



# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6:00pm in the Solway Hall at Whitehaven Civic Hall, Lowther Street, Whitehaven

### AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome from Councillor Charles Maudling of Whitehaven Town Council.
2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
3. Annual Report presented by Councillor Charles Maudling.
4. Report from former Cumbria County Council Councillor Mike Hawkins.
5. Report from Sergeant Lindsay Stuart, Cumbria Constabulary.
6. Report from Mary Bradley, CALC Chairperson, Cumbria.
7. To invite Councillor E Dinsdale, Deputy Mayor of the Town Council to address the meeting.
8. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest and ask any questions of the representatives of the two local authorities responsible for Whitehaven. The Police may also be available to answer any questions on community policing.
9. Close of meeting and vote of thanks.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Whitehaven to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. Matters can be raised at the meeting without prior notice. For any queries please contact the Clerk, Marlene Jewell on 01946 67366.

Councillor Charles Maudling  
Chairman, Whitehaven Town Council

## WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Present:** Councillors C Hayes (Chairman); J Carr; E Dinsdale; G Dinsdale; R Gill; C Maudling; B O’Kane; J Rayson; R Redmond; G Roberts; G Stevens; C Walmsley

Mayor Starkie, Copeland Borough Council

Councillor Christopher Whiteside, Cumbria County Council

Sergeant L Stuart, Cumbria Constabulary

Chris Shaw, CALC

M Jewell, Clerk

V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Councillor Hayes opened the meeting and thanked everybody for attending.

#### **APM/37** Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be signed and approved by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 abstained

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be signed and approved by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **APM/38** Chairman’s Annual Report

The Chairman, Councillor Chris Hayes read his Annual Report which had been previously circulated.

He made the following key points relating to the Council’s activities during the past year: -

- Events – As the Country gradually emerged from lockdown due to COVID we were once again able to attend and stage numerous events. The popular children’s science show Fartology by the CBBC Presenter Stefan Gates was staged and was free to all schools in Whitehaven with over 280

children attending. The continental market made a welcome return to the Harbour and The Town Council's Traders Markets in St Nicholas proved very popular again with the Lord Lieutenant Claire Hensman in attendance at one of them.

The Town Council had also supported the recent Leyland National 50 event which saw lots of Leyland buses from the past 50 years parked in the town.

We also had an appearance from Peter Rabbit who gave out free Easter Eggs that had been purchased by the Town Council.

- Whitehaven In Bloom – The Town Council continued to fund the floral displays in Whitehaven including St Nicholas Gardens, Pelican Bed, Trinity Bed, Corkickle Badge Bed all the hanging baskets, barrier baskets, barrels, planters and tiered planters;
- Street Furniture – A new bus shelter was installed at Bransty; 2 new bins were installed in the ward of Corkickle South and 4 benches with commemorative plaques remembering those who had lost their lives during the Covid pandemic were installed in St Nicholas Gardens. However, we were disheartened when a bus shelter at Greenbank had been vandalised on 3 separate occasions;
- Both CBC and WTC were continuing to work in partnership with Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners and WTC had recently provided some hanging baskets and barrels of flowers for the Harbour;

Councillor Hayes informed the meeting that as Mayor he was intent on establishing a Community Award Scheme to recognise individuals and groups for their outstanding contributions. The recipients were:

- Jordan Mattinson for his charitable fundraising;
- Lara Schwab and the volunteers involved with Whitehaven Shipshapers for their tremendous efforts in organising litter picks within the town centre;
- Beck Bottom Community Gardening Group for all their hard work in transforming Hensingham Beck Bottom;

- Peter Boyle for his organisation of charitable events and concerts in aid of BEE Unique Autism.

Councillor Hayes said it had been a privilege and honour to serve as Mayor of Whitehaven Town Council and some of his personal highlights including attending the Cumbria SEND Games and the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party for BEE Unique, 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration of PROBUS and the opening of The Community Centre at Red Lonning. Particularly sobering moments came at the Normandy Veterans Memorial Service and the annual Remembrance Sunday parade.

During the year we were joined by two new Councillors following the resignations of Louise Walmsley and Carla Arrighi. Councillor Hayes went onto to welcome Councillor Johnathan Carr representing Mirehouse West and Councillor Gaile Stevens representing Whitehaven South.

