

Burscough welcomes a new Mayor to Burscough Town Council

Burscough Town Council changed its status from a Parish Council to a Town Council at a Parish Council meeting on the 20th January 2020, at the time we decided to make no other changes to the role of Chairman although we could have done so at the time. The Town Council decided at its Annual Town Council meeting on the 15th May 2024 to make the village more prominent and changed the status of the Chairman and Vice Chairman to Mayor – Cllr Brian Kennedy and Deputy Town Mayor – Cllr Derick Moss. Further details of the process can be found within our Annual Town Council minutes available on our website. <https://burscoughtc.org.uk>

Article and photo by Jackie Maguire, Town Clerk.

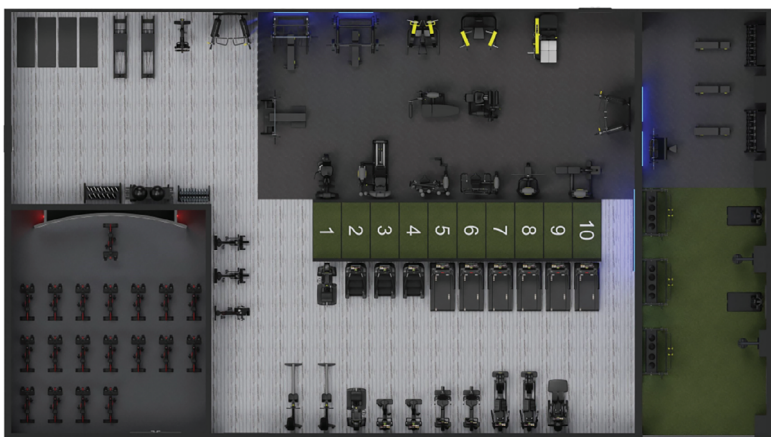


Burscough Sports Centre is getting a £3.18 million make-over

West Lancashire Borough Council has approved £3.18m in funding upgrade Burscough Sports' facilities.

The exciting plans have been conceived by working with development partner Alliance Leisure. The project was given the green light, and the refurbishment will deliver a modern leisure, wellbeing and fitness facility to meet the needs of West Lancashire residents living in and around Burscough.

The objectives of the project include integrating new technology, incorporating changing trends to meet user needs and preferences, improving the building's 'look and feel' for all users, optimising capacity and layout and creating more flexibility in how spaces are used. The plans will also improve



building's efficiency and sustainability for the longer term, which is something Burscough Town Council's Climate Working Group are keen to see happening around the Town.

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Mayor's Views

Chairman's (now Mayor) News & Views

Dear Residents.

I trust you are all well and enjoying the present period of some reasonable weather after a poor summer so far.

You will notice from the heading to my piece the change to the designation of the leader of the Town Council. Let me explain the reasons behind the Council's decision to change the leaders title from "Chairman" to "Mayor".

After a recommendation from the Council's auditor to change from a Parish to a Town Council, the change was implemented in January 2020. At that time it was decided that even though there was the option of changing from "Chairman" to "Mayor" to remain with the designation of "Chairman".

After 4 years as a Town Council there was a debate that a change to the title of "Mayor" would lead to a higher profile for the Town Council and possibly more influence when representing the Council at meetings with the Borough Council and other organisations and arguing the Town's position on planning and other important issues. A proposal to change the designations from "Chairman" and "Vice Chairman" to "Mayor" and "Deputy Mayor" was passed at a full Town Council meeting on 21st February 2024 by a unanimous decision with the operative date being the date of the Council's annual meeting which took place on 15th May 2024. At that meeting I was proposed and seconded for the position of Mayor and Councillor Moss proposed and seconded for the position of Deputy Mayor, both proposals were passed unanimously.

That is the background of the change of designation. This change will not lead to any additional expenditure by the Council other than the cost of altering the wording on the official chain of office

from "Chairman Burscough Town Council" to "Mayor Burscough Town Council".

