

FOCUS



Summer
2021
Lymm

@lymmfocus

www.warringtonlibdems.org.uk

Thank You!



Parish Council Chairman
Cllr Bob Barr

& Deputy Chairman
Cllr Graham Gowland

Thank you very much for your support at the Local Elections in May. The Liberal Democrats won 4 of the 5 Lymm seats on Warrington Council and 11 out of the 12 seats on Lymm Parish Council. In Thelwall, which is part of the Lymm North and Thelwall Borough ward, we held all 8 Parish seats.

Parish Priorities

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, Chairman Bob Barr outlined the priorities for the coming year:

•Protecting the Green Belt

Actively support the South Warrington Parishes' Group and the Lymm Neighbourhood Plan Group to protect the Green Belt while seeking ideas from the public to enhance our village.

•Road and pavement repairs

Press Warrington Council for swift and effective road and pavement repairs, hedge maintenance and gully clearing. Tackle road safety, speeding and parking problems.

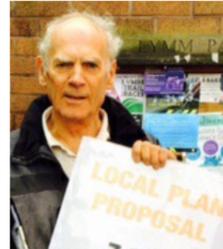
•Green spaces and combatting climate change

Support the numerous environmental and green groups in the village with co-ordination and funding where needed. Carry out environmental work to complement services from Warrington.

Revisions to Local Plan

A revised version of the Local Plan for Warrington is being prepared. This will replace the first version that went out for consultation in 2019 receiving over 3000 representations.

Cllr Ian Marks who is Deputy Chairman of the South Warrington Parishes' Planning Group says, "We welcome this major review which recognises all the changes that have taken place in the last two years. It is good that Fiddlers Ferry is now being considered for brownfield development. This takes pressure off the Green Belt."



The likely timetable is:

- Sept / Oct 2021 new proposal to Council
- Late 2021 public consultation
- Early 2022 submission to Planning Inspectorate
- Late 2022 Examination in Public



Planning reforms undemocratic

The Government is set to bring forward proposals for planning reforms later this year. Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee, Cllr Tim Martland, says, "The reforms would remove requirements on affordable homes, take power from local communities and hand it to wealthy property developers instead. That means more homes for the wealthy to maximise developer profits, and fewer homes people can actually afford."



Liberal Democrats want a community-led approach to planning, not a developer-led approach. That is the only way we can deliver the homes people need and want. A recent poll by the Local Government Association found that 8 out of 10 residents say it is important to have a say on all new homes in their area."

Eco-friendly Lymm

At the end of June the first LEAF event was held. LEAF stands for the 'Lymm Environment Action Forum' and aims to bring together all of the eco-friendly voluntary organisations in the village under one banner to provide mutual support and encourage more volunteers. The next LEAF event is planned for 25 September at the delayed May Queen.

Cllr Julia Stansfield is pictured at the first event posting a card to our MP asking him to support the 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill'. Julia says, "The Liberal Democrats strongly support the CEE Bill which has been designed to reverse climate and ecological breakdown."



Parish Environment Committee Chairman, Cllr Ann Johnstone adds, "It is vital we do something now on green issues. We are working locally to support the Liberal Democrats national 'Green Recovery Plan' to save our countryside, green every home, clean up our air, revolutionise transport and kickstart the switch to green energy."

Six year extension for Stockton Heath Recycling Centre

Warrington Council will keep the Sandy Lane Recycling Centre open for at least another 6 years.

Cllr Wendy Johnson says, "This is a relief and it is good that the Council has listened to residents. The site is not satisfactory but we need a site somewhere in the south of the town. We will be pushing for the Local Plan to identify a better location."



Collapsed Wall delay

Repairs to the collapsed wall near the Dam are being delayed by ownership issues. Cllr Sally Sharma who lives nearby says, "I am pleased that a proper engineering survey is now being done. Our prime concern is the safety of pedestrians."



Boundary Commission proposals

The national Boundary Commission is proposing that Lymm's two Borough Council wards move out of the Warrington South Parliamentary Constituency into Tatton. We would still be serviced by Warrington Council but have a different MP. This is to make the number of electors in each area more equal. We oppose this because it lacks commonsense. The problem is that the variation in the numbers allowed in each constituency is too tight. We will fight this but are not optimistic of victory.

Lymm in Bloom - fingers crossed

At the end of July, judging took place for the annual RHS 'Britain in Bloom' competition. 'Lymm in Bloom' started by Cllr Ben Selwood has an excellent record in winning medals.



Ben says, "Thanks to my team for all their hard work with the displays around Lymm. We are very proud of what we do. The picture shows me repainting the benches and street furniture ready for the judge's visit."

Opposition to toll increase

Liberal Democrats are opposed to the proposal to increase the toll on Warburton Bridge to £1. The Ship Canal Company (Peel) plans £6.5m of improvements to approach roads, footpaths and the tolling system.

Cllr Graham Gowland says, "Improvements are welcome but it is outrageous that motorists should be asked to pay all these costs. The bridge was built across the River Mersey to allow trade and the toll was approved in 1863 by an Act of Parliament.



ITV interviewing Graham at a protest by the bridge

When the Canal was built, the Mersey was re-routed so the toll is now over a dry ditch. The charge is obsolete and I am calling on all neighbouring MPs to mount a campaign to have the toll removed completely.

The public consultation ends on 20 August and I urge residents to visit the Warburton Toll Bridge website and voice their objections or mail warburtontollbridge@peelports.com."