Councillor Hayes expressed his thanks;

- To his wife Angela for supporting and accompanying him in her role as Mayoress of Whitehaven;
- To the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their guidance and support to the Council;
- Gerard Richardson for his advice and active support which had been essential to the Council in being able to deliver successful events;
- Brian Holmes, Cumbria County Council's Street Lighting Supervisor for his expert knowledge and advice with the installation of the town's Christmas Lights;
- Bob and Jim Bennett who supply the flowers for the beautiful displays throughout the year;
- Alan Clements, Contracts Manager at Copeland Borough Council for the continuance of an excellent partnership;
- Whitehaven Town Council Ranger, Elena Douthwaite and Assistant Ranger, John Wright for all their hard work throughout the year, and finally;
- Fellow Councillors of Whitehaven Town Council for their support during his tenure as Chairman and Mayor of Whitehaven Town Council.

**Report from Mike Starkie, Elected Mayor of Copeland Borough Council**

Mayor Starkie started by welcoming Councillor Carr and Councillor Stevens to Whitehaven Town Council.

Mayor Starkie congratulated Councillor Hayes and his achievements in raising the profile of Whitehaven Town Council during the past year.

He said we are approaching the last electoral cycle for Whitehaven Town Council and next year will mark a significant change and over the course of the next year there will be a lot to think about and contemplate with the Shadow Council and the scaling down of the number of Councillors and the role of town and parish councils would increase significantly. He said it would be an interesting year ahead with the Council working with the Shadow Council and for Councillors on the ground in those areas it would possibly mean a different role to previously and this would be the most sizeable change to Cumbria in the last 50 years.

Mayor Starkie congratulated the Town Council on all the events that they had put on in the town over the years and that this was improving year on year He said he wished Gerard Richardson a speedy recovery as his support and advice was invaluable to the Council. He said he hoped the Council got the weather for all the Jubilee events they had organised.

Mayor Starkie said significant things had happened in the Town over the year:

- The opening of the new Whitehaven Academy and the pre-eminent role that Councillor Julie Rayson played in this. The Action Group did a remarkable job to emerge from the ashes of the BT. It puts Whitehaven in a good place educationally with 3 new schools being opened– St Benedicts, Mayfield and Whitehaven Academy and helps to attract people to the area.
- The opening of the Bus Station and the Pedlar which is a fantastic facility
- £770k investment in the digital grid and this will make us the first digital town in the country and will link into the Bus Station

- Traders Markets
- The Young Entrepreneurs Markets were a huge success
- Copeland Borough Council have purchased 4 properties in King Street and 3 are currently occupied – 1 by the Digital Grid Company and 2 by young entrepreneurs who are moving from market stalls into shops
- Whitehaven is going to have to be built on unique type traders and not rely on big companies
- The former Barclays Bank will be opening imminently as Power Bikes
- A 4 star hotel is in the pre planning stage between BEC and English Country Hotels
- The Bus Station Garage is in the pre planning stage with a national budget hotel group (140 bedrooms).
- The fantastic work John Baker is doing on the Harbour. This has made a huge impact for the benefit of Whitehaven especially the restoration of the lighthouses.
- They are now looking at getting the harbour lights and The Wave repaired.
- Whitehaven is going to become a destination town. There were not many towns with the unique history that Whitehaven has.
- To drive out absent landlords and continue with acquisitions
- The West Cumbria Mine was within weeks of the story coming to an end and hopefully the story beginning. The final date was 7<sup>th</sup> July and he was very confident that the mine would go ahead because there was no material planning reason why it shouldn't. When it happens the prosperity that it brings will be significant.
- Raico Robotics – with having a digital grid and all the expertise this has lured Raico here.

All of these things add up to a bright future for Whitehaven and Mayor Starkie said he would like to conclude by congratulating all the Whitehaven Town Councillors. He said it had been a difficult beginning for the Council and it had started in a difficult place but it has evolved and progressed and made huge strides. He said he



could only see it going from strength to strength and there had been lot of benefits from having a Town Council.  
In concluding Mayor Starkie said it was a seismic change that was happening in local government with a new authority from 1<sup>st</sup> April next year and he looked forward to this with huge optimism as there was the potential to change this area forever and for the better.

