

A Guide to the Office of Mayor 2020-21



The Borough of
MID AND EAST ANTRIM



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

Mid and East Antrim Borough covers an area of 400 square miles including the towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council prides itself as a multi award winning council across a wide range of service areas. With fantastic tourism attractions, the economically active area is ideally situated on strategic transport routes, and represents 135,000 people.

Contact the Mayor's Office

All invitations to the Mayor should be sent to the Mayor's Office and confirmed in writing. Please contact the office for any protocol advice or further guidance.



Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



twitter.com/Mayor_MEA

Mayor's Office

Chief Executive's Department
1–29 Bridge Street, The Braid
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T: 028 2563 3398

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The Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Peter Johnston

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Graduating from Queen’s University Belfast in 2011 with a BSc in Business Information Technology, Peter went on to obtain a MSc in Marketing from the Ulster University. He has spent his career in international business within the manufacturing and power generation sector and has worked throughout the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Africa. With this experience, Peter is keen to support the local manufacturing industry and look for opportunities to bring advanced manufacturing jobs and business to the borough.

Peter has taken a year out from work and has made a commitment to serve everyone in the borough during this term. “As a family man with two young children, I also recognise the difficulties that many households will face as we recover from this pandemic. I will ensure that my tenure as Mayor will be utilised to help and support those who need it most at this time.”

Peter is keen to showcase the world famous coastline Mid and East Antrim has to offer, and warmly welcomes tourists from home and abroad to visit and enjoy the breath-taking attractions the borough has to offer.

This Mayoral Term will mark the centenary of Northern Ireland and Peter is committed to celebrating this milestone across the borough. “This momentous occasion should be enjoyed by everyone and will be a good opportunity for us to remark on the progress we have made as a country and as a borough.”-Councillor Johnston

As Mayor, Peter has decided to focus his term on three key areas:

1. **Recognition** - for all those who have volunteered in support of their local community during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
2. **Recovery** – support for business and tourism as we transition to a new ‘normal’.

3. **Celebration** – marking the Centenary of Northern Ireland

Peter has selected Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and the Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund for his charities this year. CAP have been involved with supporting the community during the COVID-19 crisis and will be essential for the community as we recover. The Royal Irish Regiment have strong connections with the borough and provide valuable support to those who are vulnerable.



The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Andrew Wilson

Councillor Wilson lives in Carrickfergus and serves as a Governor at two primary schools in addition to volunteering as a Boys' Brigade officer. He is a keen sports fan.

Councillor Andrew Wilson lives in Carrickfergus, having grown up on his family farm located in the shadow of the Co Antrim War Memorial, on the Knockagh Road. He serves as a Governor at two primary schools in addition to volunteering as a Boys' Brigade officer. He is also a keen sports fan.

Andrew has served in Local Government since 2011. He holds a Masters in Law from Queen's University Belfast, works at the Northern Ireland Assembly and serves as a member of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership, where he champions the work of the judiciary and those who serve within our Police Service.

Andrew is community orientated and is keen to support the Mayor during his term in office to position Mid and East Antrim Borough at the forefront of Local Government in Northern Ireland. As Deputy Mayor he looks forward to working in partnership with the Mayor to further showcase the borough and celebrate the Centenary of Northern Ireland.

“ It is an honour to serve as Deputy Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough. I look forward to getting around the borough and meeting as many members of our community as I can during my term. ”

**Councillor
Andrew Wilson**



A Guide to the Mayor's Office

Invitations to the Mayor

The Mayor welcomes invitations to attend events across the borough or to host groups. His diary is very full so we advise issuing invitations as early as possible.

The Mayor's Office produces a form (Request for Attendance of Mayor) which gives more information. A copy of this form can be obtained from the Mayor's Office or can be downloaded from the Mayor's page on our website www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/council/mayor/mayoral-duties.

Should the Mayor not be available for an engagement, his PA will try to arrange for the Deputy Mayor to attend in his place or, alternatively, the Chair or Vice Chair of the relevant Committee who will carry out all Mayoral duties on the Mayor's behalf.

