

FOCUS



Winter
2017/18
Lymm

www.warringtonlibdems.org.uk

Local Plan under review

Warrington's first draft of a Local Plan to control the development of the town and house building, over the next 20 years has stirred up enormous public protests. Over 6000 responses have been received to the consultation. The greatest concern is over the potential loss of green belt.



The queue at the Park Royal Hotel at the consultation session in September

Cllr Bob Barr says, "It is inevitable that new housing will be built in the town over the next 15 to 20 years and the minimum number of houses needed will be determined by central government, not the local authority. Ensuring that the right homes, at the right price or rent, are built in the right parts of Warrington will remain a local matter.

If no plan is produced locally, then government inspectors and the Minister, will take control of those decisions, with much less say for local people. For that reason, Lymm Parish Council has supported the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan Group to consult locally on the plans for Lymm. We will work with other Parish Councils in Warrington south of the Ship Canal to ensure that the Local Plan treats the whole of the area fairly and that local views are taken account of."

Neighbourhood Plan Team up and running

In mid October, Lymm's Neighbourhood Planning Team held a drop-in session at the Village Hall. This was an excellent exhibition and extremely well attended. Congratulations to all concerned!



Cllr Anna Fradgley who is supporting the Team, says, "We were delighted with the response and are now busy collating the information obtained. The volunteers are non-political and are working hard to help shape our village."

New Councillor co-opted

Ann Johnstone has been co-opted to serve on Lymm Parish Council. This follows the resignation of Ed Gough during the summer.



Ann says, "I am committed to working with local community associations, traders and residents and being on Lymm Parish Council will enable me to continue and expand my support for the local community. I have lived in Lymm since 1979 and have stood in three previous Parish elections. In 2016 I came within 20 votes of being elected and I am now looking forward to representing the residents of Lymm South."

Dam railings painted at last

The railings by the Lower Dam have finally been painted.



Cllr Andy Cooper says, "It has taken a long while but they're done now and look much better. We now plan to paint the bollards on the other side of the road. The railings at the Upper Dam need painting too and we're planning to put a sum in the Parish Council budget to get these done. Please let us know if there is anything else like this in the Village that needs doing?"

Lymm Library saved

The Warrington Libraries Working Group has recommended that no libraries in the town should be closed.



This is an about turn from the original proposal to close several of our libraries.

The launch of the campaign to save our Library

Cllr Graham Gowland says, "This is excellent news and shows what can be done if enough people rise up to oppose something. People in Lymm have been passionate in their determination to keep our Library open. More investment is planned to build up the stock of books. We have a Friends' Group set up and our task now is to explore ways of making the Library an even greater part of the community. Libraries should be more than just places where you can borrow books."

Eagle Brow roundabout

A few weeks ago there was an incident at the mini-roundabout in Eagle Brow when a car drove into the wall at the corner.



Cllr Wendy Johnson says, "There could have been a really nasty accident. Over the years there have been many incidents and near misses here as I know only too well because I worked at Keate House for many years. The white road markings and in particular the 'roundabout circle' need repainting which can only help safety. The Parish Council has asked Warrington Council to do this and to see if there are any other improvements that could be made like clearer signage or better visibility."

New Environment Group formed

Twenty years ago an environment group was set up by the Parish Council to steer a bid application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund work at the Dam and other places.



The bid was successful and the group consisting of councillors, the Ranger, representatives of various organisations and residents has continued to meet quarterly.

Cllr John Bamforth, Chairman of the Parish Council, says, "Because of cuts by Warrington Council, the Parish Council wants to take on an increasing role in maintaining Lymm's environment and we have put money into our Budget for this. We want to bring the work of the longstanding environment group together with the emerging role of the Parish Council."

Cllr Ian Marks adds, "We have just held an inaugural meeting which went very well. There was plenty of enthusiasm and we are excited about what we can achieve in the future."



Your Lib Dem Parish Councillors out in the centre of Lymm talking to residents

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

Lymm needs a public toilet

The public toilet by the Upper Dam has now been removed and the space tarmaced over.

Warrington Council did this because it was costing far too much to operate for the use being made of it.

Cllr Ann Johnstone says, "At a time when we are trying to encourage visitors to come to Lymm, it is unacceptable for there to be no toilet here. In the village centre it doesn't matter so much because there are pubs, cafes and sometimes the Village Hall that people can use. If we don't have a toilet by the Dam, our Green Flag award must be at risk. The Parish Council is actively looking at what we can do to get a new toilet installed."



Second Bid for Outdoor Gym

Last February a bid was submitted to WREN for a landfill tax grant towards an Outdoor Gym in Ridgway Grundy Park.



Ian and Denis try out the Gym at Birchwood Park

An Outdoor Gym would encourage villagers to improve their health using a range of apparatus for building both muscle tone and cardio-vascular fitness. The proposal was supported by donations from Lymm Round Table and the Parish Council.

Unfortunately the bid failed due to insufficient third party funding and not enough public consultation.