I have been a Councillor since 2010 and Chairman since 2017, and I am now proud to be Burscough Town Council's first mayor. I have lived in Burscough for 52 years and worked for West Lancashire Borough Council for 34 years, initially as an assistant quantity surveyor and finally as Major Projects Manager before retiring in 2009. I have enjoyed volunteering as a Councillor and putting something back into the community and would encourage any residents of Burscough who have some spare time to consider getting involved in the work of the Council.

Since the last newsletter the Council has been able to make a grant of over £15,000 to continue to secure the services of a mental health practitioner to provide sessions to any Burscough primary school child who would benefit from such an intervention.

The Council is also close to finalising a deal to acquire a piece of land that will be used as a community orchard, wild flower park and for walking and relaxing in.

We are also negotiating with the Borough Council to provide funds to refurbish a community room within Burscough Leisure Centre which is as present being upgraded. This commitment will of course be subject to a vote of all Councillors at a full Council meeting.

Other possible projects include work to upgrade the public toilets on School Lane and enhancement work on the towpath adjacent to the Wharf.

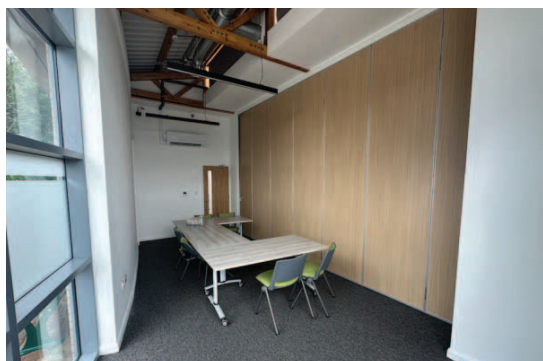
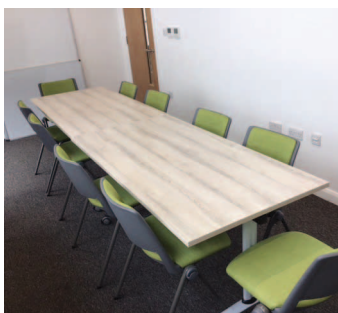
Thank you for taking the time to read this and please STAY SAFE.

Brian Kennedy

Burscough Town Council Mayor.

Did you know?

Burscough Town Council have very modern rooms to lease by the hour, they are fully furnished with good quality furniture and would suit anyone organising a corporate event, training, music events / practice, theatre productions and many more social activities. All bookings are made online via the Town Councils website <https://burscoughtc.org.uk>. **Coming soon**, these facilities will be extended and will be available into the evening and weekend.



Burscough Town Council are the owners of the Cycle Lockers at Burscough Bridge Station, these are **FREE of charge** to hire out although we do ask for a £10 deposit. If you would like to hire a cycle locker contact the Town Clerk Jackie Maguire – jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk or telephone 01704 894914 for further information.

*Article by Jackie Maguire,
Town Clerk.*





Marvellous Blooming Burscough

The summer sunshine may have been slow to make an appearance, but Burscough Town Council's annual floral displays certainly weren't. Up to 50 hanging baskets adorn the lampposts from Warpers Moss Way all the way to the Memorial Gardens, and also proving popular with residents and visitors to the town are the 26 barrier-rail top planters which have taken up their usual positions throughout the village, and on the Station Approach railings and the car park railings opposite the wharf.

Guaranteed to catch the eye are the three-tiered planters, with colourful flower displays placed along the A59, and at the 'Burscough' granite feature on the corner of Mill Lane and Higgins Lane. Hopefully, once that orange ball in the sky appears, the village will become a vibrant picturesque kaleidoscope of colour.

