



FOCUS

Published and Printed by Warrington Liberal Democrats 75 Grappenhall Road, WA4 2AR

News from your Councillors
Brian Axcell
Sharon Harris
Judith Wheeler
 and the Lib Dem Focus Team

Another struggle for south Warrington?

SANDY LANE TIP UNDER THREAT AGAIN

It is four years since public outcry saved the Sandy Lane Recycling Centre from closing, but now it seems to be in the Councils sights again.

No information has come through to Councillors but we know the waste strategy is under review and that there are budget pressures. We are told 'reliable sources' have given the story to the Press so we need to get ready for action.

If Sandy Lane is closed there will be only Gatewath and Woolston both in the north of the town. This means people from here will have to travel through the congested town centre if they want to recycle. It is bound to reduce recycling rates and increase fly tipping. Once again South Warrington is being discriminated against.

Our Labour Council seems to see this part of the Town as a handy source of income and a place to save money by cutting services. Extra housing was actually mentioned in the Budget setting

strategy as a future source of income - and where better to build high council tax houses than Warrington South?

Cllr Brian Axcell who is on WBC's Waste Strategy

Task Group arranged a private briefing with a senior officer. "I learned nothing new," he says "except that a report is likely to come to the Executive Board in May. Knowing how the Labour Board waves decisions through without discussion we need to have local protest registered before that meeting."

Lib Dems saved the tip last time by 'calling in' Labour's decision and forcing them to consult. We will be fighting this all the way.



Parish Council News

Appleton Parish Council welcomes two new Councillors co-opted to fill vacancies in Appleton Thorn Ward. They are Mrs Gerry Palmer and Mr Gary Skentelbery. The selection, from seven candidates, was carried out by secret ballot by Alternative Vote at the March Parish Council meeting. The new Councillors will stand as Independents.

Walton Parish Council by-election.

The two vacancies on Walton Parish Council were filled at a by-election which was called by the Green Party. Sharon Harris stood for the Lib Dems as she was anxious that there should be a local Walton resident to vote for and both the Green candidates lived the other side of Warrington. Sharon polled 158 votes and the two Green candidates 18 and 14 votes. There were no other candidates.

Stockton Heath Library - a success for local action

We are now confident that Stockton Heath Library will be staying open.



The South Warrington Library (in Stockton Heath) Working Group (SWISH) has presented a robust business plan which has been well received and will sustain and maintain the library for many

years to come. Appleton, Hatton, Stockton Heath and Walton Parish Councils have underwritten the £10,000 annual cost required by WBC and potential clients have been secured who want to rent facilities when modifications to the building are made.

Appleton Cllr Sharon Harris who is Chair of the Working Party says "We are currently working with WBC, Livewire and an architect to design a library that will maintain the book stocks; be a community asset bringing more people in; and encourage new users. We also have ambitions to make the library the first in South Warrington to be dementia friendly by the way the space is designed and decorated. We will soon be consulting with residents and users of the Library - so watch this space."

Spring is here at last



After all the cold weather the daffodils planted by Appleton Parish Council at Appleton Thorn and on Longwood Road, Cobbs Lane and are now a welcome sight. We are now planning next year's planting.

Planning and Development Latest News

Distribution Hub plans

Residents should be aware that planning proposals for industrial development have started to come in for the Green Belt land at the Junction of the M6 and M56.

An Environmental Impact assessment for a proposal called 'SIX:56 Warrington' is now underway. This is for 325,150 m2 of floorspace for warehousing, storage and industrial use, with demolition of existing buildings. This covers the historic moated site of Bradley Hall. Appleton Parish Council has already responded with a strong objection on ecological, historic, and Green Belt reasons.

Another planning application of a 50,000m2 logistics development for a Regional Distribution Centre on land off Barleycastle Lane is expected in May.

These developments are not for high quality employment opportunities but for 24 hour warehousing and distribution.

The Local Plan

With thousands of responses from the public to consider, the completed Draft Plan is a long way from being finalised and it is not now expected to be published until Autumn or Winter this year.

Meanwhile, South Warrington Parish Councils are working together, and putting money aside (actively supported by your Lib Dem councillors) to make sure there is professional planning and legal advice in place to fight this threat to our countryside.



HCA at Pewterspear

We have had meetings with Barratts who will shortly be submitting detailed plans for their Pewterspear Green development.

The proposal is for 105 houses on the Pewterspear Green site and 75 on the Stretton Road site of which 8 will be 3 storey and 17 will be 2.5 storey. The public footpath and associated trees will be retained and a play area provided.

Spread throughout the development there will be 30% affordable properties of which 15% will be intermediate rent and 15% affordable. Affordable housing is 20% below open market value and affordable rent is 20% below market rent. The properties will all be freehold and parking provision will be within the curtilage of the property.

Barratt's are committed to contributing £10,000 for provision of bus shelters on Stretton Road and £100,000 for the running of the No 8 bus service.

EVENTS IN OUR AREA

The South Area team is GOOD NEWS for Appleton!

Neighbourhood Boards were axed last year by the Borough Council but it seems to have been good news for Appleton. We now have a small enthusiastic team of officers who are working closely with the Parish Council and local Councillors to promote community schemes just for the area south of the Ship Canal. It means we have professional expertise and practical help to take forward ideas and organise events.

The first event was a lantern walk starting at St Mary Magdalene's, We have just had an Easter Treasure Hunt on the Millennium Green and hope to organise a Summer Picnic also on the Green - let's hope it's a bit warmer by then! If you have a dream for a community event, please let us know. The Neighbourhood Team may be able to make it come true.

