

FOCUS



Summer
2011
Lymm

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Ian says thanks

Ian Marks was re-elected to represent Lymm on Warrington Borough Council in May. Ian says, "Thank you all very much for electing me again. I will continue to work hard on your behalf. We always knew this was going to be a tough local election for the Lib Dems. It is the first we have ever fought while having a role in national government. It couldn't have been at a more difficult time with tough decisions having to be made because of the financial mess the last Labour Government left.

We are very proud of what we have achieved for the town so it was disappointing to lose some very hard-working councillors. Labour has now taken back control of the Council after five years of a shared Lib Dem / Conservative administration. They certainly inherit a Council in far better shape than when they left it in 2006. We are sad not to be able to continue the good work but we will be an active and responsible opposition."



'Look of the Borough' team comes to work in Lymm



One early success has been the removal of a huge tree root from the gully outside the United Reform Church. This has caused flooding for years. Hopefully this is now history.

Warrington Council's 'Look of the Borough' team started work in Lymm on 27 June. They will be here for seven weeks. The team of eight people is split into three groups - environmental improvement, gully cleansing and pothole repairs. This is over and above the regular team that looks after Lymm.

They are doing work that has been requested by the Parish Council, local groups in the village and by residents. The Parish Council is getting regular reports about the progress they are making.

Tasks on their list include getting weeds out of the edge of carparks, removal of weeds, grass and dogdirt on footpaths, cleaning green mould off signs and cutting back vegetation that obscures the signs, litter picking and reclaiming overgrown parts of Ridgway Grundy Park. During the seven weeks they should repair an extra 300 to 350 potholes.

It's not too late for you to have your say on what should be done. Let us have your ideas and we'll feed them into the programme for consideration. Email is easiest so we can forward your suggestions direct to the team.

Reduce signage clutter

As part of the 'Look of the Borough' programme we want the big blue police enforcement signs removed. There are several of these large signs in Lymm and no one can tell us what purpose they serve! What does 'Police Enforcement Area Ahead' actually mean?



Cllr Ian Marks says, "We hope to persuade the police that the signs should go. The Council is talking with them to see what can be done."

'Ironing Bored' eyesore

The old wooden 'Ironing Bored' building in Bridgewater Street is an eyesore and needs to go. We also think it may be a health and safety hazard but the Council assure us it is safe. It is owned by Peel Holdings and we have made approaches to one of their Directors for some action to be taken. We understand Peel is in discussion with Warrington Council planners about what can be built in its place.

Plans for land by Farmers Arms



Pam looks at the housing plans

Great Places Housing Group is planning to build ten shared ownership homes on land by the Farmers Arms at the bottom of Sandy Lane.

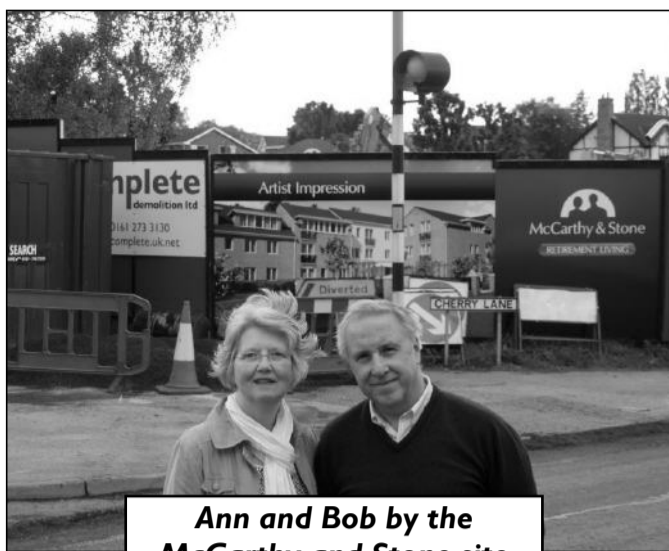
The plans were shown to local residents at public meetings held on 15 and 29 June. The second meeting was held because residents and councillors were not properly notified of the first meeting.

Cllr Pam Hunter says, "We are sympathetic to providing affordable homes for local people but our big concern is access to the site from Sandy Lane. I live on Sandy Lane and I know what traffic problems we have already especially at school times. This is by far and away the main complaint from local residents."

Cllr Charlotte Coupe adds, "Our second concern is the three storey nature of the development. All the houses around the site are two storey. We really hope the developers and their advisers will listen to our concerns before they submit a planning application."