Report by Cllr. Derick Moss



Burscough Sports Centre is getting a £3.18 million make-over

The existing building opening in 1975, Burscough Sports offering a comprehensive array of facilities for people of all ages and abilities. The centre included a gym, a large main hall suitable for badminton and 5-a-side football, squash courts, a large floodlit all-weather 3G pitch, a virtual cycling studio and an area where various exercise classes are held. Additional amenities included an activity room, changing and toilets. The facilities have required an update for some time and with the funding being secured and the plans approved, Scaffold has gone up and work has started on making Burscough Sports Centre into a modern fitness centre for years to come. Councillor Carl Coughlan, lead member for Leisure, said: "I'm absolutely delighted that we have been able to bring this ambitious plan to fruition and that work on the ground will commence very soon."

Proposed works will see new and improved activity opportunities including:

- Refurbished and extended gym with 70 stations and functional training space (see example floor plan below)
- New indoor cycling studio
- New wellbeing suite with power-assisted equipment
- Refurbished sports hall and squash court floors

Other refurbishments including:

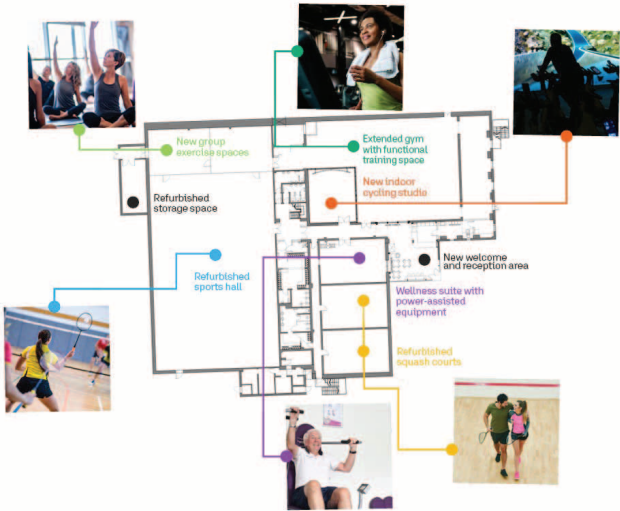
- Updated and modernised reception and lobby area
- Refurbished changing and toilets
- Refreshed circulation areas and modern signage
- New roof
- Redecorated sports hall
- Refurbished external façade
- Improvements to plant, mechanical and electrical infrastructure

Councillor Coughlin continued "The major works and investment in this facility will of course mean a temporary closure, but I can assure residents that the building they return to will have vastly improved facilities offering modern, comfortable and flexible spaces for them to enjoy."

Burscough Sports closed to the public on Sunday 26 May 2024 and construction began in June 2024.

The transformational work will be carefully managed to minimise the impact on residents and businesses as much as possible and concessions are being made to WELL fitness members as compensation for the inconvenience. Members have the option to benefit from the facilities at other WELL sites or freeze their membership with no charge.

More information can be found at <https://www.transforming-leisure-in-west-lancs.co.uk/>





The FALL and RISING FUTURE of BURSCOUGH'S DERBY CINEMA

Everyone has a dream – and Kevin Whittaker is following his; the re-emergence of the once local popular Derby Cinema, which was housed at the Stanley Institute (now Stanley Club) on Liverpool Road North in Burscough. Kev, as he likes to be called, started up the Stanley Cinema Project in the summer of 2023. As a former, now retired, cinema owner myself with a passion for the big screen, it excited me to be able to sit down with him and discuss his future plans for the Stanley Cinema Project, along with his and his family's long association with the Stanley Club.

Kev lives locally with his wife Melanie. He had always been intrigued by the history of the building, particularly the original cinema balcony, which he first saw as a young child at the popular Stanley Club children's Christmas parties when the balcony was still open and visible. As a teenager he was lucky enough to have unlimited access when he moved into the house attached to the building when his father, John Whittaker, was appointed as Steward of the club. Kev has always dreamed of restoring the cinema to its former glory, and Melanie still recalls him telling her about the original seating, in particular the lover's double seats, some of which are still in situ, in the balcony when they first met.