**APM/40 Report from Sergeant Lindsay Stuart of Cumbria**

**Constabulary**

Sgt Stuart introduced herself and outlined the Structure in Whitehaven:

Inspector Richard Smilie

Sgt Dave McDonald and Lindsay Stuart

PC Sarah Hindle – Whitehaven Problem Solving

PCSO Mark Fishpool – Whitehaven Town Centre/Bransty/  
Distington

PCSO Jackie Rafferty – Mirehouse/Woodhouse/Kells/Hensingham

Sgt Rafferty then went on to make the following points :-

**Crime Figures compared to 2021**

Overall - UP – 25.7% - 2699 crimes recorded

Burglary - Down – 34.7% - 62 crimes recorded

Drug offences – down – 4.5% - 64 crimes recorded

Violence against the person – up -43.2% - 1372 crimes recorded  
(although this appears to be a large increased, it is in line with the 3 year average and is expected due to covid restrictions easing)

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

Environmental – Down -78.3%

Nuisance – Down – 12.3%

Personal – Down – 38.8%

**Recruitment for PCSO's** – has opened and interviews started this week this will add more staff to the Copeland team in the coming months following training

**Positive work**

**CPNW** – warning with strict conditions to abide by if breached

CPN – Notice issued, if breached court

Female causing issues in the TC intoxicated – Issued with a

Community Protection notice warning in July 21 followed in September 21 with a community protection notice.  
CPNW – Female causing Noise problems within Birley Court issued with CPNW in August 21 followed by CPN in March 22 we have received further complaints that this female has breach the CPN unfortunately the witnesses will not engage with police to provide evidence to the court  
CPNW – to male on Woodhouse for off road bikes  
Sgt Stuart said that 4 CBOs had been issued

### **On The Beats**

August 2021 - following the tirade of community conversations no one turned up

### **Ask for Angela**

In November re launched– campaign for people who feel unsafe to ask staff in licensed premises for “ANGELA” which indicates they need help

### **Violence against Women and Girls Patrols Duke street**

As part of the ongoing work to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG), we are continuing our high-visibility foot patrols in identified ‘hot-spot’ areas to reassure women and girls across Cumbria.

‘Hot-spot’ areas are identified by information received by the public on where they feel unsafe and our own data.

This work aligns with wider efforts to prevent VAWG through the Safer Streets programme, which brings together partner agencies, so efforts are coordinated to have a positive impact for women and girls in our county.

We all have a role to play in ensuring women and girls feel safe in Cumbria. Our frontline officers are out there every day making key contributions towards keeping people safe.

### **Street Safe APP**

Street Safe is a pilot service for anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, eg street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, eg being followed or verbally abused.

**Please note:** 'Street Safe' is not for reporting crime or incidents.



### **King Street**

Vehicles using road when not exempt or at times it is specified not to, Police have worked with other agencies and taking positive action with fix penalty notices issued to offending drivers/vehicles

### **Begging in the town centre**

Positive action being taken warnings given and posters handed to the shops, they have been offered help from the Homeless officer but declined. We are continuing to build intelligence to establish if the people responsible are in fact homeless or professional beggars (making a living from Travelling to different towns to beg) We are working with other areas in order to fix the issue and not just move it to another town.

**Brayton Road** – Following intel of drug dealing and positive drug warrants male UAI for PWITS offences residences continue to complain about comings and goings. PC 2241 Sarah worked tirelessly along with home group and the male was handed an injunction to stay out of the Bransty estate. The same male has moved to 2 other addresses in Copeland since and we have continued our work throughout and he has now left Copeland area.

### **E Scooters**

Work had been done in school around the use of the scooters with legal information sent home to parents/carers. Enforcement with riders having the scooter seized for no insurance and some arrests for riding while under the influence

### **Safer Street Fund – PCC**

Castle Park previously had no lighting, felt unsafe and had many reports of incidents ranging from youth ASB and underage drinking through to indecent exposure and serious sexual assaults.

The funding paid for Cumbria County Council to install 13 lighting units within the park. It also paid for 2 CCTV cameras to be installed on the new lighting columns in the park, these cameras have passed into the ownership of Copeland Borough Council.

