



# Witham's Voice

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## Election Special Edition

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## Meet Our New Town Mayor



On Monday 13th May 2019, Councillor Clare Lager was elected as the new Town Mayor for the next 12 months. Clare was previously Deputy Mayor, and is absolutely delighted to take Office following the outcome of recent local elections.

Clare says of her new role:

I feel really honoured to have been appointed as the new Witham Town Mayor, following my re-election as a Town Councillor. Having lived in the town for 50 years, I am immensely proud to be part of such a wonderful community and will do everything I can to promote Witham, whilst in office.

There are so many outstanding charities in the area. Over the coming weeks, I will be working hard to select just two, who will become my chosen charities and fundraising focus for the year

I would like to pass on my very sincere thanks to our previous Town Mayor, Councillor Tom Pleasance and his wife Jenny, for their amazing work over the past year. You have certainly left me some "big shoes" to try and fill, and I will be doing my very best to continue the hard work you have both been totally committed to.

My congratulations too, to my new Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Ron Ramage, who I know will bring his expertise and support to the role.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can over the coming year. In the meantime, I can be contacted via the Town Hall if I can be of any assistance.

Thank you Witham for the opportunity!

All the very best

*Clare*

A message from Ron:

It is a great honour and privilege to be asked to stand as Deputy Mayor for Witham Town Council 2019/2020, and look forward to supporting our Mayor, Cllr Clare Lager, in the year ahead.



Witham Town Council

Town Hall, Newland Street  
Witham, Essex CM8 2FE

Tel: 01376 520627

www.witham.gov.uk

# Witham's Voice



## 'Farewell' from Witham's Outgoing Mayor

I would like to thank the people of Witham for supporting myself and my wife Jenny during my year as Mayor. We have had a very enjoyable year and met some fantastic people. Through the generosity of the people of Witham we raised in excess of £5000 for our charities, J's hospice and 295 squadron. From the bottom of our hearts thank you. We would also like to welcome Councillor Clare Lager as the new Mayor.

## Witham Town Council Annual Accounts 2018/2019

### Income - How the Town Council was funded:

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX	£500,776
LOCALISM FUND	£ 16,581
COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION	
SURPLUS FUND	£ 7,737
INTEREST	£ 2,273
DONATIONS FOR MAYORS APPEAL	£ 5,149
HALL HIRE	£ 4,709
INFORMATION CENTRE SALES	£ 67,295
CAR PARK LICENCE	£ 8,782
DICKENSIAN MARKET	£ 350
COMMUNITY DAY	£ 792
TREE DONATIONS	£ 190
PUPPET FESTIVAL	£ 5,642
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£620,276</b>

### Community Committee – How we spent our budget:

Christmas Decorations	£ 5,369
Information Sales Expense	£ 58,084
Information Centre	£ 1,348
Community Grant Aid	£ 8,775
Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 8,400
Community Safety/CCTV	£ 20,485
Community Special Constables	£ 920
Other Community Support/Youth	£ 956
WW1 Commemorations	£ 201
Community Support	£ 13,248
Community Day	£ 2,298
Puppet Festival	£ 24,921
Christmas Dickensian Event	£ 332
Admin/Central Services	£ 87,534
Litter Bins	£ 0
Bus Shelters/Seats	£ 0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£232,871</b>

### Environment Committee - How we spent our budget:

Equipment, Supplies & Maintenance	£ 10,035
Lighting, Maintenance & Utility	£ 6,303
Toilet Block - Town Park	£ 7,523
Trees	£ 18,745
Trees/Commemorative/Memorial	£ 864
Dog Bins	£ 167
River Walk Projects	£ 10,558
Open Spaces	£ 5,719
James Cooke Wood	£ 63
River Walk	£ 4,181
Whetmead Local Nature Reserve	£ 63
Closed Churchyard	£ 36
Witham in Bloom Displays	£ 11,401
Admin/Central Services	£ 87,534
Lengthsman Scheme	£ 0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£163,192</b>