Following the restoration, the project aims to provide an affordable entertainment option to the local community and hopefully beyond. To this end they have been holding pop up screenings in the function hall at the Stanley club since August 2023. The ticket price is £3.50 and the screenings including the 2003 classic comedy film 'ELF' at Christmas, Warner Bros 'WONKA'



during the February half term holiday, also the recently released 'WICKED LITTLE LETTERS' from Studio Canal in May have all been really well received.

From its humble beginnings to present day, local Burscough historian, Michael Dawson, has kindly provided some background information on the Stanley Institute, or 'Tute' as it is fondly known by longer term residents of the village: Building work commenced in 1899 and was completed in 1902. The sole contractors were Messrs. A K Irving and Sons of Southport, and the architect was Mr H E Peach also of Southport. It was erected at a cost of £3,903.12s.4d., of which the sum of £2,000 was donated by the Earl of Derby and various other donations amounted to over £1,065. The remaining £838 was collected by public subscription.



Article by Derick Moss – photos from Michael Dawson.

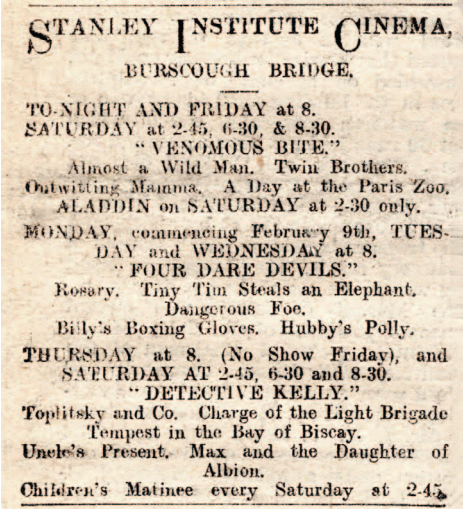
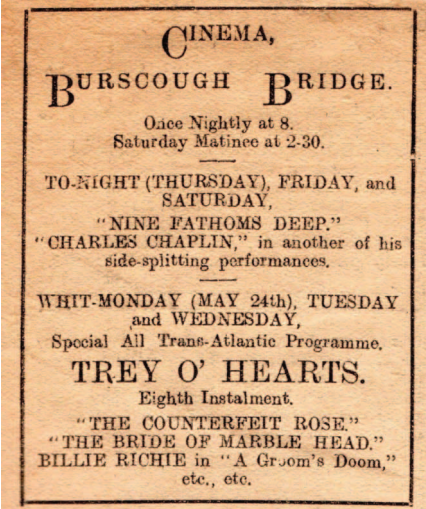


The furnishings and the completion of the bowling green (now the car park) in 1903 cost a further £700, bringing the total cost of the building, furnishings, bowling green and other fixtures to just over £4,600. Adjacent to the building a house was built for the caretaker, in addition to a two stalled stable and a cycle shed.

The Cinema was first opened on 11th December 1913, the doors opened at 7pm, with the performance starting at 7.45pm. There was also a grand children's matinee every Saturday at 3pm. The cinema was established by Mr John R Horrocks who rented the 'Constance Derby Hall' from the Stanley Institute. In 1915 it became known as the 'Cinema, Burscough Bridge' and subsequently the title 'Derby Cinema' was adopted. It was in 1915 that Serial's became popular and the first to be shown at the Derby Cinema was 'Trey O' Hearts' in April 1915 which was a drama in 15 parts. During the 1940's the cinema was patronised by a large number of local military personnel, probably from the local Ringtail airbase, and it continued to operate as a cinema, affectionately known as The Bug House, until 1965 after the downstairs was modified to accommodate the growing music scene and provide weekly 'Bob-Hop's'

Opened in 1902 by Lord Derby for the benefit of the people of Burscough, and overseen by a committee. The Stanley Club is primarily a private members club, with a main bar area, snooker room and large function room. In July 2017 the main bar was refurbished and relicensed as a public bar area and renamed Whittaker's Bar after Kev's father John, who today has his own brass name plaque above the bar in the snooker room, in recognition of his long association with the club.