The funding paid for 4 additional CCTV cameras due to be installed this month by WCCTV. These will be sited in areas identified as being of concern by police, so in Love Lane, Copeland Centre and 2 on the Beacon/Kells path.

Funding also paid for Active Bystander Training. Initially this was intended to be delivered to a variety of groups, ie taxi drivers, pub and door security staff, but the take up was low so we focussed on

delivering to schools and colleges delivering to 1394 students in Whitehaven Academy, St Benedict's, Cockermouth, Beacon Hill and Solway and Gen2.

Newsletter and website show up to date engagement planned and activities we have completed for the previous month

Whitehaven Police Station holds a Drop in Desk every second Tuesday of the month 10 – 11am

### **HUB**

2 pub referrals

Violence around the taxi rank on Duke Street

Parking issues at the schools

HUB is back open for hot desking and room bookings

School talks community visits are back up and running

Drop in sessions 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 10am to 11am at Whitehaven Police Station

Sgt Stuart said if there are any community events please inform us so we can attend when possible

Following the presentation some Councillors present asked questions/made comments as follows:-

- Councillor Maudling – drinks are being spiked. Sgt Stuart said this had come to their attention but it was not a major issue
- Councillor Weir said there was disturbing noise nuisance at the corner of Joe Bananas. There was violence with girls getting drunk and young men smashing full bottles. Sgt Stuart said to ring 101 to get assistance

### **APM/41 Report from Councillor Chris Whiteside of Cumbria County Council**

Councillor Whiteside began by saying that this would be the last report from Cumbria County Council by a serving Cumbria County Councillor as the Unitary Authority would take over from 1<sup>st</sup> April next year and said preparing for the new Council was taking a huge amount of time and energy.

He said he wanted to say a few words about highways, the library service and public health

- Local Highways – the CCC recognises that we have been called the pothole capital of England and there were a lot of

problems with our roads. They had voted to give an extra £1.2 million to deal with potholes - £200,000 to each Local Committee and it was recommended by the Copeland Highways Working Group that the best use of that budget was to fund 2 additional personnel which would hopefully reduce the response times to urgent defects.

- Whitehaven TRO – This was due to commence this year and was likely to start in the summer/autumn. The first round of informal consultation would be towards the end of the year and he hoped that the Town Council would encourage people to look at what was being proposed and respond to it to try and ensure that they got it right.

Councillor Whiteside said that they had been looking at how to control traffic in Whitehaven and the new Whitehaven Campus.

- National Highways – Meetings had been taking place over the years with the organisation formerly known as Highways England and now called National Highways about trying to get improvements to the A595 but nothing had been happening and County Councillors found this incredibly frustrating. The top priorities if National Highways were the A595, and in Whitehaven a scheme to improve the safety and flow of traffic re lights near the Pelican and an improvement to the hospital roundabout. There was a proposal to contact the local MP to ask for a review to determine how effective National Highways was. But all Cumbria County Councillors would continue to put pressure on National Highways to get some action on the A595.
- Libraries in Whitehaven – From April 2022 Whitehaven Library has been hosting sessions encouraging job seekers to meet with work coaches in a relaxed environment on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

From March Whitehaven Library returned to its pre-covid working hours. The biggest increase in usage had been from school visits. Library customers had also made a significant increased use of digital facilities – free e- books, newspapers etc

- Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan – This had the second round of public consultation in February and 215 responses were received mostly from St Bees and Whitehaven. The final report was expected to be finished by the end of June.

- Public Health - Although vaccination programmes had enabled people to move on since lockdown Councillor Whiteside said he was well aware as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee that the impact of the pandemic was still with us and still would be for many years. Our hospitals are still full and under tremendous pressure – not so much from people with covid but because of people who would otherwise have been diagnosed and treated during the pandemic presenting now. He said we all owe a huge debt to the doctors and nurses who are still working immensely hard. He stressed that covid was not over yet and if anyone was invited to get a booster vaccination he strongly recommended that they did so

Councillor Whiteside said he would like to say a huge thank you to the County Council front line staff who keep our highways running, look after our children and young people, run adult social care, provide our library, run our waste services and wish them all the best doing the excellent work which they do in the new authority.

**APM/42 Report from Chris Shaw from the Cumbria Association of Local Councils**

Chris Shaw introduced himself and said he was the CALC Liaison Officer for Allerdale and Copeland.