The Mayor's position is an apolitical one. He will seek to avoid official duties where his presence could be considered divisive to good community relations.

Some protocol guidance

It is normal protocol that the Mayor be invited to speak first when speeches are to be given.

The correct title for the Mayor for formal invitations and introductions is The Worshipful the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Peter Johnston. In a more informal situation, the correct form for introductions is The Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Peter Johnston.

After initial introductions the Mayor should be addressed as Mayor.

In any formal seating arrangements, the Mayor should be seated on the immediate right of the host or person presiding. This protocol only varies if a member of the Royal Family or the Queen's Representative is present (such as the Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim, Mr David McCorkell), in which case the Mayor should be seated on the left of the host.

A Guide to the Mayor's Office

Recognition and Celebration

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council provides recognition to citizens of the borough for special achievements, endeavours and community service. Visitors may also be hosted at a Mayor's Reception. The Mayor will also provide a card and gift to the following:

- Anyone approaching their 100th birthday (or subsequent birthday thereafter).
- Anyone celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Please contact the Mayor's Office if you would like to arrange any of the above.

To arrange a congratulatory message from the Queen for special birthdays and wedding anniversaries, visit: www.nidirect.gov.uk/congratulatory-messages

Duties and Responsibilities of the Mayor

- Presiding over Council meetings and, in the case of equality of votes, he has a second or casting vote.
- Promoting and raising awareness of the Council's main objectives and priority issues.
- Encouraging and supporting all aspects of life in Mid and East Antrim by attending civic and public events.
- Receiving distinguished visitors to the borough.
- Acting as host on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Mid and East Antrim at civic functions.
- Promoting Mid and East Antrim Borough as a tourism destination.
- Acting as a spokesperson to the local, national and international media.
- Providing an appropriate response on behalf of Mid and East Antrim at times of local, national and international catastrophe.
- Promoting Mid and East Antrim as a place of excellence in which to live and to do business.
- Supporting and encouraging charitable and other appeals as appropriate.

The Mayor's Charities of the Year

Christians Against Poverty



“ Living in debt and poverty is a daily grinding battle facing many people living across Northern Ireland. Debt, unemployment, isolation, mental ill-health, and relationship breakdown are all tearing families apart. Christians Against Poverty is on a mission to bring hope and release thousands of people from this daily poverty, through our award-winning, free debt counselling service. A recent report found that the thorough service that CAP provides not just significantly benefits clients, but transforms households and impacts whole communities. Communities like those represented in Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne.

We are delighted and grateful for the recognition of the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Peter Johnston, in choosing CAP as one of his charities for the year. We take this opportunity to say 'Thank you', not just on behalf of CAP UK and each of these local CAP Debt Centres, but the many clients from this area who will access our services and experience a positive impact in their ability to deal with their debt, a positive impact on their mental health, relationships and confidence. **Thank you.**



Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund

“ The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund was established as a charitable trust in 1992 on the formation of the Regiment. The aim is to render aid, financial or otherwise, to soldiers, veterans, their widows, and dependants of the Regiment who are in need or in financial difficulties. Typical assistance is help with Accommodation and Utility Costs, Respite, Food and Clothing.

The Regimental Benevolent Fund provides support to our whole Regimental family including our Veterans from our antecedent Regiments. This might include helping veterans to improve their chances of success in civilian employment, to provide opportunities to keep in touch through organised activities; this can be vital as a first point of contact for welfare support and to foster and further the well-being of the Regiment.

We provide funds to improve the quality of life for the Serving Soldiers and their families such as Sports Areas, Family trips, Dependents Clubs, and the upkeep of Welfare Minibuses.

Funded through voluntary donations, investment dividends and fund raising, in recent years we have been able to assist everyone who approached the fund with a genuine need.

Initial contact with the fund is made through The Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Home Service Aftercare Team or through SSAFA or TRBL who can provide a caseworker and advice. ”





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