Easter Treasure Hunt



Children plan their route before setting off round the Millennium Green for the Easter Treasure Hunt.

Christmas Plans

Seventy people joined in last year's Christmas Lantern Walk on Bridge Lane and more came out to watch.

"It was such a success and we had such positive feedback, we have been asked to make it an annual event," says Sharon Harris.

"This year we want to organise something for the rest of Appleton too. Father Christmas seems pretty booked up already but we are working on it!"



Light Lunch & Film Club

St Mary Magdalene's Church
Bridge Lane, Appleton

Every 1st Thursday of month at 11.30am
£3.00 for a Light Lunch & Film.

Bizzie Beans Book Club

The Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 11am to 12 at Bizzie Beans Coffee House on Bridge Lane. It is very informal, so do come along for a bit of a read, a natter and a cup of coffee. All welcome.

Events at Walton Gardens

Open Air Theatre

The Midnight Gang 5 -10pm on 3 evening:
Thur May 3, Wed Aug 29 and Thur Aug 30.

Much Ado about Nothing
5-11pm on Wed June 13

The Railway Children 1- 6pm on Sun June 24

See website for charges and details

The Childrens Zoo

Keeper experiences May 29, July 31, Aug 8 & 23.

Two sessions each morning. Cost £8.

Book early - tickets sell out.

Lib Dems would fund our NHS



The NHS and Social Care services are at breaking point. We are justly proud of our National Health Service which gives medical care free at the point of delivery to rich and poor alike. But as people are living longer and treatments becoming more complex the NHS needs more money. **Everyone can see that - except it seems our Tory Government**

The Liberal Democrats have a clear plan to provide the investment that is so desperately needed. By putting a penny on income tax more money could be put straight into health and social care services to ensure people get high quality care when they need it.

A penny on income tax would raise an extra £6bn a year - £4 bn of which should be spent on the NHS and £2bn on social care.

PHONE BOX PROJECTS

Our Parish Clerk has obtained a grant of £3000 to repair the two red phone boxes the Parish now owns. The Cobbs box will soon be transformed into a book swap like the one in Hatton and the one on the corner of Lyons Lane into a Local History Hub. This is the brainchild of Cllr Judith Wheeler. She says "The Warrington Museum Team and Bridgewater High School are excited by this project and keen to help. Please let me know if you have any photos we could copy for display."



Unightly road sign removed

Local residents were angry when a huge chevron sign appeared on Hollyhedge Lane near the bridge. Working with a resident, Sharon persuaded WBC to have the sign, and another unnecessary sign, removed. "It was so big it could be seen half a mile away from the Runcorn Road and was totally out of character with the rural scene," says Sharon.



Forge Car Park

Anyone with a car will know the appalling state of the Forge Car Park in Stockton Heath. **What you may not know is that parking charges here and in Lyrm raised £65,000 in 2016-17 and at least as much last year.** The Labour Council should have the decency to use some of this money to make the surface safe.

Since we raised this at Full Council some of the worst potholes have been roughly filled in, but this isn't going to last long and it looks a mess. It needs to be completely resurfaced - and when is the promised safe footway off Egerton Street going to be started?

Young cyclists at risk

Reports of youths recklessly riding towards on coming vehicles are very worrying. This is not just in our area and seems to be 'copy-cat' behaviour. The Police are taking it seriously: working with schools and leisure facilities and letting parents know about incidents as well as taking enforcement action. Do report any incidents on 101 and warn children of the danger.

Pavement resurfaced

The pavement along Runcorn Road in Walton was so overgrown people were forced to walk in the busy road. Following a request from Sharon, the Council agreed to resurface the pavement while the road was being done. It is now a lot safer.

Un-emptied litter bins

We made a strong complaint to WBC about the un-emptied bins over the Christmas period - like this one on Dale Lane. WBC has apologised but bins are their responsibility and we can't put up with our area being missed every time there is a public holiday.



GREEN BIN SURCHARGE PROTEST

Appleton Parish Councillor John Price is campaigning against the £3 extra charge for the green bin service imposed by the Council on people who do not pay on line.

"I fought this battle last year," he says "and I'm going to keep on fighting it. I have put in a formal complaint on the basis that the Borough Council is discriminating against a section of the community - largely the elderly and vulnerable. If I don't get some satisfaction I shall be complaining to the Ombudsman."

"We made a strong objection to this at full Council last year and were promised a review," says Borough Cllr Brian Axcell "but no review has been carried out and this year there is a £3 surcharge. Other Councils manage so why is Warrington so dumb? Watford for example offers Direct Debit and gives a £5 discount to those on benefit. We understand they collect all year round too. But Watford does have a Lib Dem Mayor in charge - maybe that is the difference!

Always here if you need us!

The Lib Dem Team

Borough Councillors

Sharon Harris 740498

Cllr Sharon.Harris@warrington.gov.uk

Brian Axcell 267540

Cllr Brian.Axcell@warrington.gov.uk

Judith Wheeler 265784

Cllr Judith.Wheeler@warrington.gov.uk

Sharon, Brian and Judith are also Appleton Parish Councillors

Appleton Parish Councillors

Ken Arnett 263463

Irina Axcell 267540

Sandra Benger 602434

Jane Bilsland 245187

John Price 261984

Tim Stansfield 262448

Judith Walker 265237

Peter Walker 265237

OUR SURGERIES

Appleton,

1st Sat of the month 11-12am

St Mary Magdalene's Church.

Stockton Heath,

3rd Sat of the month 11-12am

Village centre street stall.

Facebook:

Appleton Lib Dems