

FOCUS



Winter
2018
TheLwall

www.warringtonlibdems.org.uk

Fighting for our Area

Warrington's first draft of a Local Plan to control the development of the town and house building over the next twenty 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.

Councillor Wendy Johnson says, "With the overwhelming public backlash, the timetable for the publication of the next version of the plan has slipped from this spring to the autumn and maybe later. We very much hope the Council will now change its approach and listen to the concerns of determined residents who have worked so hard in several pressure groups. We welcome the efforts of these groups because your Liberal Democrat councillors share their concerns about the Council's plans for our area. We do not want to become a city and there are several worries about transport and the lack of infrastructure."



Councillor Bob Barr adds, "To prepare for the next battle against the Local Plan, the Parish Councils in South Warrington have agreed to work together and take on a professional planning consultant to help fight the case. The Parish Councils and their consultant will work closely with the various campaign groups to present a united front. When the Local Plan is finally in place, it must reflect the priorities of local people and not just the political aspirations of the Labour run Warrington Council."

Opposition to Road Bridge

One suggestion from Warrington Council for a road improvement was the use of the disused bridge near Latchford Locks.



Cllr Cliff Taylor says, "This is a nonsense. How would traffic get to and from it without flattening many existing houses in Grappenhall, Thelwall and Latchford? The Council has no answer to this. It has caused residents a great deal of anxiety with rumours of compulsory purchase. It is opposed by the Trans Pennine Trail authorities because they fear a loss of a section of the Trail which is a valued public amenity."



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

Get involved in the Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council is looking for residents to get involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. This is a way of shaping the future of our villages and protecting them from unsuitable development.

Cllr Patrick Warner says, "A successful Plan has already been developed for Appleton Thorn. Over the next few months we will be conducting a thorough public consultation to find out what you think are the priorities for Grappenhall and Thelwall."



There will be public meetings and on-line consultation to allow residents to give their views. We want more residents to be actively involved in developing the Plan. There is a Steering Committee supported by the Parish Council which in turn is being supported by a planning consultant.

After the first public consultation a draft Plan will be produced which is subject to further public scrutiny and then a formal Planning Inspection. The final stage is a referendum to enable it to become official planning policy. This all sounds very complicated but it is the legal process we have to follow!"

Number 6 Bus still causing problems for residents



Eighteen months ago, Network Warrington shortened the route for the Number 6 bus so it turned down All Saints Drive. Previously it had continued along Stockport road turning left down Lymm Road and then past the Pickering Arms. They did this to save money.

Parish Councillor Cliff Taylor says, "The primary issue is that of safety. I think the risks of using All Saints Drive are too great. The bus company may think otherwise but my view is shared by local residents, the Parish Council, the School and the Church. The problems with buses on this route are not going away."



Parish Councillor Louise Fernyhough who lives on The Drive adds, "I am fed up with ongoing problems outside our homes. Weddings, funerals, school and community events like the bonfire regularly cause chaos and blockages and bring traffic to a standstill. Buses often have to go up on kerbs to pass legally parked cars and vans. Visitors cannot believe buses are allowed to use the road."

Councillor Ian Marks says, "Just recently Councillors Wendy Johnson, Cliff Taylor and I had a very constructive meeting with the Chairman and Managing Director of Network Warrington. We had a frank exchange of views on the various issues involved. Both parties have now gone away to consider what was said and we will be keeping in touch with each other over the next few weeks on the next steps to resolve the problems."

New homes at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton Cross

Warrington Council's Planning Committee has given the go-ahead for 800 new homes on land owned by the Homes and Community Agency. Your Councillors campaigned against these applications and will continue to campaign to influence the precise layout of the sites. Construction is due to start on both sites by 2020.

Working for an open tolerant and united Britain

Grant funding success for Parks

The Parish Council has secured two grants worth £93,000 in total to refurbish Diamond Park and Jubilee Park. The money has come from WREN and is funded by landfill tax.



