

# FOCUS



Autumn  
2017  
Lymm

[www.warringtonlibdems.org.uk](http://www.warringtonlibdems.org.uk)

## Have your say on the future development of our town



You have until Friday 29 September to submit your comments. It is vital you do this because if enough people do, the Plan can be changed.

### Why a Local Plan?

- The Local Plan sets out the Council's vision for the development of Warrington over the next 20 years. It considers how much housing is needed and where it should be located, the amount of employment land required, community facilities and infrastructure
- It is a legal requirement to prepare one and without such a Plan, central government would almost certainly step in and impose one on us
- There is a risk this would result in speculative, unplanned development across the town without the required infrastructure to support it
- The last Local Plan was prepared in 2014 but was quashed in the High Court in 2015 under pressure from developers and their barristers

### The Local Plan process

- The current round of consultation is over the 'Preferred Development Option' put forward by Warrington Council
- They will take account of the various responses and then publish a draft Local Plan next Spring and invite further comments
- A revised version of the Plan will then be prepared and this will be subject to examination by an Independent Examiner in the summer
- The Council will then make a decision to adopt the final version of the Plan
- Individual sites in 'Outlying Settlements' such as Lymm will only be assessed once the Preferred Development Option phase is complete

### Scale of the proposals

- The proposal is for 24,000 new homes over the next 20 years in a 'Garden City'
- 15,000 of these would be on 'brownfield' sites but 9000 would be in the Green Belt
- These are in four blocks called 'City Centre', 'Waterfront', 'South West Extension and 'Garden City Suburb'
- The 'Garden City Suburb' is for 6000 new homes around Grappenhall and Appleton Thorn
- In addition nearly 1200 are proposed for 'Outlying Settlements' including 500 in Lymm

### The Big Questions

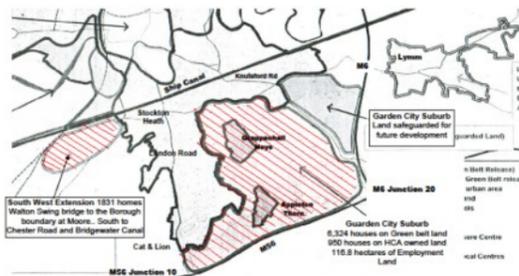
- Why do we need so many new homes?
- Why are there so many in the south of the town?
- Why has so much Green Belt got to be sacrificed?
- Is it the right kind of housing for the needs of residents?
- Do we want to become a City?
- Do we want something called a 'Garden City Suburb'?
- Are we happy that the consultation process has been carried out properly?



*Cllr Bob Barr says, "Some development is inevitable and 'no change' is not an option. Land for housing and employment must be considered together and infrastructure must be put in place before building starts."*

### Our thoughts on the Plan

- Consultation in summer when people away
- Consultation drop-in sessions badly organised
- Consultation complex and full of jargon.
- On-line questionnaire difficult to complete
- High housing numbers based on policy decision by Warrington Council linked to Devolution bid. Devolution not on Government's radar now
- Mismatch between homes projection and population projections
- Lack of clarity over what kind of jobs projected. If more logistics, then few jobs for high land use
- Negative impact of Brexit on economy ignored
- We do not want Warrington to become a city
- Plan is too developer / landowner-led at expense of residents' views
- We want more affordable housing not executive homes which make higher profit for developers
- Affordable homes need less space so less pressure to release Green Belt



- The quality of the Green Belt in the south is of higher value than the report says
- If Hospital moves and Fiddlers Ferry closed down, more 'brownfield' land available
- A strategic objective is to retain the character of settlements - the Plan will damage the character of our villages
- Without any new houses, already severe congestion and gridlock at times in Warrington
- This will worsen with more bridge swings in future and diversion of traffic due to imposition of tolls on Mersey Gateway bridge



*Cllr Ian Marks says, "I am very pleased that I managed to get an extension for comments from the public until 29 September. If you can give reasons for your responses that is the best, but if not just tell them what you think!"*