### Policy & Resources Committee - How we spent our budget:

Mayor's Appeal Fund	£ 7,263
Civic Receptions/Int. Relations	£ 177
Christmas Expenses	£ 1,760
Town Mayor's Allowance	£ 1,610
Mayors Gift Fund Allowance	£ 125
The Voice Newsletter	£ 8,629
Admin/ Central Services	£ 43,767
Partnership Authority Work	£ 0
Town & Neighbourhood Plan	£ 0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ 63,331</b>



# Meet Your Witham Town Councillors



"I've lived in Witham, and in the same house, for the last 50 years, so I know the town pretty well. My family grew up here and live locally. It's now a really good place to live in and will get even better if we can solve issues around the health service, traffic and parking, and the town centre. As a former District and County Councillor, I understand what can and can't be done, and how to set about those that can. In my free time I enjoy walking, travel, attending local and national musical events, gardening and some DIY."

**Councillor Michael Lager - The Conservative Party - Central Ward**



"I am very proud to be elected to the Central Ward of Witham Town Council. Having lived in Witham since 2004, I am keen to ensure that the people of Witham are given a fair deal by Braintree District Council. I am eager to see the extension of our CCTV system to enable greater coverage about our town, and for our free town-wide events (Puppet Festival, Community Day, Dickensian Market and the associated Witham Carnival) grow from strength-to-strength. I have great pride in the town and people of Witham."

**Councillor Robert Williams - The Conservative Party - Central Ward**



"Witham has been my home for the last 50 years. Our 3 children have grown up here - attending local schools - and now live nearby with their children. I've taught at Templars and Chipping Hill Schools and been active in many local groups. My hobbies are my family, the Town Council and for the last 25 years I've run coach trips to the Royal Festival Hall which enable people no longer able to get there under their own steam to enjoy classical concerts. I'm fully committed to continue to work for everyone in Hatfield ward and our town and I really look forward to continuing to work with the wonderfully enthusiastic staff we are so lucky to have in Witham Town Hall."

**Councillor Clare Lager - Independent - Hatfield Ward**



"I've lived in Witham since the early seventies, where I brought up my two children, and now my daughter who still lives in the town is bringing up my two grandsons, George and Archie. In that time I've served as a Braintree District Councillor for the last twelve years and a Town Councillor for the last four. I've just been elected as Deputy Mayor"

**Councillor Ron Ramage - The Conservative Party - Hatfield Ward**

## Meet Your Witham



"I moved to Witham in 1975 and have brought up my family here. My children also live in the Town with their children. I've been a Councillor continuously since 1989 and was Mayor twice in 1995 and 2005. In that time I've helped many people with a whole range of problems and met some remarkable people who care about where we live. Recently Government has forced us to build far more houses than in the last 20 years and many of us have opposed plans where we think some of the sites shouldn't be developed. Those of us who care about the quality of life here need to continue to stand against these. We need far more services, better roads and facilities before more houses are built. Witham is still a great place to live and we must try to keep it that way."

**Councillor Phil Barlow - The Labour Party - North Ward**



"I have lived in Witham for 29 years and like walking. I am the new Parade Marshal for the Royal British Legion. I am looking forward to the next 4 years in office representing the residents of the North Ward."

**Councillor Jack Bayford - The Conservative Party - North Ward**



"I moved into Witham in July 1988 and have lived in this same friendly community, near to the town and river walk ever since, with my wife of 41 years. I have always been interested in how politics work. 16 years ago I was elected as a local Town Councillor, and re-elected 4 years later chairing the Environment Committee of Witham Town Council. Now, eight years on after a short break, the people of Witham have re-elected me as both Town Councillor and District Councillor, for which I will do my utmost best to carry out my duties for our community."

**Councillor Steve Hicks - The Green Party - North Ward**



"I moved to Witham seven years ago and quickly felt part of the community. I enjoy walking my dog along the River Walk and going to local events with my friends and family. I care passionately about the environment and became an active member of the local Green Party group several years ago. As a Town Councillor, I hope to work with the rest of the team to improve local services and ensure our local areas are safe and enjoyable places to live in. I am especially keen to develop initiatives that encourage keeping our green spaces clean and conserving local habitats for wildlife."

