

FOCUS



Winter
2020
Thelwall

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Where is the Local Plan up to?

As a reminder, here is what is proposed in the Local Plan latest version:

- 5000 new homes in the south east of the Borough in a 'Garden Suburb' with the potential for 2300 more beyond 2037
- 4200 of these on land released from the Green Belt
- An urban extension in the south west providing 1600 homes
- 430 homes in Lymm in 4 designated areas
- A large area for industrial development (logistics) at the junction of the M6 and M56
- Not enough infrastructure to cope with these developments



The end of an eyesore

A planning application to redevelop the abandoned shop, on the corner of Thelwall New Road and Alderley Road, has been given the go-ahead by Warrington Council planners.

The proposal is for an extension to the abandoned shop, a one-bedroom ground floor flat and three flats above ground level.

Cllr Ian Marks says, "I welcome the decision and I am delighted that at last we seem to have a solution for this property. The building has been an eyesore for years and years and is highly visible to anyone travelling along the main road.



More to the point, residents are well and truly fed up with having to live close to it for so long. The planning application that has finally been approved is more modest than the original one, which was over-development for the site.



Cllrs Ian Marks, Wendy Johnson and Cliff Taylor

But councillors and residents are still worried about the parking provision. There is off street parking for the living accommodation but not for the shop. It is at a junction and opposite a school with parents dropping off and collecting their children.

There is a real concern about safety partly caused by a lack of visibility. We must hope the council has got this right."

Ryan says thanks



"Thank you very much to all those who voted for me in the General Election. I was obviously very disappointed at the result here in Warrington South and also for Liberal Democrats elsewhere. There was an overwhelming feeling that people wanted to 'get Brexit done' often regardless of the consequences. Many others voted tactically to avoid a Corbyn or Johnson government and we got squeezed out.

Our task now is to concentrate on the local elections in May and we hope that our reputation for working hard on behalf of residents and communities will pay off."



Cllr Cliff Taylor who is Chairman of the South Warrington Parishes' Planning Group says, "The council had 3000 representations. The majority of the public were against these proposals. The Council's response was originally planned for December but has been delayed until later this year.



Stobarts submitted a planning application for a major logistics site on the land designated for industrial development. We believe this was premature and there were no special circumstances to justify development on the Green Belt. The first application was rightly turned down by the Council's planning committee. Stobarts then submitted a virtually unchanged second application. The Council's Labour-run planning committee then did a U-turn and approved it. Stobarts lodged an appeal and we await the verdict from the Secretary of State probably in March. The joint Parishes' Planning Group employed a barrister to fight the Appeal. We sincerely hope the Secretary of State listens to the people and turns the Appeal down.

Waiting on this decision is a planning application for a much bigger logistics site called Six56."

Fairer Voting

The electoral system we have for the UK Parliament cements division and works against co-operation. Most developed democracies including Scotland, Wales and Ireland have a fairer system. This would mean that votes are not wasted and tactical voting would be reduced.

The Conservatives won a huge majority despite increasing their votes by only 1.3% on 2017. The number of votes each party needed to elect an MP was:

- 866K for Greens
- 336K for Lib Dems
- 51K for Labour
- 38K for Conservatives
- 25K for the SNP
- No MP for the Brexit party



It's time to join the campaign for fairer votes based on proportional representation.

Speedwatch

Congratulations to the volunteers taking part in the Speedwatch initiative. There is good co-operation with the Police and we look forward to the scheme developing further to improve road safety. Contact the FOCUS team if you would like to get involved.



Caddick's Appeal withdrawn



In the summer, a proposal for parking 700 cars on the site of the old Caddick's Nursery was thrown out by Warrington Council planners.

The proposal included the retention of several of the buildings, the retention of hardstanding and the laying out of a playground, an assault course and a public amenity area.

It was refused for several reasons. It would have been inappropriate development in the Green Belt, it was environmentally unfriendly because of the large number of car movements involved and there would be a risk of contamination of water-courses from the run-off of oil and fuel.

In December the applicant withdrew the Appeal. This now allows Warrington Council to take appropriate action to do what is necessary to correct the problems of the past.

Parish Rate increase to pay for local projects

The Parish Rate will increase by 7% in 2020/21. This sounds like a big increase but only a few percent of the total council tax we pay goes to the Parish. The vast majority goes to Warrington Council and the Police and Fire authorities.

7% only amounts to a few pence a week increase and all of this is for the benefit of Grappenhall and Thelwall residents whether it be projects or payments such as for the barrister to oppose the Stobarts Appeal.

Neighbourhood Plan on hold



Work on the local Neighbourhood Plan for Grappenhall and Thelwall has been put on hold until the outcome of the Warrington wide Local Plan has been decided. The Local Plan must be consistent with the wider Plan for the Borough. We hope work can start again soon because of the great response from local residents.

When will the bridges be re-painted?



In the summer of 2017 the Liberal Democrats presented a 1700 name petition to Peel Ports asking for the three swing bridges to be re-painted. Despite various promised dates, nothing has yet happened.

Cllr Wendy Johnson says, "The bridges give a very poor impression to visitors because of their dilapidated state.



Peel has ambitious plans for developments here, so they owe it to Warrington to do the painting. The original cost was £500,000 a bridge and the worry is the disruption that would be caused during the work.

The company in collaboration with the Council must find a way of doing the painting in a way that minimises disruption for residents and businesses. We want this to start soon this year."

Thelwall needs you!

On 7 May there are elections for Warrington Borough and Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Councils. There are sixteen councillors on our Parish Council. The main qualification for being a Parish Councillor is an interest in improving the community in which we all live. If you would like to find out more about what is involved please contact one of the FOCUS team.

We need the best people looking after our interests.



Save the Dates

Lymm Festival runs from 18 to 28 June



Council Motions

In recent months the Lib Dem Group on Warrington Borough Council has proposed two motions on the environment. Both were passed by the Council.



Group Leader, Cllr Bob Barr says, "The first motion asked the Council to declare a Climate Emergency and make Warrington carbon neutral by 2030. Warrington must not wait for central government but should become an 'exemplar' town delivering new jobs, economic savings as well as improving the wellbeing of our residents.



Our second motion proposed a ban on fracking rather than a moratorium as put forward by the Government. There are real fears about noise, traffic, air pollution, impact on the countryside, earth tremors and the effect on climate change."

Lymm Hotel destruction

In nearby Lymm, work has now started on the replacement of the Lymm Hotel with a children's nursery, a residential care home and retirement with care apartments. This was an utterly disgraceful planning decision. The concerns of 180 residents were completely ignored by Warrington Council's planning committee.

The front of the building should have been retained. It may not have been an 'architectural gem' but it had a distinct charm and character and



was an important part of Lymm's heritage. It had links to the old railway line and the famous people associated with the Hotel.

Your FOCUS Team – can we help you?

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Thelwall Parish Councillors

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