Borough Councillor’s Report – MB 20.02.17

Late last month 200 volunteers planted 2000 trees in the Countess Country Park in association with the Mersey Forest, TGV and the Woodland Trust. I bought the trees and the Mersey Forest covered the other costs. We have had two further smaller planting sessions and more over the coming weeks to get to 3000 trees in total.

I pulled out of education funding plan for Upton High as there were a few parts of the training providers plan I was unhappy with. I can elaborate on this with pleasure if anyone wishes to have a chat.

Last year I asked for a group to be set up to look into the process, competence and resource surrounding onshore oil and gas in Cheshire West. This was set up on Feb 9th. Given the recent Sibelco Quarry debacle this has now been extended to all major minerals applications and I made a few amendments to the initial scope which were all agreed unanimously including looking into issues surrounding enforcement and audit trail.

I attended a meeting with Jamie Christian and Mark Pilgrim with regards to their future plans for the Zoo. Further details will be released over the coming months.

Upton is due to lose the equivalent of 23 teachers in our schools in the latest round of government cuts. Many residents have been in touch to complain. I've sent a letter of objection to Justin Greening MP and Chris Matheson MP

The launch of the poverty truth commission on the 16th Feb was a great success with a range of inspirational speakers, telling their own tales of poverty. Upton has large pockets of deprivation so will be interesting to see how we can improve our locality with this commission.

Case work has been steady this month but with a higher number of cases for housing than usual.