

Forward thinking makes for exciting times ahead.

2024 saw Workington Town Council secure a sizeable amount of funding for a new play area within the Westfield ward of the town. This is a much-needed outdoor space for one of the town's most deprived areas.

This is something the Council is planning and striving for over the next few years; to enhance the lives of those who live within the town and provide every child with a free, safe and enjoyable space to play, close to home.

As part of this plan an enhanced play area will be built at Moorclose Park and additional equipment installed at Harrington Marina.

The Council is committed to listening to the community and providing for their needs. Councillors are instrumental in bringing requests from residents to meetings, and, keen to listen to the youth of the town, is developing a Youth Council, who will meet with The Mayor and Councillors direct to discuss their ideas and aspirations.

The Council has always run a very popular annual events programme and continues to do so. In June, we welcomed 600 school children to Hall Park to watch a free outdoor performance of Julius Caesar, hilariously adapted by the brilliant Oddsocks. Children were also treated by the Council to free hot dogs and ice cream and free buses meant that more children were able to attend.

The popular Festival of Running event saw the introduction of a Workington half marathon for the first time in 40 years and record number of attendees took part.

Several additional 'commissions' budget lines have been created, which will allow Officers to work closer with organisations and community groups to support their aims with funding, advice and guidance and Officers are busy working with the Sustainable Development committee on a new Climate Action plan to be introduced.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is busy working on a full asset review with future plans to bring Council buildings up to standard and for community benefit. We will also welcome three new employees over the next few months which meets the ambitions of the council and adds resilience to the current team.

Exciting times are ahead. I have worked for the Council since 2016, firstly employed as an Events Assistant and newly appointed in June 2024 as Chief Officer/RFO (aka Town Clerk). It's refreshing to have a Council who is focussed on the direction it is going with ambitions to enhance our community and the town in which we live.