Borough Councillor’s Report 02.12.19.

First of all I must apologise for not attending this meeting or yesterday’s Christmas Market. I have been struggling for the past 6 weeks with two viruses back to back. I’ve tried to keep going but I regret the they’ve have got the better of me. I do hope you find this report useful and if there are any questions I’m happy to answer them by email. Perhaps the clerk will collate them and I will reply to her.

We have a agenda item on youth provision opinion Upton but residents rightly want to know what is happening to the building, described recently as the eyesore on Wealstone Lane.

The fate of the building which is owned by the local authority, is not yet decided. It’s with a CWaC contractor doing a full survey of the building which has been emptied. As soon as I know what decision has been made I will let members and our community know.

I’m absolutely thrilled that plans for a youth club in Upton are coming together with the service starting, if all goes to plan, in 2020. As you know this is something I’ve been trying to achieve over the past few years and at last it is becoming a reality.

The provision will be based at Upton United Reformed Church. The church is providing the premises but the club will not be affiliated to the church.

At the moment we are working on the constitution so we can apply to the Charity Commission to be a properly constituted charity enabling us to access funding from various sources including CWaC.

We need to build the membership of the club from the ground upwards to start the focus will be on young people in school years 5/6/7. Young people in our community will be asked to devise a logo and suggest a name for the club. To encourage entries and engagement there will be a prize for the winners and the winning school. I already set the wheels in motion for funding these.

We are looking for members of our community who have the relevant skills and experience and are willing serve in the specific roles of finance officer/treasurer and employment officer and Secretary. All these are honorary posts. We need a treasurer before we can apply to become a charity and with permission from members of the group I have posted an ‘advert’ for this on social media.

Please note the club will be non political and secular. It will offer a safe place for young people in our community.

Residents have received polling cards for Upton Heath School. For this election residents who would normally vote at the school, this year will vote at the British Legion on Heath Road. Unfortunately due to the time restrictions of calling the election the cards were printed and sent out before the venue could be changed. Residents have now received letters informing them of the correct polling station and notices will posted at the school and at the Legion.

I have been contacted by members of our community who have seen the wonderful Pride reverse advent calendar initiative and have asked about a collection point in Upton. Upton United Reformed Church on Heath Road already have a collection point for a reverse advent calendar for the Foodbank and will welcome any contributions.

There have been lots of complaints about wet and slippy leaves. As a reminder here is the link which anyone can use to report street cleaning that needs attention.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/street-cleaning.aspx>

There appears to be a plague of irresponsible dog owners or one dog owner. This person or persons think it’s ok to allow their dog to foul the footway on the junction of Willow Close and Meadowsway .. and on a resident’s driveway. The message from residents is don’t be so antisocial and disgusting. Pick it up.

Our Fish and Chips shop on Weston Grove is extremely proud to support the amazing work of the Soul Kitchen Chester. The Soul Kitchen Christmas party will be held for our homeless friends on Saturday 21st December.

Each year Soul Kitchen provides a sit down, waited service, home cooked full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, crackers, chocolates and individual gift bags for our friends who are homeless or in need of support in Chester. Richard and Josette want this to be extra special and are asking for the community to support by do donating. There is a donation point at the shop on the wish list are:

- Christmas presents

- Men’s boxers

- Large bars of chocolate

- Men’s Socks

- Gloves

- Hats and warm clothes.

I am waiting for another traffic assessment on Weston Grove to be completed by highways to judge whether it meets the criteria for a pedestrian crossing. Rightly residents and parents are concerned about the safety of the children and that the continued irresponsible parking outside the school is putting lives at risk. I have received a suggestion that a crossing outside the shopping parade would not only help children cross safety but would assist all the pedestrians who use the increasingly popular shops. I will pass this suggestion to our Highways team.

I have reported parking on the double yellow lines and alerted licensing to the fact that registered black cabs and hire cars are some of the miscreants.

At the recently convened meeting to discuss the issues around Upton Heath School the following actions were agreed.

All - Advise residents when asked that the bus service is popular and well used and there is no intention to remove the service from Upton Lane.

Jill – To engage with police to take action with issues occurring now as permanent measures will take time to be actioned.

Highways – review of parking on Upton Lane/Demage Lane and Flag Lane South to consider whether any further restrictions are required for safety reasons to prevent parked vehicles obstructing through route or causing vehicles to back up on to the A41.

Road Safety – to engage with school on various initiatives.

Stagecoach – to undertake climate change talk with at school. Consideration of change of times if school were able to revise pick up times which they will consider. Discussion with school around travelling to school by bus from the zoo.

School – engage with road safety team around initiatives including parents parking charter when appropriate; consider change of school pick up times. Continue to work with parents/carers regarding not blocking driveways etc.

I’d like to thank everyone involved for taking the time to attend the meeting and for the ideas which have emerged.

I have also enquired of planning whether planning permission is needed for the school to permanently open the entrance on the A41and I’ve been told that this is not necessary.

I am making residents aware that any incidents on Demage Lane should be reported to the Police using 101, so they can build up a dossier.

The street scene team recently planted daffodil bulbs in the verges on Wealstone Lane. I didn’t join them because of purdah restrictions. Along with the bulbs I gave to the Pavilion staff to be planted there should be a great show in spring.

There are some trees on the Donkey Field which need to be trimmed as they are causing problems for residents of Tiverton Close. Similarly this applies to the trees in Christopher’s Close. The trees have been dropping their berries making the footway dangerous and some of the older residents have been keeping their neighbours safe by sweeping up. These works will soon be carried out.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish staff and members a happy and peaceful Christmas time celebration.

Jill Houlbrook

1.12.2019.