The first step of the Stanley Cinema project restoration programme began by getting the previously vandalised balcony entrance fire escape restored. This was achieved via a *grant of £5256 from the Burscough Town Council whose councillors were keen to see a local non-profit community project like this get off the ground. Budget wise, it is estimated that it will require up to a further £100k to renovate the 103 seats, plus wall plastering/ decoration, soft & hard flooring and film screening equipment etc. There has also been huge support from the local community, and the Staff and the Committee of the Stanley Club through attendance at screenings, fundraising events held and general support and enthusiasm. The project is entirely volunteer led, and whilst still in the early stages in regards to the restoration, the intention is to restore the



original seating to its former glory and open up the balcony to the public for a wide variety of opportunities, offering tours and screenings to groups from local schools, to residential homes and community groups, as well as holding regular screenings for the wider public in the balcony and function room at low affordable prices.

Local historian and author, and great supporter of the project, Michael Dawson, is assisting the fund-raising efforts and has produced a new book called 'The Stanley Institute and Derby Cinema'. The book includes information and stories by Hetty Rosbottom & Ernest Rosbottom plus Harold Merrit, and includes plenty of old original photographs. 100% of the profits will go to help support the Stanley Cinema Project. The 24-page book costs just £5 and is available from the Stanley Club/Whittaker's Bar, or personally from Michael Dawson. Michael states that he is happy to deliver locally, or you are welcome to collect from him, just message him through Facebook or contact him on 07795 578025 for payment options. The book is a must read and your support will be greatly appreciated.

There is a GoFundMe page for anyone wishing to donate, see the QR code below. Or you can donate through our Facebook page using the other QR code below.

** Burscough Town Council has a small budget for the awarding of grants through an official application form for non-profit and community organisations or projects. To apply see:*

Grant Awarding Application and Policy - Burscough Town Council (burscoughtc.org.uk)

Article by Cllr. Derick Moss & Kev Whittaker, with special thanks to Michael Dawson for providing background information and photographs.





New Noticeboards will help give information to locals and visitors

Burscough Town Council has bought some new noticeboards and one of them is to be used for Community news. The new noticeboard outside the Town Council Office, near to the Railway station, will pass information of interest to residents and visitors of Burscough.

Only notices publicising activities, events or statutory public documents of non-profit and non-political organisations may be posted. Items should be no larger than A4 in size and the organisation responsible for issuing the notice must be clearly visible upon it.

Notices will be displayed until the end date of the advert or for 3 weeks depending on the material

The Town Council reserves the right to refuse any notice it considers inappropriate.

Article by Cllr. Mike Price

Tale of Burscough

Eagle eyed residents will have noticed that the dead tree which stood in the centre of the 'Tale of Burscough' feature, on the corner of School Lane and the A59, has been removed. This unfortunate decision was taken by West Lancs Borough Council due to the tree having become an eyesore, and the possibility of rotting and falling branches becoming a danger to the public.



It will not be possible to replace the tree as the tree surgeon was unable to remove the full stump and roots, which will remain in place, although it is envisaged that the stump will be reduced by a further twelve inches.

The good news is that, through its Street Scene working group, Burscough Town Council has set aside a budget to provide a minor enhancement of this area, and make it a safe space for visitors and residents to enjoy the 'Tale of Burscough' feature, and hopefully encourage increased footfall to the immediate retail outlets. The plans include the provision a circular tree seat/bench, with a central planter to hide the remainder of the tree stump.

A number of polished silver bollards will also be added to prevent parking incursions and provide a safe space for all to visit. Regular routine maintenance and cleaning will be carried out by the Town Council contractor and all works should hopefully be completed by the end of September.

Report by Cllr. Derick Moss.

Burscough Litter Picking Group *includes Rufford and Lathom areas*

Burscough Litter Pickers have now been in existence over six years, collecting at worst over 1000 bags in a single year 22/23.

