

Borough Councillor's Report 12.07.21 – Cllr Jill Houlbrook

Now we are holding monthly Parish Council meetings I am able to keep members updated more regularly on issues affecting our community.

Residents are still asking about what if anything is going to change to reduce the appalling queues and pollution on the A41. I have been asking the Interim Director, Highways and the Chief Executive for updates over the past weeks and despite being told I'd receive information this has not happened. Last week I sent this email which I hope reflects the frustration felt by our community.

'Good morning XXXX. I am sending these photos, taken by an Upton resident as an illustration that the A41 situation continues and as a reminder that despite you assuring me, more than once, I would receive an update, this has not yet happened.

I am disappointed for my residents and for democracy that I have not been included in any consultations or discussions. I retain a faint hope that I will soon have an update which I can share with my community.'

As I didn't receive a reply, I have since written to the CE as I feel the views of our community and local councillors should be considered. The reply from him let me know that when there are plans I will be contacted. However it does not address the central tenet about local democracy.

I've been contacted by several residents of Upton Drive who concerned by the state of the road surface and hoping that it might be resurfaced at some time. I have enquired of Highways and asked if there's anything I can do to influence the situation but regrettably Upton Drive is not down for resurfacing. It will be 'monitored' for defects. I know residents will be disappointed and I'm sorry on this occasion the prospects for the work are poor but please keep reporting the pot holes to me.

Thank you to the residents who came along to Lodge Gardens. Thank you to Wendy who so eloquently explained the plans we have in mind and led the discussions. The next step is for us to work with our CWaC officers to draw up a planting plan which we can then publish. This will not be a quick fix but we hope the result will really add to our community. We also hope that we can build a community group willing to tend and mend the gardens.

Archway Homes has recently delivered this letter to the immediate White Gables neighbours.

Work on White Gables will begin very soon. Archway Homes have contacted neighbours and wish to share the details with the wider community.

Here is the letter they delivered. The contractor will also be doing some work in the opposite pavement in order to connect our electricity supply to the point of connection in Ullswater Crescent.

The next works to take place, in accordance with our planning permission will be the construction of the site entrance which includes an element of adjustment to the Sports Club entrance as well. This is scheduled to take place over 2 weeks commencing 9th August and we have Highways approval to do this under a one-way road closure which is the safest way to for us to complete the works. There will be traffic management in place to redirect traffic and I would like to apologise for the disruption this may cause.

After the entrance is complete, we will commence the demolition of the buildings on site. This is anticipated to take approximately 4 weeks and will be undertaken by our demolition contractor Booth Hill, who we have worked with on numerous occasions.

Following the demolition we will be widening the access road in order to allow passing places in three designated areas. Once this work is complete, we will then commence the on-site construction by way of groundworks which includes drainage and foundations. We are currently anticipating that we will start the main works on site at the beginning of October 2021 and will be on site until Summer 2023.

By its very nature, the demolition work and site construction work will cause some noise and dust therefore I would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. It is always our aim to be as courteous to our neighbours as possible.

The works will be under the management of our Construction Manager, Barry Parkyn, who can be contacted on 07384 466 978.

If you have any queries or require any further information, please feel free to contact the company on 07736 224 711.

We are still waiting for repairs on the bridge on the PROW towards the Countess of Chester County Park. I would like to remind anyone using the PROW that the safety tape is there for a reason. I'd like to thank Andy of the Friends Country Park for taking the time to restore the safety features and for continuing to remind CWaC the bridge needs immediate attention. I have recently reported the PROW on both Daleside and Demage Lane. They are both badly in need of urgent attention. The PROW between Demage Lane and Upton Lane is impassable.

A couple of weeks ago I met with Julie Derbyshire of CityFibre. We discussed the problems that residents have experienced and took a walk about to look at the areas where the fibre has been installed and I was fascinated by the interior of one of the cabinets and finesses of the the fibre. I have also put Julie in touch with several organisations and many individual residents.

I would like to ask members to consider how the Parish Council might work with and support the community to arrange an Upton carnival to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. I am encouraged by the amount of interest already shown by our community.

It will hard work but I am sure great deal of fun.

Cheshire West and Chester's Full Council meeting to be held remotely due to COVID concerns
Concerns over rising cases of COVID-19 infection in Cheshire West and Chester mean that its Full Council meeting scheduled for 15 July will now be an informal remote meeting rather than being held in person. This means any decisions about the Waste Strategy will be recommendations. The Conservative group has since called for a special face to face meeting to be arranged to deal with the single matter of the Waste Strategy.

There continues to be many complaints and concerns about overgrown hedges and trees on our streets. Residents have contacted me to ask if there is a way in which they can help. It has been suggested that this might be by way of a leaflet dropped through the door of the property with an overgrown hedge or tree asking for it to be cut back. There had been the idea that community members could carry out the work but this is not feasible as there would need to be insurance and indemnity. I therefore ask that members might discuss a Parish Council flyer, similar to that about parking, which residents could use.

Regrettably the planning application for a drive through take away at Moston garage was approved at last week's planning meeting. Residents submitted a statement and I spoke as a visiting member because of my many discussions with residents I recused myself from voting.

There is no firm news of the long running saga of the Posh Spice site.

Jill Houlbrook
11.7.2021