Local campaigner Denis McAllister who is leading the project says, "To put right these shortcomings we undertook an on-line survey and a crowdfunding exercise. We also gained a grant from Active Cheshire. Thanks very much to all those who have completed our survey or made a financial contribution."

Cllr Ian Marks adds, "Warrington Council has been very helpful in putting the bid together for us and we are very hopeful that the new bid will be successful. We have also submitted additional letters of support from the two doctors' surgeries."

Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers now being recruited

Keep Lymm Kleen, launched on Dickensian Day last year, has a good strong group of volunteers diligently picking up litter around the village.



Cllr Anna Fradgley says, "We are now recruiting young adults who are looking to fill the volunteering specification of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. They can work in groups or with their parents and I will be monitoring them and will fill in and sign their Assessor's Report.

Equipment is provided, just enthusiasm required!"



To find out more about volunteering for DofE or simply litter picking, please email afradgley@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The toll of tolls - a continuing saga

It is official, according to 'satnav' company TomTom, Warburton Bridge Road is the third most congested in the country with standing traffic for an average of 86 hours a week!



The cost of standing in the queue, in time, fuel costs, and breathing in polluted air, is many times the 12p toll. The tailbacks cause massive delays for those returning to Lymm from Partington.

Cllr Bob Barr says, "We have been campaigning on this for years and have complained that the Warrington Labour Council's 'Memorandum of Understanding' with Peel, the owners of the tolled road, is utterly inadequate. Peel's promise to stop tolling when the Thelwall Viaduct is closed is nowhere near enough, even when they abide by it.

Now MPs for both sides of the Bridge are raising the issue – not before time. But, as the toll is set in an Act of Parliament it will need a new Act to remove it and it is very unlikely that parliamentary time will be made available.

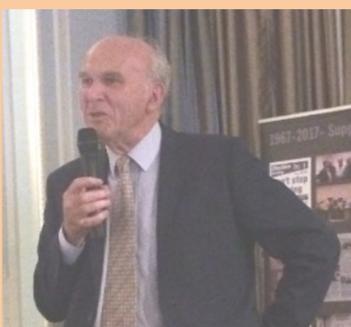
We must persuade Peel that they cannot continue to cause massive congestion on both sides of the bridge by tolling manually. They have agreed to investigate a faster method, but the best solution would be to stop tolls altogether and improve the road.

A new Warburton Toll Bridge Action Group has been formed and can be found on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/18542035>

Chancellor's Budget sunk by growth bombshell

The Chancellor has admitted that the UK economy will be £45 billion smaller in 2021 than predicted last March.



Lib Dem Leader Vince Cable says, "Britain has gone from top of the growth league to deep into the relegation zone with each person set to be £687 worse off per year."

Social care was not mentioned once in his speech and no extra funding was provided despite a million older people needing vital support.

The modest changes to Universal Credit are welcome but nowhere near enough for many vulnerable families.

Teachers and police officers will be £3000 worse off in 2020 due to the refusal to lift the public sector pay cap. Nor did he mention the need for more social housing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Post Office now open

Everyone is very pleased that we now have a Village Centre Post Office again. We may have lost our last bank but at least we have a Post Office!

Lymm in Bloom

Congratulations to Ben Selwood and the Lymm in Bloom team for gaining a Gold Award in the North West contest. The team of volunteers is a huge asset to the village.

Bridgewater Street water leak

We have reported the leak in Bridgewater Street causing water to run down under the aqueduct. Warrington Council and United Utilities are trying to work out what is causing it. We hope they fix the leak soon because it is very dangerous when the temperature is below freezing.

Dates for your diary

The 20th Lymm Festival takes place from Thursday 21 June to Sunday 1 July 2018



New Canal lights

It's taken a long time but the new lights by the Canal between the Golden Fleece and the Youth and Community Centre have now been installed. Cllr Bob Barr says, "We needed lights that were at ground level



to stop them being vandalised like the last set. One or two people have criticised them for not giving off enough light, but bright lights were never the intention. Their purpose is simply to show where the path is, so people can see where they are going."

Lib Dems on the up

On 30 November the Liberal Democrats won all four of the council by-elections on that day. They held one seat and won one from each of the Conservatives, Labour and UKIP. The President of the Liberal Democrats says, "Under Vince Cable we are winning seats up and down the country against all opposition. Our local campaigning is second to none and the hard work of Lib Dem councillors is being recognised."

More members than the Conservatives

It is reckoned that the Lib Dems now have more party members than the Conservatives.



Your FOCUS Team – can we help?

Warrington Borough Councillors

Cllr Bob Barr	2A Dane Bank Road	750910
	bbarr@warrington.gov.uk	
Cllr Wendy Johnson	37 Clearwater Quays	637398
	wjohnson@warrington.gov.uk	
Cllr Ian Marks	80A Whitbarrow Road	753051
	imarks2@warrington.gov.uk	

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
Cllr Ann Johnstone	3 Lakeside Road	755554
Denis McAllister	32 Rosebank	755073
Janet Socorro	77 Warrington Road	753576
Joan Stocker	10 Quayside Mews	558165