

FOCUS



May
2018
Thelwall

www.warringtonlibdems.org.uk

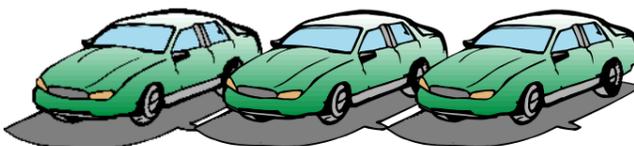
Massive opposition to airport car-parking on Caddicks site

Residents and councillors are strongly opposed to the proposal for airport car-parking on the site of the old Caddicks Nursery. The Parish Council has submitted a very comprehensive letter of objection.

The proposal is for parking for 1200 cars while their owners go on holiday from Manchester Airport.

There are many reasons for objecting to this proposal:

- The only lawful use of the site is as a horticultural nursery - all other uses are illegal and enforcement action is ongoing
- The application is contrary to national planning policy
- The site is part of the green belt that separates Thelwall from Lymm and there are no special reasons to justify this use
- Access to the highway is poor and no improvements are proposed. The increased number of vehicle movements are a threat to highway safety



- The amenity of the area would be damaged. It is near to a Conservation Area and a listed building
- The site is at risk of flooding and the site has been underwater at times in the past

Liberal Democrats win Lymm By-election

Anna Fradgley took a Borough Council seat off the Conservatives to win a by-election in Lymm South on 19 April. She polled 120 votes more than the Conservative.

Anna said, "I am overwhelmed by the result. It was a great victory for the Liberal Democrats."



Ryan selected for Warrington South

Grappenhall Councillor Ryan Bate has been selected to stand as the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Warrington South at the next General Election.



Ryan says, "I was born and bred in Warrington and teach at a local school. I firmly believe in creating opportunities for everyone. I have worked with a range of local residents and community groups to deliver improvements and in fighting against the Local Plan and major housing developments.

Brexit is unwelcome but I recognise that swathes of people have been left behind by globalisation and have concerns about immigration. It is up to the Liberal Democrats to offer radical solutions to these problems so no one feels left out. We must give our children the best possible education, provide affordable housing for young families and ensure that older people receive high-quality dignified care."

Wendy is new Deputy Mayor



Thelwall Councillor Wendy Jones is the new Deputy Mayor of Warrington. She was elected to this role at the Annual Council meeting on 21 May.

Keep Sandy Lane Waste Tip open

Warrington Borough Council is reviewing its waste strategy and proposals went to its Executive Board on 22 May. The Council faces budget pressures and closing Sandy Lane Recycling and Waste Centre is an option. If this happens, people in the south of the town will have to travel to Gatewath or Woolston to recycle. This will add to traffic congestion, reduce recycling rates and is likely to increase fly tipping.

Cllr Wendy Johnson says, "The Council tried to close Sandy Lane four years ago, but vigorous action by residents led by your Liberal Democrat Councillors stopped this with slightly reduced opening hours. We have now launched a petition to try and stop them closing it this time. It calls on the Council 'to keep Sandy Lane Recycling and Waste Centre open or to provide alternative recycling facilities in South Warrington'. To sign the on-line version of the petition, please google 'save Sandy Lane waste'.



We have over 3000 names, but we need more to show the strength of residents' feelings. Please sign the petition now and return to Lib Dems Freepost RRTA-UJLL-HCYT 75 Grappenhall Rd WA4 2AR."

Cllr Bob Barr adds, "We are pleased that the Council has now agreed to a six week consultation period on the future of Sandy Lane to obtain people's views on future options. A new report will go to the Executive Board at the end of the consultation."

Name	Address	Signature

Best election results for a decade

The Liberal Democrats enjoyed their best local election results for a decade winning 75 council seats, against the predicted figure of 30. Party leader Vince Cable said, "These results show a return to three party politics and a strong future for the Liberal Democrats. We are making gains against both a Conservative party driven by their right wing, and a left wing Labour party absorbed by Corbyn's dated economic vision."

2018 / 19 Parish Council

Thelwall Councillor Elaine Welborn is to serve for a second year as Chairman of the Parish Council and Thelwall Councillor Cliff Taylor will serve as her Deputy.



Sally Chisholm has been nominated to fill the vacant position on the Parish Council. Sally is a very active campaigner against building vast numbers of houses in the south of the town.

Right Homes in the Right Places

Warrington's Local Plan, which will guide development for the next 20 years, is due out for public consultation later this year. It will then be examined in public by an independent inspector early next year and should be adopted soon afterwards.



Cllr Bob Barr says, "One of the most controversial aspects of the Plan is whether the Green Belt needs reviewing to provide enough housing and employment sites to meet government imposed housing numbers. Developers are putting in large planning applications in the Green Belt hoping they may be able to get around the recommendations of the Local Plan. These can only be approved if there are 'very special circumstances'."