Chairman of the Parish Council Elaine Welborn says, "This is the culmination of a joint effort by the Council and the community working together. We held consultations at the Thelwall Rose Festival and with the local school and playgroup. Residents also submitted a petition. Work will begin in the near future to return our Parks to safe attractive areas for children and families to enjoy."

Speed Indicator signs helping reduce speeds

The 'speed indicator device', known as SID, is helping reduce speeds on our roads. Cllr Wendy Johnson says, "Anything that helps reduce vehicle down to the legal limit is welcome. It's not perfect, but we do think the SID frequently positioned on Thelwall New Road is having a deterrent effect and improving safety."



Libraries saved

Warrington Council has now decided that no libraries in the town should be closed. This is a U-turn from the original proposal to close libraries including Lymm and Stockton Heath.



The launch of the campaign to save Lymm Library

Cllr Bob Barr says, "This is excellent news and shows what can be done if enough people rise up to oppose something. People in Lymm and Stockton Heath have been passionate in their determination to keep their Libraries open. More investment is planned to build up the stock of books. Friends' Groups have been set up and their task is to come up with sound plans to make the Libraries an even greater part of the community. Libraries should be more than just places where you can borrow books."

Award for local councillor

Local Councillor Ian Marks has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to the community in Warrington.



Ian was first elected to Lymm Parish Council in 1979 and to Warrington Council in 1983. Between 2006 and 2011 he was the Leader of Warrington Council serving on various regional bodies.

Twenty years ago he had the idea of starting a community and arts Festival in Lymm and he has chaired the Festival Committee for most of this time. Ian takes an active part in several other community activities.

Reduced Speed limit needed

The speed limit on Lymm Road between Stockport Road and Bell Lane should be reduced.

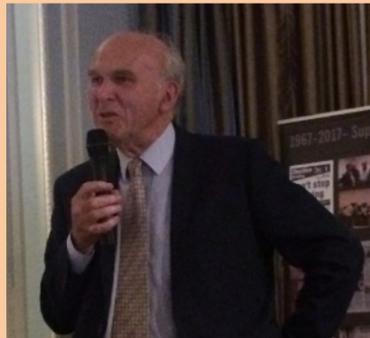
Local resident, Brian Davies says, "This road is extremely unsafe and many drivers drive to the 40mph limit or more regardless of the road conditions. The road is narrow but is used by cyclists, horses and buses. The footpath is only on one side of the road and if you want to cross over there is the risk of fast moving traffic coming round the bends. There are many trees and the street lighting is poor.



There is a history of accidents along this stretch including one only a few weeks ago. We have asked the Council to reduce the limit to 30mph."

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.

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 Liberal Democrats now have more party members than the Conservatives.



LOCAL NEWS

Community Library

Grappenhall Community Library has created a new community orchard to recognise the wonderful legacy of the founding Chairman and former Parish Councillor John Ashby. It was formally opened by current Library Chairman Dorothy Carter and John's widow Jan.

Grappenhall School

Warrington Council is pressing ahead with plans for the disposal and development of the old Grappenhall School site. Once a planning brief has been prepared they will contact the Parish Council. Residents will then be given their chance to have their say on the future of the site.

We have been concerned about safety on the site and are pleased to report that following pressure, Warrington Council has improved the fencing and installed round the clock on-site security.

Morris Brook Park

In the coming months there will be a public consultation to formally set up a 'Friends of Morris Brook Park' group. The intention is to give residents a say in improving the maintenance and facilities in the Park.



Church Lane

Your Parish Councillors have been working with Warrington Council to improve the weight restriction signage on both hump-back bridges used to access Grappenhall village. Too many large vehicles have been using Church Lane despite the 8 tonne restriction. New signs have now been installed.

Please get in touch with us if you have any problems we may be able to help with, or you have any ideas for improving our area?

We are always on the look-out for people to help deliver FOCUS leaflets around the area they live. If you can help us with deliveries, we would be delighted to hear from you!

Your FOCUS Team – can we help you?			
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Louise Fernyhough	860128	Cliff Taylor	265636
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