

LOCUM CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT
FULL COUNCIL MEETING (FC2/39)
15th July 2025

Following the Annual Council meeting in May, councillors were straight back to work in early June for the first round of committees where chairs were elected for the ensuing year. The new Mayor of Neston, Cllr Simon Davies had a very busy day for the 211th Annual Ladies Day Walk on Thursday 5th June 2025. The Mayor was joined by the new Deputy Mayor, Cllr Carol Braithwaite, and for the very first time, the members of the Neston's Junior Council walked in the parade with their purple sashes, which we hope will become a new annual tradition. The Junior Councillors had the pleasure of meeting the Lord Mayor of Chester, Cllr Sherin Akhtar and Samantha Dixon MP for Chester North and Neston. Even though rain threatened for the first time in a number of years, the walk thankfully took place in bright sunshine.



In early June a meeting took place between officers, Cheshire West's Property Services and Equans regarding maintenance of the Town Hall. The booking system and process for logging faults has now changed, which will alter the way the Town Hall Manager records faults and requests maintenance work for the site. Neston Town Council remains responsible for maintenance work under the £1,500 threshold. Fortunately, ongoing issues with the building that had already been started under the old system could still be progressed. This means that the damaged plaster work in the ceiling of the Main Hall, caused by an old water leak, was completed last week. The whole section has been replastered and painting is now underway/. Thankfully this work has been completed in time for the upcoming Neston Theatre Arts festival which will see

young performers utilising the space over the space of the weekend from 11th – 13th July 2025. These improvements so make a big difference to our hirers.

Another upgrade which you may notice in the Main Hall is the brand-new backdrop stage curtain. The old curtain was looking particularly worse for wear and thanks to the Market & Town Hall Committee, this work was approved and completed in with a very fast turnaround. I am sure the organisers of the Neston Theatre Festival will also be pleased to be able to utilise this new piece of equipment. Thanks must also go to Neston Town Council officers for facilitating this work through flexible working and completing some in-house repairs to the main curtains which are now much neater and even along the bottom. Sterling research was completed enabling the Council to source a reliable contractor who completed the bespoke work in a timely manner, ready for a busy summer of theatre sessions.



Town Council staff have recently completed their top-up training in fire-safety, manual handling and working at height (where appropriate).

Cheshire West & Chester Council launched its Local Plan Consultation on 4th July, which is running until 29th August 2025. The Town Council will be hosting an additional meeting next month to discuss the consultation with the Head of Planning Rob Charnley, so please do keep an eye out for when the meeting date is announced as it will be an informative and important session to help ensure Neston's views are heard. For more information please visit: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/localplan

Zoë Dean
Locum Chief Officer
Neston Town Council
10th July 2025