

PEOPLE PROTEST KEEPS SANDY LANE TIP OPEN!



The massive resident protest about their plan to close Sandy Lane Tip has made the Council take this seriously. After listening to the large number of people objecting to closure in the Council's consultation and the 3,900 names on the Lib Dem run petition. Labour's Executive Board changed its mind about immediate closure and told Officers to look for another solution and report back in May.

Closing Sandy Lane would leave residents without any recycling site south of the Mersey and forced to travel through Warrington to recycle and dump household waste. Increasing fly tipping, traffic congestion and air pollution. We say another site in the south must be opened if Sandy Lane is to be closed.

One thing is certain, if local residents had not responded so brilliantly to the petition and consultation the tip would have been closing in March. The Lib Dem Focus delivered door to door and our street stalls really paid off in alerting people to the threat. **Thanks to everyone who took part.**

Neighbourhood Weekender update 25/26 May

Last year's Weekender saw over 25,000 people visit Victoria Park over the Spring Bank Holiday for a music event that brought a lot of attention to the area. This year a pre-event consultation meeting will take place at the stadium building in Victoria Park on the 4th March at 6pm, giving residents an opportunity to discuss the plans for this year's event. Local Focus team member Alix says "it is good that Latchford is once again getting a popular music event that brings cultural awareness and a boost to the local economy. However, it is important that there are lessons learned from last year which did cause inconvenience to some nearby residents." The contact number for any concerns about the Weekender is 01925 873090. The line will be open from midday to 11pm on both days

The Wilderspool Causeway, gateway to our Ward and the Town, is a disgrace

The Wilderspool Causeway is in such disrepair it is becoming too dangerous to walk along the pavements - with raised tree roots, sunken dips and broken paving. Focus Team member Ann says "I use Wilderspool Causeway daily and I have to be so careful. I have tripped and fallen once already. After rain the dips become mini lakes, and wet leaves, which haven't been cleared, make the pavement so slippery. As well as the poor pavements, the litter that collects here never seems to be cleared. I don't understand why this important route in our community is being so neglected by the council. Latchford residents deserve better."



People protest in 2016 saved our libraries from closure.

Library Consultation

We urge all library supporters to take part in the Council's consultation to register the importance of the service to local people. After the massive public protest about closing libraries in 2016, the Council committed £1.15m to the service and promised to improve the book stock. We have to make sure the Council keeps up its commitment to the library service and does not let this drop off the agenda. Access the survey on the WBC website. Click on 'consultations' and choose Draft Library Strategy.



Stockton Heath's Lib Dem Councillors Graham Welborn and Peter Walker raise awareness of the Council's consultation on their plans to close Sandy Lane tip at one of our street stalls last summer.

STOP PRESS!

Access conditions put on Stadium site development



The Council has approved outline planning for up to 160 dwellings on the old Rugby Stadium site behind the Wilderspool Causeway. The good news is that construction traffic will access the site from behind St James Court and not up residential roads. The wording to change the conditions of the planning consent was proposed by Stockton Heath's Lib Dem Cllr Peter Walker. He says "I think most people will be pleased to see this waste land put to good use for family homes, but access is difficult. The Council Planning Committee members agreed with me to remove a condition which would have allowed construction traffic to use Priory Street and Fletcher Street to access the site. This also means there should be no need to have parking restrictions on Priory Street and Fletcher Street which would have been very inconvenient for residents." A detailed planning application will be put forward soon.



The litter strewn land at the old Rugby Stadium site.

Draft Development Plan expected in March



The Council's Draft Local Plan is due to be published in March. This plan will set out where housing, employment land and infrastructure will be built over the next 15 or 20 years.

The Council's 'Preferred Option' for 24,000 more houses - 8000 in south Warrington - caused a lot of concern here last year, especially about the new roads and canal crossings that might be needed and the extra traffic and air pollution which would result.

There is no information yet about what will be in the Draft Plan. We hope that the Council has had another look at the number of houses needed. As we pointed out last year the figure of 24,000 was far higher than appeared to be needed for predicted population growth.

YOUR FOCUS TEAM



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Still no action on our Swing Bridges

In spite of claims that Labour had sorted this out with Peel Ports still nothing has happened. We were told painting work would start last year but it was just empty promises.

Lib Dems councillors have persisted in raising this with Peel and with the Labour Council and our petition in 2016 was signed by 1,600 people. Most of them came from Latchford and Stockton Heath but people from all over town signed as well.

The look of the town really matters to residents and the bridges are the gateways to the town. It is good the MP has now picked up this campaign and is working with us to get some action.

Whether anyone can do anything about the pigeons that sit on the bridge waiting for you to walk underneath is another matter!

Centre Park Link - work to start soon

We are told legalities are complete for this road and new bridge which will link Chester Road, from a point near the Gainsborough Road junction, with Slutchers Lane. During the consultation residents asked for reassurance that traffic would not increase along Gainsborough Road which is already very busy. The Council promised a consultation about putting in the traffic calming, but no date has been given. We will keep up the pressure. Ann Raymond says "I live in Gainsborough Road and I have signed up to receive updates about the project. You can sign up by emailing cpl@warrington.gov.uk and stating 'I would like to receive Centre Park Link email updates'"



Paint spill reported

Paint spilled by builders at Eagle Mount off Stafford Road was reported by Lib Dem ex Mayor Celia Jordan who put a traffic cone in the middle of the road to try to stop cars driving through and spreading the mess everywhere. "The council said it was not their responsibility," she says "but they have resurfaced this area in the past." The paint has now been cleared after pressure from Celia and residents.



Local Library will stay open

Thanks to the sterling work of the Library Friends group, supported by local Lib Dem Councillors, Stockton Heath Library which serves most of south Warrington will stay open. A business plan has been agreed; investment for the future secured from the Borough and Parish Councils and work should start soon to re design the interior. With no loss of book space some room will be let to bring in regular income and there will be a refreshment area. The layout is designed to be inclusive and dementia friendly

Meet us at our Surgeries

We often talk to people from Latchford when we are out doing our councillors' street surgery in Stockton Heath. This is always on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11-12am. We meet people from all over the town there and we are happy to talk to any member of the public and raise any problems for them if requested. We also hold an indoor surgery on the same day from 10-11 am at the Library..



Focus is written, printed, paid for and delivered by Warrington Lib Dems. No public money is used. If you could deliver a few we would be very grateful for your help. Good way to up your footstep count and keep you fit too!

Problems? Grumbles? Ideas? Use this slip to let us know.

We will not contact you except about any issues you raise with us.

Please contact me about a local problem	<input type="checkbox"/>
I could help deliver Latchford Focus	<input type="checkbox"/>
I support the local Liberal Democrats.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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