Improvements at bottom of Cherry Lane

There will be a better and safer layout for parking at the bottom of Cherry Lane by the Co-op. Cllr Bob Barr says, "Funding for the new layout will come from the development of the nearby McCarthy and Stone retirement home. The new home is being located here rather than at a less suitable location in the village. We are very grateful to them for this funding." FOCUS team member Ann Johnston adds, "Parking at present can be very hazardous and we look forward to the improvements. It should also stop vehicles travelling the wrong way down the one-way system."



Ann and Bob by the McCarthy and Stone site

New picnic table in Ridgway Grundy

Following a request by a local resident to the Lib Dems, a new picnic table has now been installed in Ridgway Grundy Park paid for by the Parish Council.



Lib Dems work hard for NHS Bill changes

The Government has announced changes to its Health Bill to address concerns raised by the public, medical professionals and the Liberal Democrats.

Lib Dems led the calls for changes after raising serious concerns at our Conference in March. Nick Clegg and others have worked hard in Government to make sure the concerns have been addressed.

In particular, the Lib Dems have ensured

- ✓ There will be no special favours for the private sector and there will be a level playing field
- ✓ The pace of change is slowed down to ensure changes are not rushed into and those taking on new responsibilities do so when they are ready
- ✓ The changes will be evolution, not revolution
- ✓ The NHS is properly accountable, both nationally and locally

Cllr Ian Marks, Lib Dem Leader on Warrington Council said, "I am proud of the way Liberal Democrats have listened and acted to address concerns about changes to the NHS. The Bill is now much better and will make sure decisions are taken in the best interests of patients. We believe the NHS must always be universal, based on need and free at the point of use.

The NHS still faces huge challenges, with an ageing population and the rising costs of new drugs and technologies. But I am confident the NHS is now in better shape to meet those challenges.

In Warrington

Here in Warrington we are well placed and the joint working between the Council and the NHS is going well. From the beginning of April, Public Health has been integrated into the Council and there has been tremendous enthusiasm for this. We established a Health and Wellbeing Board with an independent chairman. The GP Consortium is in good shape and has the advantage it covers the same geographical area as the Council. It will now take include other health professionals and be more accountable to the public which we welcome."

Road re-surfacing

The eight week programme to resurface Booths Hill Road / Church Road between Highfield Road and Elm Tree Road is well underway. Work will also be carried out at the junctions of Brookfield Road and Rectory Lane and on the footpath between Lakeside Road and St Mary's Church.

Shortage of funds sadly means the resurfacing of Higher Lane will have to wait and will be phased over the next three years. Low cost safety measures put forward by the Residents' Group will be incorporated wherever possible.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dingle Pathway

There is progress on the scheme to provide a new gateway from the Upper dam down the Dingleway to encourage visitors to visit the village centre.

Port Warrington

We support the proposal for a major new port on the Ship Canal, west of Warrington. This will provide jobs and be good for the environment. But we must ensure the extra traffic does not cause more swing bridge openings causing delays for Lymm residents travelling to Warrington.

Efficient lighting

As part of the Carbon Reduction plan we introduced last year for Warrington, 75 inefficient mercury lights in Lymm are being replaced by modern white lights. These will save money and reduce carbon.

Improved signage at dangerous corner

New signage at the corner of Whitbarrow Road by the Golf Club should help road safety. Cllr Pam Marks says, "I welcome these signs because the road is narrow and vehicles must take care when passing. The hedge just by the Trail has been cut back to improve visibility but the whole hedge needs trimming back to create more road space."



Pam by the new sign near the Lymm Hotel

Car parking review

Car parking in the village centre is becoming an increasing problem. The yellow lines on Eagle Brow have helped flows but displaced cars elsewhere. Brookfield Road can be a nightmare and the Council has been surveying this road. The Council has now agreed to undertake a proper Transport Study to develop a longer term parking strategy for the village.

Fighting for the Green Belt

A new planning document for Warrington, the Local development Framework, will soon be available for consultation. It is likely to propose keeping a tight rein on the Green Belt over the next 15 years. Cllrs Bob Barr and Ian Marks will be keeping a close eye on how this affects Lymm. We do not want any more major housing developments and we must preserve the green space between Lymm and Oughtrington.

Bob says, "Under the new Localism Bill before Parliament, there are opportunities for Lymm people to have more say over local planning matters if we all want it. We will be watching this too and keep you informed."

Your FOCUS Team

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