He said he had been looking at the Minutes of the last Meeting and there were issues that he wanted to expand on

- We were ending virtual meetings at this time last year and CALC and other County Associations were pressing the Government for the ability to hold either hybrid meetings or to hold virtual meetings but the Government consulted on this but it never got to legislation so we have to meet in person
- The local Government review which was ongoing
- Training provided by CALC
  - Code of Conduct. All new members are encouraged to do this to stop councillors getting into trouble with their councils
  - Planning. This will inform on how councillors can influence decisions taken and focus on what councillors should be saying

- There is lots of new councillor training for understanding what the roles and responsibilities are
- There is new chairmen training
- Training towards assisting Clerks to work towards CILCA diploma
- Training to ensure Clerks and Councillors understand the rules and regulations that they're working under

On the question of Parish elections there had been a debate last year as to whether we should move from a four year term to a three year term and then a 5 year term but it was decided to stay as we were. So the whole costs of the parish elections will fall on parish councils next year.

Newsletters are issued by CALC on the LGR process. But do not expect that on 01/04/23 that they will drop a lot of work on parish councils. This will not happen. Decisions will be taken on how we can devolve to our level of work. We will not be expected to take over the bins, lighting etc but in time there will be a certain amount of devolved government. I am sure that Cumberland will engage fully with you and CALC will do its best to ensure it does succeed.

We have been involved in the question of what is called the dump. We have been involved in managing radioactive waste safely for a long time. GDF is not a major concern for Whitehaven as all the initial search areas are in the South of Copeland but if it comes to Whitehaven (Cumberland) it should make a massive difference because it is a national facility and it will transform the area (new roads). We do want to keep active in discussions about it. It is likely if the geology is right that it will be on the seabed.

We continue to help Councillors. We continue to help Clerks. It is not our duty to answer particular queries from individual councillors as the Clerk or Chairman can write to us.

**APM/43 Report from Raymond Gill, Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Gill said that this would be his last Parish Meeting as it was his intention not to stand again.

He said he wanted first of all to reflect on the 7 years that Whitehaven Town Council had existed and made the following points:-

- It wasn't an easy birth and for the first few years there were serious challenges to say the least.

- However without dwelling on these, hard decisions were made and most challenges resolved.
- Looking back on his time involved in Local Government he could reflect on how it had evolved and how our town has been short-changed.
- The last time Local Government had changed he had been there too. Like this time there was a 12 month ease in in 1973 to 1974. May Reed was the first Mayor of Copeland and Walter Hurst was the last Mayor of the old Borough of Whitehaven. But Whitehaven was not given a Town Council so all its substantial assets were given to Copeland Borough Council.
- Some of the assets were the Civic Hall, the Town Hall, the Swimming Baths, the Market Hall, the Multi Storey Car Park, various parcels of land and the Civic Regalia. All other Parishes within Copeland had a Town or Parish Council and they kept their Council buildings.
- Despite promises by Copeland Borough Council to help us become established very little had been forthcoming. We were given a room in the Civic Hall as an office and had to pay rent and it is ironic that the ratepayers of Whitehaven were paying rent in a building that they had paid for when it was built.
- We as a Council have tried numerous times to get our historic Civic Regalia returned to us and Copeland Borough Council had refused. The Mayor's and Mayoress's are engraved "given to the people of Whitehaven". Not to Copeland. Despite promises of talks re asset transfer nothing has transpired.
- But there is to be a new Cumberland Council and I am hoping they will look upon us in a more favourable manner. But rest assured the Whitehaven Town Council will not give up the fight for the return of all of its historic Civic Regalia.
- The new Cumberland Council will pose challenges to Whitehaven Town Council. It will be remote from the people. And more and more Town Councillors will be the community leaders in the town, although I look forward to negotiations over the coming months.
- One good thing Whitehaven Town Council gained from Copeland Borough Council was our staff who are highly qualified, efficient and our most valuable asset and I would like to thank them for the work they do.



In closing Councillor Gill asked that a letter be sent to Gerard Richardson wishing him well with his illness and to thank him for all the work he has carried out and continues to carry out working with us to make Whitehaven a better place to live in.

