Firstly my apologies for not being at tonight’s meeting to answer any questions members may wish to pose. Please feel free to email me via the Clerk if there is anything on which you need more information.

I’ve been working closely with various CWaC officers and their teams to keep Upton in focus and to develop plans for our green spaces. A couple of weeks ago the ASIST team pulled out the stops to hold an impact day in the church grounds, As you will know the burial grounds are closed and as such become the responsibility of the local authority. The team which looks after these closed grounds is very small and has I believe 12 closed burial grounds to keep clean and tidy. I have contacted the Rev Paul Newman to ask if he feels it is practical to encourage parishioners to ‘adopt’ a grave. Many are no longer tended by friends or family.

The next impact day will be on 22nd October in Lodge Gardens. I am using my ward budget towards revitalising the garden and hopefully reflect the history. The area was the cottage garden for the lodge which fits really well with plans we are putting together for connecting with incredible edible and Friends of the Earth 10x greener projects. The first step will be to clear the beds so we can judge exactly what work will be needed. I envisage that this will be an ongoing project and will take at least a couple of years to complete.

In the meantime I’m working with the Localities team and Friends of the Earth looking at creating pollinator corridors in Upton.

The planning application for the Zoo Grasslands development will go before committee on 3rd September. I called this in on behalf of residents and in order that the decision should be made by elected members in public. It is expected that a councillor who call in an item should be at the meeting to speak. Regrettably because the application has been delayed coming to committee ( it was due in July) I am not able to be at the meeting. However I have, as agreed with the Chairman of Planning and officers, submitted a written representation which will be read at the meeting. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

I note that there is an agenda item regarding the Youth Club and provision of a youth service in Upton. These are two separate issues and I’m still following up both. I have asked that officers attend our next meeting, if members wish to have more information, rather than it coming via me.

Councillor Bryan and I continue to receive complaints about parking on Caughall Road at Cedar Lodge. We are in contact with the Zoo and Highways to look at how we can best effect a solution to the problem.

It is proposed the 30mph speed limit is to be extended on Liverpool Road. The notices have been posted so we are waiting for any objections to be registered. The local residents have welcomed the plan.

I’m also pleased that following a challenge from residents and me Demage Lane and Demage Lane South are to be included in the next batch of streets to subject to 20mph zoning. However there still seems to be confusion over the definition of enforcement and who is responsible for it within the zones. I have copied emails I have received to the Clerk should any members wish to see them.

Jill Houlbrook

29.8.2019