

DEVELOPMENT - THE BIG WORRY

The Local Plan Preferred Option

The massive Town Hall protest in October made it very clear how strongly people object to the Council's preferred development option (PDO) Your Lib Dem

councillors joined the protest and have worked closely with residents throughout. Now the work goes on to ensure we have professional input ready for the Draft Local plan which is expected next Autumn.

No need to build on the Green Belt.

We believe there is no need to sacrifice the town's Green Belt land at all if the Council chose a 15 year plan - which is normal - and used the Government's figure of 920 houses a year. There is capacity on brown field sites now for 15,429 houses and by 2032 (when a new Plan would be required) more brown field sites, such as Fiddlers Ferry and possibly the Lovely Lane Hospital area, may be available.

We all know developers will build first on the Green Belt if consent is given and once these green fields are gone we can never get them back.

The Council seems quite out of touch with residents' wishes.

Its 'City' idea has been roundly rejected and the fact that their preferred option is unsustainable seems to have passed them by. The River and Canals cannot be magic-ed away and the roads and crossings needed to avoid total gridlock would be impossibly expensive and disruptive.

We will keep you up to date through Focus in the coming year.

HCA housing plans approved by WBC

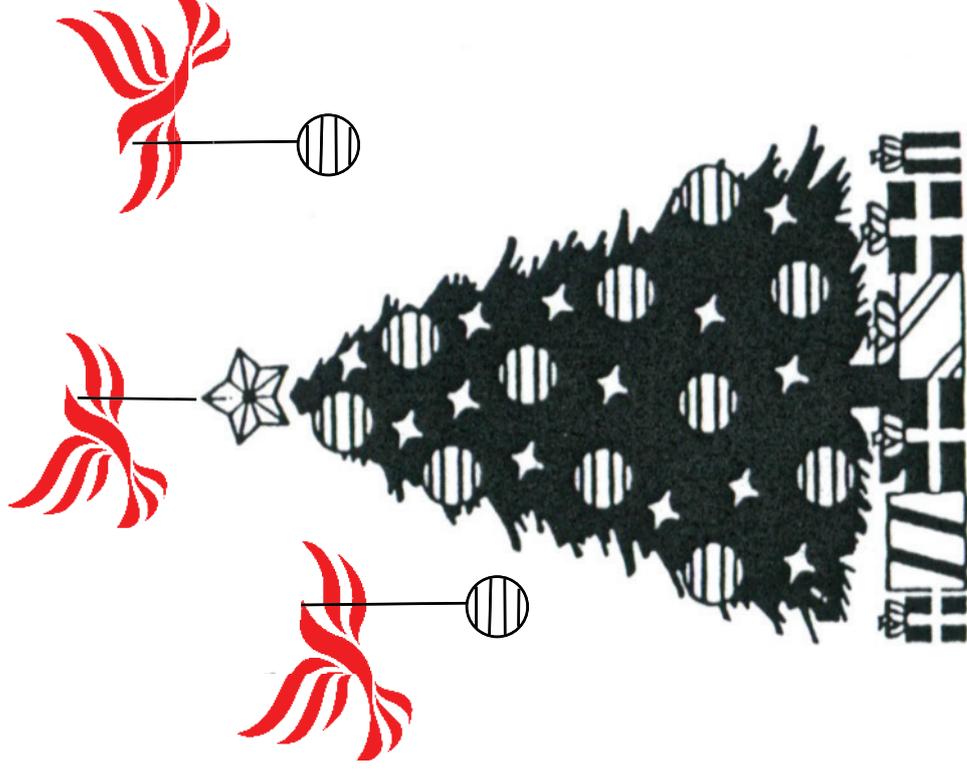
The application from HCA to build another 750 houses on land they own at Appleton Cross and Grappenhall Heys was given the go-ahead by the Borough Council in October. The meeting at the Parr Hall was packed with hundreds of local protesters and strong reasoned arguments were made why this number of new houses, on top of the 180 already approved at Pewterspear, was just not sustainable. But it was to no avail. Lib Dem Councillors backed residents in opposing the

applications, and spoke and voted against. Whatever the outcome of the Local Plan this building will now go ahead. **We have spoken to HCA about the time scales for the developments. SEE OUR REPORT INSIDE.**



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Seasons Greetings from your Lib Dem Focus Team

HCA timetable for Development Pewterspear Green

180 properties. Marketing of the site began last summer and work is expected to start by Jan 2019. The area will be developed as two separate sites as there is no access between them. We were told there will be 15% shared ownership and 15% 'affordable' housing, 54 in all.