Parish Councils united

All the Parish Councils in South Warrington have combined together to fight Warrington Council's proposals to allow the building of 6000 houses on Green Belt land.



Cllr Cliff Taylor is the Chairman and Cllr Ian Marks the Deputy. Cliff says, "There was huge public anger when the proposals were published and dissatisfaction at the way the consultation was handled and its timing. The united Councils have taken on a

professional planning consultant who will be fully briefed to fight our case when the new version of the Plan is published. The Green Belt is highly valued and we will do everything we can to defend it."

Update on major developments

Two major developments nearby are currently under consideration. Cllr Patrick Warner says, "Homes England (formerly known as the Homes & Communities Agency) is seeking a developer for four hundred houses at Grappenhall Heys. Planning permission for this development has been approved so we cannot stop it. Once we see the detailed plans, we can ask for changes to the design and layout to minimise the effect on residents and the local environment."



Last June an application by Bloor Homes to build 78 homes in Appleton Thorn was refused following campaigning by residents and councillors. A revised plan to build 78 homes including 8 bungalows and 22 affordable homes has just been considered by Warrington's planning committee. It was opposed by local community groups and by Grappenhall Councillor Ryan Bate. Ryan said, "The infrastructure and communities of South Warrington have had enough. I am pleased that the application was deferred for further consideration of the amount of development, the layout and green space provision."

Re-development of Parks underway

Work has started on the redevelopment of both Diamond Park (Barley Road) and Jubilee Park (Euclid Road).

These projects were both possible due to the Parish Council gaining a grant of £93,000 from WREN, a not-for-profit community funding organisation that gains its income from landfill tax.



Parish Council Chairman Cllr Elaine Welborn says, "We asked children in our local primary schools how they would like their parks transformed. The ideas and enthusiasm of our young people was superb and I hope the new Parks will provide them with somewhere safe and fun to play for many years to come. We are planning an official opening, probably in June."

Campaign success over No 6 Bus route change

The campaign to stop the No 6 bus using All Saints Drive has been successful after months of pressure from local residents and councillors.

Cllr Louise Fernyhough says, "We are delighted that Network Warrington finally



listened to our concerns and have rerouted this bus service. They did this at the start of April along with a re-branding to 'Cheshire Cat', investment in new buses and an emphasis on making it easier and more pleasant to travel on buses. We wish them well. The downside is that the service for parts of Thelwall is not so good as beforehand."

Why do we have to put up with this eyesore?

This old shop on the corner of Alderley Road and Thelwall New Road has been in a dilapidated state for years. Cllr Ian Marks says, "It's about time something was done about this eyesore. I have been putting pressure on



Warrington Council to take action. They tell me that they are awaiting a planning application. No doubt this is true, but I am urging them to take action now to tidy up the site. Local residents have had to put up with it for far too long."

LOCAL NEWS

Walled Garden Staff

Ian Sinclair started work on 1 April as the new part-time Visitor Warden / Assistant Gardener at the Walled Garden. He will work alongside the Garden Manager, Graham Richardson.

Mobile Post Office

The Parish Council is investigating the possibility of having a mobile Post Office operating a few days a week in Grappenhall.

Church Lane Resurfacing

Cobbles and setts will be reinstated on Church Lane by the end of August.

No through Road

A 'No Through Road' sign is being installed at the entrance to Stoneleigh Gardens following a request by a local councillor.

Best Kept Village

Preliminary visits by the judges are about to take place regarding our entry into the Best Kept Village competition.

Lib Dems support Warrington Council's Budget with reservations



The Liberal Democrats supported Warrington Council's 6% rise in Council Tax.

Finance Spokesperson Cllr Ian Marks said, "We have reservations but believe it is the only way to protect services. Too much austerity from the Government has meant there is now a strong risk of a severe breakdown in services.

We are sympathetic to the Council's innovative income generation scheme, but we are worried about the risks they are taking and too much investment is going outside the town. It is unfair discrimination to charge £3 more if you do not renew your green bin licence on-line.

The Labour Party has got themselves in a real mess over provision for the homeless. We would continue the £36,000 to 'Room at the Inn'. We want more openness and transparency about spending decisions, so disastrous cuts like closing down libraries are not sprung on the public. Ways must be found to spend more on filling potholes."

Your FOCUS Team – can we help you?

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	

Thelwall Parish Councillors

Andy Bennett	631995	Hasan Kazi	453199
Louise Fernyhough	860128	Cliff Taylor	265636
Ray Fisher	602591	Patrick Warner	263174
Wendy Johnson	637398	Elaine Welborn	268769