

Borough Cllrs Report – JH 10.01.22

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful and productive 2022.

Residents may be aware that Chester Zoo has lodged two planning applications for the conversion of the old and listed stable block to a facility for weddings and large events.

I have 'called in' this application to be decided by committee. There are considerable concerns about the changes to, use of, the building, the impact on neighbours and the animals.

On Friday evening I met with residents neighbouring the Zoo and we will be talking with the planning case officer and we hope the Zoo will arrange a public consultation meeting. So far the Zoo has not contacted residents who are most likely to be affected.

Comments on the application, reference numbers 21/04555/FUL and 21/04556/LBC, can be made to Cheshire West and Chester Council by January 14.

Recently our local street care manager let me know that there are some concerns about the condition of the bridle path through the Zoo.

He has contacted the zoo on their web site and asked can they clean the path up and possibly place some stone where their heavy plant and machinery is running over the ground.

So if you have noticed the mud or tyre marks please be aware the Council is already dealing with the issues.

There are some rule changes in the Highway Code from next month January 2022.

This gives priority to pedestrians and cyclists. With the intention of making the roads safer. Further information on this is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>.

I am delighted to have helped Cycling Without Age reach their target which has enabled them to purchase a second trishaw. They are based at Upton Dene and the Cycling Without Age movement is really growing in the UK. It's so good to know that Upton has become an integral part. The group will be really busy in the New Year getting prepared to host their first rides so please keep looking for more news.

Regrettably I am still receiving complaints about the waste and recycling service supplied by CWaC. These have been coming in for the last couple of months and have included missed collection, missed assisted collections, collections refused for unsubstantiated reasons, missing bins and boxes, missing lids, rubbish left on the streets and rubbish being moved to neighbours bins. I'd would like to thank the CWaC officers who after some pressing have taken this situation seriously and now follow up all the complaints.

At the end of November our PCSO Beth George organised a big thank you to Upton Community Speed Watch.

The team works extremely hard to help keep our community safe and volunteer in their own time.

I'd like to say thanks to anyone who came along to say hello and thanks to Police Panda Imp for bringing his car. It was a real blast from the past.

On Monday morning I have a refresher meeting with the local authorities' resilience team so as agreed I can start working on a plan for Upton.

At the end of November I met with the two residents who make up Upton Living Streets and we discussed what they feel would be beneficial to encourage walking in Upton. Following this I had a meeting with Kieran and Hannah who are part of the recovery corridor team at Chester Zoo. I am pleased with the positive outcomes of this meeting. We hope that working with our community we can establish a green walking route around Upton. This is not only to encourage walking but also to highlight the obstacles and difficulties often encountered by people using our footways and public rights of way. Hannah and Kieran will be facilitating a meeting at the Zoo. Once we know the details, time and date, residents will be notified and we hope will come forward to join us.

As members are aware tomorrow the planning application for the nursing home on Wealstone Lane goes before the CWaC planning committee for a decision. Residents and I will be speaking at the meeting.

Jill Houlbrook - 10.1.2022