'Bus Back Better'

Liberal Democrats welcome proposals to increase bus usage. The Council has just completed a month's consultation 'Warrington Bus Back Better'. This links in with the Government's national bus strategy.



Cllr Steve Towndrow says, "We need to find ways of reversing the trend away from public transport. There is the potential to gain grants to help improve services. The national strategy stresses the need for cross-border co-operation. In Lymm this is very important because of the current difficulties of travelling out of Warrington to Manchester and Cheshire."

Shoppers' Service

Our pressure has helped residents achieve improvements to the local Shoppers' Service after the operator changed in April.

Dunham Massey Bridge

We are campaigning to get the service to Dunham Massey reinstated following a problem with the canal bridge. Warrington's Own Buses want this but the holdups are with Trafford Council and Peel.

The Star - an 'Asset of Community Value'



Five years ago the Parish Council succeeded in getting the Star Inn registered as an 'Asset of Community Value'.



This gave it some legal protection against any planning permission for another use. Cllr Selina Kirkham says, "We are now submitting an application to have this status renewed because it lapsed after five years. The status doesn't prevent the granting of permission but it provides a hurdle to give the community time to organise to save the pub if needed."

Public Toilet at the Dam

The new Public Toilet by the Dam is operational at last.

Cllr Ann Johnstone says, "You would not believe how much difficulty we have had with this project. It's taken us far longer



than expected to complete it. At a time when many public toilets are closing down, we are proud that we have bucked the trend. It is essential that a popular attraction like the Dam has such a facility."

Your Councillors and road safety

ACTION

Rushgreen Road Crossing - Julia Stansfield is campaigning for a Zebra Crossing on Rushgreen Road opposite Sainsburys. Once 'normality' returns, the Council will do a proper survey.

Booths Hill Road damaged sewer - The sinking road opposite the Crown is due to a collapsed sewer. Tim Martland says, "After months the Council and United Utilities have finally agreed responsibility. Repairs were done in the first week in August."

Orchard Ave. / Pepper Street - Ben Selwood says the corner here can be dangerous when children come out of School. Double yellow lines at the corner would help.

Pepper Street surface - Ann Johnstone says lower Pepper Street is a hazard for car suspensions, cyclists and pedestrians. Resurfacing is urgently needed whilst retaining the feature of the setts.

Dam Zebra Crossing - Tim Martland is pleased that Warrington Council is improving the signage and markings to improve safety at the Zebra Crossing by the Dam.

Community Speed Watch - The Police are looking at restarting the Community Speed Watch scheme in Lymm. Let any of your councillors know if you are interested in volunteering and we will pass your name on.

Solar Farm proposal

Liberal Democrats support the proposal for a solar farm on



land owned by Wildersmoor Hall Farm on Whiteleggs Lane in Lymm. Chairman of Lymm Community Energy, Cllr Bob Barr, says, "This is a really exciting project and I thank everyone who took part in the recent consultation. Local support is an important part of the project feasibility study. In line with good practice, the land would also be used for grazing and to encourage bio diversity."

Trail needs upgrading

The Trans Pennine Trail has surface problems and suffers from poor drainage making it impassable on many days. Cllr Wendy Johnson says, "We urge Warrington Council to invest in this important asset which is used for leisure or a route to work or school. People use it for walking, running, cycling and in places horse-riding. The Council must search for grants to help fund the cost." **£££**

Anti Social Behaviour must be stamped out

There have been a number of instances of anti-social behaviour in Lymm recently.

Cllr Chris East says, "There have been several incidents at Slitten Book in particular. There is a risk of damage to a heritage asset, the place has been left a mess and there is a risk to the safety of the young people involved.



Residents and councillors have been in touch with the police, the Council and Lymm High School. I am pleased that where offenders have been identified, the School has followed this up with parents."

New Performing Arts Centre proposal

A proposal is being worked up for a new multi-million pound Performing Arts



Centre at Lymm High School. This would be used by both the School and the community. Cllr

Ian Marks who is on the Working Group says, "This is really exciting and I urge everyone with an interest in the arts to visit the project website and complete the consultation www.lymmperformingarts.org.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hedges

Cllr Julia Stansfield says, "Hedges and shrubs overhanging footpaths remain a problem. Warrington Council's policy is to 'prioritise shrubberies that are overgrowing and obstructing a pathway.' We must hold them to this if owners do not prune them back."

Flooding

Cllr Graham Gowland reports that meetings have been held between Warrington Council and residents affected by severe flooding earlier in the year.

Barclays building

Cllr Sally Sharma says, "The Parish Council has approved hoardings on the old Barclays Bank building to improve the street scene. We have also written to Barclays asking them to improve its look.

Gulleys

Cllr Steve Towndrow says Warrington Council only have two gully cleaning machines. Before the autumn leaves, they need to acquire another one!

Your FOCUS Team – can we help?

Warrington Borough Councillors

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Cllr Wendy Johnson	37 Clearwater Quays	637398
	CllrWendy.Johnson@warrington.gov.uk	
Cllr Ian Marks	80A Whitbarrow Road	753051
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Lymm Parish Councillors

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Cllr Ann Johnstone	3 Lakeside Road	755554
Cllr Selina Kirkham	2 Hardy Road	07971 109635
Cllr Tim Martland	5 Dingle Bank Close	07595 837443
Cllr Ben Selwood	44 The Crescent	752624
Cllr Sally Sharma	5 Baycliffe	755681
Cllr Julia Stansfield	46 Sandy Lane	758809
Cllr Steve Towndrow	124 Cherry Lane	07785 111522