And there are fears that this litter count could well increase with the number of new residents moving into the Burscough area.

Fly tipping is also a big concern, and we regularly have to inform WLBC, who is responsible for removing this type of debris.

The Leeds Liverpool canal towpath now has a doggy bin opposite the old Mill, it is emptied every day by one of our lady volunteers who does a wonderful job, and the bin is well used. One of the regular questions we are asked is 'do we find needles while litter picking' - in truth very few if any, what we do seem to find a lot of empty spirit bottles and nitrite oxide canisters usually in isolated car parks, sparking fears of the possibility of drug or drink driving!!!

On a lighter note, we now have 20 plus members from the original two, the majority being ladies who do a fabulous job. Weather permitting the group meets twice a month, on the first Sunday and the third Friday. It isn't all hard work, I insist on some R&R, usually in the shape of a get together at the Hop Vine, especially at Christmas.

There are some additional bonuses to litter picking like making new friends, for instance, two ladies on the group formed a close friendship and meet socially on Friday mornings, they do a pick then have a meal and a social drink.

It is illegal to litter. It blights our streets and seems to be an ever-growing problem. It is unsightly, unhygienic, dangerous to animals and expensive to remove, and if left in the ground it can take a very long time to become biodegradable. And yet litter in the form of sweet wrappers, plastic bottles, beer cans, and plastic bags seems to be ever-present in places where people frequent.

Burscough is a great place to live, so please love where you live and KEEP BURSCOUGH TIDY!

We have our own Facebook page, Burscough Litter Pickers, and we are always on the lookout for more volunteers to join our happy group.

Article by George Clandon, Burscough Litter Pickers.



Protecting hedgehogs – a small step:

Earlier in the year the TC received an e-mail from 'Hedgehogs Are Us' asking us to join their scheme to help protect hedgehogs and to spread the word about the dangers they face when their safe corridors among undergrowth disappear. At a discussion at the Full Town Council it was agreed to purchase 100 of the gates and distribute them to primary schools. The 'Gates' duly arrived and the chair and vicechair of the Climate working group distributed them to Burscough's primary schools.

We hope that this helped to raise awareness of the increasing dangers to our wild life both from increasing pollution to the environment and the destruction of the undergrowth that serves as protection for small creatures like hedgehogs. If they can't move safely from one garden to another they often make for open road which rather than offering a safe route, often sees them killed. These plastic 'gate' devices serve to keep an opening in hedges or fences between gardens providing the hedgehogs with a path that keeps them away from the roads:- a small step in protecting the environment and its biodiversity.

Thanks to all those who helped to spread the word in our schools.

Article by Cynthia Dereli

News from the Foodbank

The Skelmersdale and District food bank continues to build caring for people and the planet into all its work.

For Burscough and surrounding areas, Burscough Food bank is open at the Methodist Church in Orrell Lane every Thursday between 10am - 12pm.

It provides emergency food, toiletries, and other essentials, including pet food, (as research shows that pets are recognised as an important part of the family, supporting wellbeing and mental health).

The foodbank also works in partnership with a number of other organisations including:

- Compassion Acts, a charity, providing expert welfare, benefit and debt advice, in face to face meetings with clients.
- Wigan's Brick Multi Bank, a 'Distribution Revolution Project', who receive surplus goods from companies and distribute them to others, combating poverty while combatting waste.
- St John's Church, Chapel lane, who provide storage space for items, awaiting distribution.



- Burscough Bridge TESCO, who provide frozen items and household goods for distribution.
- Burscough Methodist Church's own Recycle / Reuse Clothes bank, open each Thursday where you can call in to donate clothing or to access the new/nearly new, quality clothing, shoes, school uniforms etc, totally free of charge and open to all.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who supports the foodbank and the clothes bank. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference in someone's life.