### What it means for Lymm

- Land that would accommodate well over 2000 homes has been put forward for Lymm
- Space for 500 homes is proposed in the Plan
- We want to secure the open spaces between Lymm and Thelwall, between Lymm and Oughtrington and between Lymm and Broomedge
- The report states that 'there will be a small amount of green belt release in Warrington's outlying settlements where the number of new homes can be accommodated by the existing infrastructure within the settlement'
- We do not accept this is true for Lymm because the High School and some Primary Schools are full as are doctors' surgeries
- Parking is a major problem and no consideration has been given as to how roads might be developed

### How to respond

There are three ways to respond to the Local Plan consultation

- On-line: [www.warrington.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/localplanreview)
- Email: [ldf@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@warrington.gov.uk)
- Mail: Planning Policy Team, Warrington Borough Council, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NH

### Local Plan Street Stall

Councillors and members of the FOCUS Team will be on The Cross between 10am and midday on Saturday 23 September to try and answer your questions on the Local Plan.

### Have your say on how Lymm develops

A Neighbourhood Planning Group for Lymm has been set up with the support of the Parish Council. This



allows the community to outline a vision for the future of the village, then write the policies to help determine how this vision can be delivered.

Once the Plan has passed an external review and been approved in a local referendum it has the same statutory weight as the Local Plan.

A number of people have already come forward to help but more are needed. There are many tasks like delivering leaflets, talking to residents and businesses, collecting data and maintaining a website. Those with planning knowledge are especially welcome. It is a non party political group.

There is a public open session at the Village Hall between 11am and 3pm on 14 October. If you are interested in volunteering contact Anna Fradgley on [afradgley@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:afradgley@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Outdoor Gym - we need your help please!

We want to set up an Outdoor Gym in Ridgway Grundy Park for the benefit of local residents and Sports groups.

This will encourage villagers to improve their health and fitness using a range of apparatus for building both muscle tone and cardio-vascular fitness. The facility will be free to use seven days a week.

Warrington Borough Council own the Park and suggested applying for landfill tax funding from WREN. In February 2017, the application was submitted. The proposal was supported by a contribution of £2,750 from the Parish Council and £2,500 from Lymm Round Table - the rest to come hopefully from WREN. Unfortunately it was turned down but WREN said we could apply again in the next funding round in November.

They said our bid was sound but we fell short on two criteria – not enough 3rd party funding and not enough public consultation.



**Ian Marks and Denis McAllister are leading the project. Here they are testing out equipment at Birchwood Forest Park**

These two shortcomings are being addressed by:

- Using 'crowd-funding' to gain some extra 3rd party money and show community commitment. Please visit [tinyurl.com/lymmgym](http://tinyurl.com/lymmgym) and donate some money to help the project succeed
- Visit [tinyurl.com/lymmgym-survey](http://tinyurl.com/lymmgym-survey) and fill in the on-line survey
- Links available from late September

## Keep our toilet at the Dam!

Warrington Council has announced it is going to take down the pay-toilet at the Upper Dam. FOCUS Team member Ann Johnstone says, "I am most unhappy about this because where will people go? The Church Green is nearby but we cannot expect them to allow lots of visitors to use their facilities.



The village is not that close. I am pleased that the Parish Council is looking for ways of keeping a toilet at this highly popular visitor attraction."



## Optimism for future of Library

Over the last six months the Libraries' Working Group, Council officers and Livewire have been working together to explore options for developing our libraries. Cllr Graham Gowland says, "There are a number of options for Lymm Library. These include a 'social enterprise' running a coffee shop and educational activities, a local charity running a community hub and business incubator, and leasing the vacant children's centre to a small local business. The Parish Council is interested in renting office space which could progress alongside the other options. I am very optimistic that with the support of the community we can secure the future of the Library and the building. On 25 September there is a 'Friends' Meeting at the Village Hall."



## Free hour back - well done Anna!

One hour free car parking is now back thanks to a great effort by councillors and residents led by Cllr Anna Fradgley.

Anna says, "Everyone is very grateful that we have the free hour back. Some people are disappointed with the evening parking fee of £1, but this was the compromise we had to agree to with Warrington Council. We can't please all the people all the time. Getting the free parking back is good for Lymm businesses and good for Lymm residents."



## Leading by example

The volunteer group set up in February is gaining momentum with many local residents taking part and picking up litter daily, twice weekly or weekly. These unsung heroes are tidying up after us in Lymm.