Most people know my political views and I maintain those, but politics in a Council with only 12 Members is irrelevant. As a Council we must all work together as a team to improve our Town. The people of Whitehaven deserve no less.

**APM/44**     **Questions/Comments from Councillors and Members of the Public to Invited Speakers**

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Mayor and invited anyone in the public gallery to say anything that they might wish to say

Please see above at **APM/40**

**APM/45**     **Close of Meeting and Vote of Thanks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and proposed a vote of thanks to Mayor Starkie, Councillor Whiteside, the police and Chris Shaw.

Councillor Gill asked if a letter of thanks could be sent to Gerard Richardson on our behalf and the Chairman agreed

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Chairman

## CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT



When I was elected to be Mayor of Whitehaven Town Council, it gave me enormous pleasure to represent Whitehaven Town Council and the good people of Whitehaven. It was a huge honour.

I would like to thank Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edwin Dinsdale for deputising for me at the Proclamation to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.



During this celebration we also acknowledged the wonderful achievement of Donald Messenger who has volunteered as part of Whitehaven Male Voice Choir for 44 years of which he has been the Choir Secretary for 42 years.



It was with great sadness that the Country observed a period of national mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, during which a proclamation to King Charles III was read in St Nicholas Gardens.



In my year of office, I have been invited to numerous events held by neighbouring Town Councils and local charities and theatre productions. I have met some wonderful people and I have taken great delight from promoting our Town.



I was extremely humbled to have taken part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade which once again allowed us to pause and remember those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice.



## EVENTS

The popular CBeebies presenter Stefan Gates returned to entertain the school children with his latest show Edible Insects. It was lovely to greet the children and seeing their excited faces.



There was a special appearance from SPOT the dog who showed off his dance moves before having a walk around town. He even took the time to do some shopping and purchased a dog bone from Wilkinsons. Special thanks to the brilliant engineers at RAICO for demonstrating SPOT's talents.

It was a wonderful sight to see a tall ship berthed in the harbour and a pleasure to meet the Captain and crew of La Malouine. Hundreds of people had a look around the boat to see what life on the ocean sea was like. We look forward to them returning this year.







The popular Markets held in St Nicholas Gardens drew people into the town and the Christmas market ended with a fabulous firework display enjoyed by thousands.



The Christmas Lights switch on event was a great success with the younger generation being entertained by CFM and Taylors Fair and the older generation dancing along to the ABBA Tribute Band.

## **WHITEHAVEN IN BLOOM**

Once again the Town was blooming lovely. Corkickle Badge Bed had this fitting tribute for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and won Gold in Cumbria In Bloom's Special Award for Queens Jubilee 2022.







The fabulous displays enabled Whitehaven to win a Gold Medal Award in Cumbria In Bloom's Proud in Your Community category and Whitehaven will now be entered in the Coastal Town Category in Britain In Bloom's competition for the forthcoming year.

## **STREET FURNITURE**

A new bus shelter was installed outside the Sheltered Housing Accommodation at Red Lonning and the residents are delighted with the addition.



Some new benches were installed in St Nicholas Gardens to replace ones that were in disrepair and I am delighted to announce that the Town Council have purchased a seat to commemorate the forthcoming coronation of our new monarch and this will be installed in St Nicholas Gardens very soon.



I would like to conclude with special thanks to the following people:

My wife, Sylvia for her support and for accompanying me in her role as Mayoress of Whitehaven to many of the functions we were invited too;

To Marlene and Vanessa, our Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all the work they do behind the scenes in organising all the events in addition to providing excellent guidance and support to the Council;

Gerard Richardson for his invaluable support to the Town Council. His advice and active support have been essential in us being able to deliver successful events within the Town;

Brian Holmes, Cumbria County Councils Street Lighting Supervisor for his expert knowledge and advice with the installation of the town's Christmas Lights;

Bob and Jim Bennett who again have supplied and helped to plant the flowers which make up all the beautiful displays through-out the year;

Alan Clements, Contracts Manager of Copeland Borough Council for the continuance of an excellent partnership with Parks and Open Spaces;

Our Ranger, Elena Dowthwaite and John Wright and Assistant Ranger Mark Sisson for all their work through-out the year

And finally, my fellow Councillors for their support during my tenure as Chairman and Mayor of Whitehaven Town Council.