**Councillor Michelle Weeks - The Green Party - North Ward**



# Town Councillors



"I've lived in the Witham area for about 20 years. I'm passionate about the town and making it a better place for people to live, and work. I live close to the high street which gives me first-hand experience of some of the issues facing our town e.g. anti-social behaviour, the vitality of our High Street, quality affordable housing, transport, GP facilities. I'm a member of Witham Running Club and Leisure Centre, and enjoy skiing, so care about sporting and wellbeing facilities. Witham has a bright future for us all to enjoy."

**Councillor Kevin Atwill - The Conservative Party - South Ward**



"I am an Essex girl, born and raised on a council estate in Witham, where I have lived my entire life. I went to the local school, Howbridge as a nipper and Bramston as a teenager. I am overjoyed at being elected as a Town Councillor and cannot wait to represent the people, not a party in my term, helping to give my community more of a direct voice in decision making in our town. I hope to achieve modernising and streamlining local politics so it's a comfortable and accessible space for everyone, allowing loads of community engagement from a diverse range of individuals, in a diverse range of ways. We all matter."

**Councillor Chelsey Jay - Independent - South Ward**



"I am Brentwood born and bred, and have lived in Witham since 2011. I participate in many Witham activities, being Chairman of both Witham History Group and Witham Town Luncheon Club. I sing with the Parish church choir, walk 2 dogs for the Cinnamon Trust, and I am also a District Councillor and Chairman of Braintree District Council 2019."

**Councillor Angela Kilmartin - The Conservative Party - South Ward**



"I have briefly lived in Witham, however, always lived close by. I have interests in social housing as I am on the Greenfields Community Gateway Group. I am interested in local politics. I aim to support the people of Witham and act in their best interests."

**Councillor Clifford Livermore - The Conservative Party - South Ward**

# Witham's Voice

## Meet Your Witham Town Councillors



"I have lived in Witham for 21 years. I am now retired but I run the Witham Writing Group, am a member of the U3A and a member of the Royal British Legion Ladies Division. I am interested in the environment and community issues, in particular issues with loneliness in the community affecting all age groups."

**Councillor Susan Ager - The Conservative Party - West Ward**



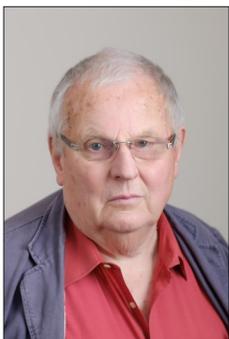
"I have lived in Witham for 42 years. I was first elected as a Town Councillor to represent Witham West Ward in October 2008 and have since served as Chairman of both the Environment Committee and the recently disbanded WW1 Centenary Commemorations Working Group. I was also privileged to be Witham's Town Mayor during the Civic Year 2011-2012. Outside of my role as a Town Councillor, my leisure interests include driving and enjoying my classic cars, watching cricket as a member at Essex County Cricket Club and listening to jazz and big band music."

**Councillor John Goodman - The Conservative Party - West Ward**



"I am married with 2 children and 4 grandchildren. I am secretary of the Royal British Legion Witham and also a Lion. I have been on the council for 4 years and am just starting my second term. I have just served as Witham Mayor and raised funds for my charities. I retired in 2010 and have lived in Witham for 9 years. I am looking forward to the next 4 years on the council."

**Councillor Tom Pleasance - The Conservative Party - West Ward**



"I was born in Witham and earn my living locally. I am grateful for all the support I have received to be your member again. Our town has many things to offer and still many to achieve. My ambitions are to maximise the planting of green space and encourage more facilities for families and the young."

**Councillor Paul Ryland - The Conservative Party - West Ward**



# Summertime approaches.....

With the warmer weather approaching, please call in to the Town Hall to see us for:

## Savings on local attractions!

- You can purchase discounted Adventure Island tickets, which will be exchanged for wristbands, and remain valid for any day until the end of December 2019
- We also offer Adventure Island Sealife tickets and Adventure Island Golf tickets at discounted prices! Again these are valid for any day until the end of this year



- If you are planning a trip to Colchester Zoo, please call in to purchase your tickets ahead of your visit, to make savings on entry prices!