Cllr Anna Fradgley says, "We have organised more and bigger bins to be placed around the village, but we need your help. I see more and more litter being dropped around Sainsbury's. Our volunteers and paid workers cannot be there all the time. So if you see litter, please pick it up and encourage others to do the same. We all have a collective responsibility to keep our area clean. Many Duke of Edinburgh volunteers have been part of the campaign."



If you wish to volunteer or be part of the DoE Award scheme, please email me on [afradgley@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:afradgley@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Help the Police fight crime

Our Police Community Support Officers do a great job but they need our help.

Parish Council Chairman John Bamforth says, "We want to encourage the public to phone 101 and report any illegal activities so the PCSOs can investigate and follow up.



It may be taking registration numbers of HGVs wrongly going through our village, reporting vehicles parked on pavements blocking the way for prams and push chairs or people dropping litter."

## When will the bridges be painted?

Local Liberal Democrats want to know when the swing bridges over the Ship Canal will be painted? At the Warrington Council meeting in June the Leader said that Peel had finally agreed to paint the bridges after intense lobbying by councillors, the MP and residents.



Cllr Wendy Johnson says, "Last year we presented a 1700 name petition to Peel and wrote letters to senior executives but never received any response. In March we asked the Leader and Chief Executive to write to Peel. The bridges give a very poor impression of the town. Peel has said it will refurbish the Warburton Toll Bridge first which is welcome but when will they paint these bridges? We are now told work will start next summer."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Post Office

There is still no news on whether we are going to get a replacement Post Office in the village centre, but we are very hopeful there will be some positive news soon. Your councillors are determined we will get one somehow!

### Lloyds Bank

Cllr Graham Gowland did a good job in getting the bank listed as an Asset of Community Value. This gives some protection to the future of the building but cannot bring back our last bank. We had a meeting with Lloyds Bank to try and persuade them to look at other options for banking in the village but it got nowhere. You may have seen the feature on the 'One Show'.

### Letterbox

There used to be a letterbox by the shop on Higher Lane at the top of The Crescent. The shop is now being converted to a house and the box has disappeared. We have asked the Parish Council to contact Royal Mail to try and get a replacement somewhere in this area.

### Canal Lights

It is taking longer than expected but the Parish Council will be replacing the broken lights by the Canal between the Community Centre and the Golden Fleece. We now have the lights and the contractor is in place.

### Whitbarrow Road

After years of campaigning, Whitbarrow Road, Dane Bank Road, Bridgewater Street and part of Brookfield Road have finally been resurfaced. Unfortunately there is still a water leak at the Golf Club corner so part of the road will have to be dug up. The central white lines either side of this corner have not been painted because the road is too narrow for traffic in both directions. Instead there is a solid white line at the edge warning motorists to be careful of the verge.

### Marketing Lymm

Progress is being made with the newly formed Traders' Group to find ways of boosting tourism in Lymm. The 'one hour free' parking has helped but there is a lot more to do. The Parish Council has employed a part-time social media person to help with the task.

## Railing repairs underway

Bad weather has delayed the completion of the work on the railings by the Lower Dam.

Cllr Andy Cooper says, "The tops have all been replaced but the painting is only half done. With a bit of luck, by the time you read this the weather might have improved and the job will be complete!"



## Your FOCUS Team – can we help?

### Warrington Borough Councillors

Cllr Bob Barr	2A Dane Bank Road	750910
	<a href="mailto:bbarr@warrington.gov.uk">bbarr@warrington.gov.uk</a>	
Cllr Wendy Johnson	37 Clearwater Quays	637398
	<a href="mailto:wjohnson@warrington.gov.uk">wjohnson@warrington.gov.uk</a>	
Cllr Ian Marks	80A Whitbarrow Road	753051
	<a href="mailto:imarks2@warrington.gov.uk">imarks2@warrington.gov.uk</a>	

### Lymm Parish Councillors & FOCUS Team

Cllr John Bamforth	24 Elm Tree Road	755048
Cllr Andy Cooper	4 The Paddock	756723
Cllr Anna Fradgley	34 Cyril Bell Close	753631
Cllr Graham Gowland	32 Wychwood Ave	751599
Ann Johnstone	3 Lakeside Road	755554
Denis McAllister	32 Rosebank	755073
Janet Socorro	77 Warrington Road	753576
Joan Stocker	10 Quayside Mews	558165