New Councillors set to tackle climate issues

The Town Council has recently had a new intake of Councillors and two of them, Cllr Jack Williams and Cllr Swin Purple are joining the Climate Change Working Group. They are keen to get to work and are starting by clarifying the role of this relatively new working group and how it will interface with other local government tiers and community groups. The matter of climate change offers a potentially huge scope of projects and necessary action. For the short term, we are looking at the planting of wildflowers and general rewilding of public spaces as a suitable local project. We look forward to reporting on progress and would always be pleased to hear from you on this subject or any other aspect of the climate crisis. Perhaps you have rewilded your own garden? Or have you spotted a local area that would lend itself to this project? Get in touch!

Article by Cllr. Swin Purple

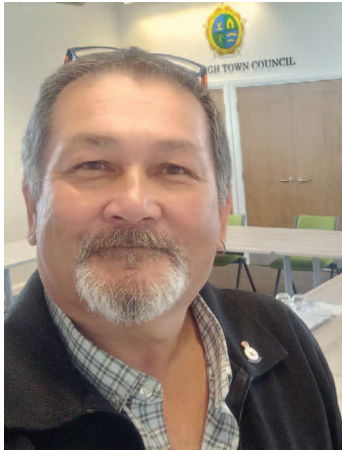
Climate Action: Our commitment reinforced

The Climate working group earlier in the year had agreed that good communication had to be a major part of our work in sharing possible initiatives and ideas.

So at the Town Council AGM in June, as we agreed the committee structure, the council also voted unanimously to not only have a Climate Working Group and to provide it with a small budget but also to ask all our committees and working groups to consider climate impacts in all their work and decisions so that we can truly say that commitments on climate action are underpinning all we do.



Co-option of new councillors and vacancy information



Cllr Victor Sheedy



Cllr Swin Purple



Cllr Jack Williams

Burscough Town Council has recently co-opted three new Town Councillors to help make a difference in your local community. They have agreed to sit on our Planning and Footpaths Committee, Climate Change, Traffic Issues and Civic Events Working Groups. Any recommendations made within these meetings are taken to the Town Council for a resolution and details can be found on our published agendas on our

website <https://burscoughtc.org.uk>. There is still one vacancy in our Stanley Ward, if you would like to be considered for a co-option and would like to make a difference within Burscough contact the Town Clerk – jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk or telephone 01704 894914.

Article by Jackie Maguire, Town Clerk.

BURSCOUGH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS’ CONTACT DETAILS



Mayor: Brian Kennedy
Deputy Mayor: Derick Moss

Councillor	Address	Telephone
BURSCOUGH TOWN WARD (BWD1/BWD2)		
Cynthia Dereli	10 Meadowbrook, L40 7XA	895247
John Crawford	201 Liverpool Road South, L40 7RE	895297
ELLERBROOK WARD (BEB/BEC)		
Neil Pollington	11 Windsor Close, L40 7RH	07545 776408
Swin Purple	–	07354 271272
Jack Williams	–	07940 080079
NEW LANE WARD (SBE)		
Mike Price	98 New Lane, L40 0RY	07748 621533
RED CAT LANE WARD (BWA)		
John Horsley	Curlew Cottage, 82 Moss Nook, L40 0RQ	07518 967517
RICHMOND PARK WARD (BWC)		
Ezra Ouko	1 Higgins Lane, L40 7AZ	07912 945351
ST JOHN’S WARD (BEA)		
Brian Kennedy	37 Weaver Avenue, L40 4LE	895374
Stephen Bradley	34 School Lane, L40 4AE	07801 433584
Victor Sheedy	Lathom permanent mooring, L40 NW of Bridge 32 Crabtree Lane	07908 656674
STANLEY WARD (BWB)		
Derick Moss	4 Abbey Fold, L40 7UX	07860 735025
Brian Bailey	60 Hesketh Road, L40 7SQ	07518 757059
Vacancy		
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL		
Jackie Maguire (Clerk)	Interchange Building, Station Approach, L40 0RZ jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk or 894914	
Sheila Gill (Deputy Clerk/RFO)	Sheila.gill@burscoughtc.org.uk	