We provide a number of other services to support, which include:



- Tickets for Witham Public Hall shows – and have copies of their latest brochure showing the latest schedule of amazing shows available
- National Express tickets – please call in if you are planning a trip
- New local produce range – come along and see our latest range of Wilkins, and purchase some of our locally produced honey
- Coach trips – Witham pick up and drop off – we can assist here with ticket purchasing
- First Bus ticketing – weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual tickets can be purchased here

We also have - Theatre tokens; Fax & photocopy service; recycling sacks and dog waste bags; brochures for local and wider UK destinations

Hall hire – Are you looking for a venue for your training courses; workshops or meetings? Please contact us at the Town Hall for further information on our highly competitive rates!



# Dates for your Diary



## Witham Carnival

Celebrating its 90th anniversary with the theme of 'Carnival World'



## Witham Puppet Festival

Be part of the 20th year celebrations at this 'Simply Spectacular' themed community event!



## Dickensian Christmas Event

Fun for all. Come along and join the Christmas festivities!



### TOWN HALL

Tel: 01376 520627  
townclerk@witham.gov.uk

### INFORMATION CENTRE

Tel: 01376 502674

### YOUR COUNCILLORS

#### CENTRAL WARD

**Michael Lager:** 45 Chipping Hill CM8 2JT.  
Tel: 01376 513747  
**Robert Williams:** 25 Guithavon Valley CM8  
1HF Tel: 01376 510845

#### WEST WARD

**Susan Ager:** 15 Chelmer Road CM8 2EY  
Tel: 01376 512470  
**John Goodman:** 2 Chippingdell CM8 2JX.  
Tel: 01376 516918  
**Tom Pleasance:** 5 Helford Court CM8 1TL.  
Tel: 01376 501597  
**Paul Ryland:** 6 Old Parsonage Court CM8  
1XP Tel: 01376 502500

#### SOUTH WARD

**Kevin Atwill:** 11 Guithavon Street CM8  
1BJ Tel: 07798 873544  
**Chelsey Jay:** 15 Magnolia Close CM8 2PD  
Tel: 07970 566953  
**Angela Kilmartin:** Flat 3, Icen House,  
Newland Street CM8 2FS.  
Tel: 01376 502872  
**Cliff Livermore:** 4 Norah Guilder House, Strutt  
Close, Hatfield Peverel CM3  
2HB Tel: 07825 093394

#### NORTH WARD

**Philip Barlow:** Rivendell, Chalks Road CM8  
2BT Tel: 01376 514033  
**Jack Bayford:** 14 Larch Grove CM8 2LW  
Tel: 07860 748151  
**Steve Hicks:** 9 Malyon Road CM8 1DF e-  
mail: shoesoff@globalnet.  
co.uk  
**Michelle Weeks:** 20 Elderberry Gardens CM8  
2PT Tel: 01376 512590

#### HATFIELD WARD

**Clare Lager:** 45 Chipping Hill CM8 2JT  
Tel: 01376 513747  
**Ron Ramage:** 9 Graces Close CM8 1QH  
Tel: 07963 934224

## It's your council...

Witham Town Council Offices are open Monday - Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM and Friday 9:30AM-4:00PM.

Closed Weekends and Bank Holidays.

Meetings of your Town Council are open for you to attend. There is usually an opportunity to speak before the beginning of each meeting to raise your concerns to the Council.

Full details are displayed at [www.witham.gov.uk](http://www.witham.gov.uk)

Agendas are on display on the noticeboard in Newland Street.

Meetings usually begin at 7:30PM and Planning Applications & Transport sub-committee meetings at 6:30PM.

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, Essex, CM8 2FE.

The Information Centre in the Town Hall is open from 9:00AM-4:30PM Monday - Thursday and Friday 9:30AM - 4:00PM. Closed Weekends and Bank Holidays.

#### MEETINGS:

**Town Council:** 8th July 2019, 2nd September 2019.

**Environment:** 23rd July 2019.

**Community:** 10th June, 5th August 2019.

**Policy & Resources:** 24th June, 19th August 2019.

**Planning & Transport:** 10th June, 24th June, 8th July, 23rd July, 5th August, 19th August, 2nd September 2019