyone who has supported me in my role over the year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Jurczyszyn". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

Cllr Ann Jurczyszyn  
Town Mayor of Meltham