

COMMUNITY



Biddulph Town Council

Food is always welcome!

Biddulph Town Council runs the Town Hall, and our mission since August 2020 (when this was transferred from the District Council) has been to fill the building with organisations that enhance the lives of our residents. Our mantra has been 'Biddulph residents should feel comfortable coming into the Town Hall to ask us anything'. In April 2022 there were 321 people making enquiries at the reception desk; in April 2024, this had risen to 603. We handled 6728 queries in 2024-25. It's important to note that we do not provide statutory services, but being a conduit to help residents navigate a three-council system has proved to be vital.

Like many town and parish councils, we were close enough to our residents to understand the real hardships they faced when the cost-of-living crisis hit in 2022. In partnership with a wide range of voluntary and community sector organisations, we founded 'Biddulph Works Together'. The aim of this collective was to provide free food and warm spaces every day of the week throughout the colder months. The Town Council provided funds, which enabled groups to deliver the sessions that the community needed. We paid for food hygiene training, a new fridge, slow cookers and lots of food. We are very proud of the opportunities that are available to Biddulph residents, delivered predominantly by volunteers. We are even more proud of the relationships and networks that have been created since this project began.

The Biddulph Works Together team meet monthly throughout the year. We continue to deliver warm spaces and free food to our community, but we are also able to offer more joined-up approaches to the delivery of activities. It's easy to pick up the phone and locate items that a family needs.

We have, to-date, provided over 7000 free meals for people within the town. Our work has also identified that free food at events is important, so we now add a free food element to most of our consultation and community events. Those who may be uncomfortable coming for free food, will engage more easily if they can do it as part of a consultation.



Biddulph Local People's Group providing free refreshments at the Christmas Lights switch-on, funded by Biddulph Town Council.

Free food helps us to engage with people who may not normally come to the Town Hall. This enables us to keep an eye on our residents' health and well-being. We have also taken our Town Council consultations 'on tour' to each of the five wards of Biddulph. This means less travel for residents and enables us to offer free food and the opportunity to engage with Town Council officers about relevant issues. This then helps to tackle social isolation, spending time to reaffirm our shared humanity.

For further information contact:

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