Grappenhall Heys

400 properties. This will be developed in two phases. Phase 1, the Walled Garden section, is four parcels of land for 180 houses. Marketing will begin early 2018 with a start in Autumn 2019. Development of Phase 2, Lichfield Avenue section - 5 parcels of land for 220 properties - will follow 9-12 months later. A mixture of property types is expected including properties for older residents.

Appleton Cross.

370 properties. This will be developed in one phase. Marketing will start in Summer 2018 with developers on site early 2020. Sites set aside for Health and Shopping Centres may be sold to the developer or sold separately but will not be developed until there is a critical mass of housing. We understand the Council will decide about school provision according to predicted demand. The Council will also decide where the S106 money from HCA is allotted for additional services.

Sharon does it again!

Congratulations to Councillor Sharon Harris who has just come back from a camping and trekking expedition in the Himalayas to raise awareness and money for Pancreatic Cancer UK. A couple of years ago she walked the Great Wall of China for the same cause. Sharon says "Statistics for this hard to diagnose cancer have not improved in 40 years and my Mum died within weeks of diagnosis. Money raised will go straight into research to improve life chances for those diagnosed with this terrible disease." www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk



Appleton Phone Boxes

A lot of thought has gone into the future use of Appleton's two phone boxes - recently bought by the Parish Council for £1 each. Work to get them painted and repaired and kitted out is now in hand. The one on Bridge Lane is to house a book swap - like the one you may have noticed in Hatton. The London Road/Lyons lane one will have a defibrillator and will feature a local history display especially the history of the Lyons Estate. **Judith Wheeler** has been talking to Warrington Museum staff who are keen to help. "Old photographs of Appleton are few and far between," says Judith "but if anyone does have some hidden treasures we would love to see them."



Good news on Stockton Heath Library

Determined action by local residents and Councillors has, we hope, secured the future of Stockton Heath Library. A detailed plan has been prepared by the Library Working Group and a Friends Group has been set up. Appleton Parish Council has agreed to make a financial contribution to premises costs as have Stockton Heath, Hatton and Walton Parish Councils. LiveWire will continue to provide the library service as now. "One idea for Stockton Heath is to bring other users to the building," says **Sharon Harris**, who Chaired the local Working Group. "This could share the cost and improve the service. Wouldn't it be nice to have a cup of coffee and a chat when you are there?"



Dingleway

Cllr Judith Wheeler has contacted the Council about the lack of dropped kerbs on the London Road end of Dingleway and Waverley Avenue making it difficult for people with walking aids or buggies to cross the road. This was pointed out by a wheel-chair user who spoke to us at our monthly street surgery in Stockton Heath.

Overgrown vegetation

Getting bushes and weeds cut back by the Council is a continuing battle says **Cllr Brian Axcell**. "I have recently reported problems in Dingle Lane, Longwood Road, Northwich Road, Spark Hall Close and Shepperton Close. However I had a good quick response from Waste Services over some missed bin collections



Swing bridge painting

A firm commitment has now been extracted from Peel Ports about painting their Ship Canal bridges. Work will start next summer on a three year project. We don't know which bridge will be first though.

Cenotaph project to start

Work is starting soon to structurally improve the riverbank and wall at the Warrington War Memorial where signs of movement are causing concern. Investigation is being carried out now and construction work is scheduled after Remembrance Sunday next year. Part of the scheme will be to upgrade traffic management and improve access

Road improvements

As part of the Council's three year Highway Investment Programme repairs have been taking place on Stretton Road, Dale Lane, Warrington Road, Cann Lane and Dingle Lane. There are also improved road marking near Cobbs School and probably at St Matthews School, Stretton.

Appleton Parish Council bulb planting

"Each year we invest in bulb planting in different areas to bring spring colour to Appleton's green spaces," says Appleton Parish Cllr **Jane Bilisland**. "This year we are planting Longwood Road, Cobbs Lane and opposite the Thorn Inn."

