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WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Parish Council Newsletter updating residents on matters in the Whittingham Parish Council area.

Village Hall Roof / Parking Facilities

The Parish Council considers the Village Hall to be an important community asset and Members were pleased to ringfence Community Infrastructure monies towards the provision of a new roof.

Work commences on the **7th November** and will continue until the **10th December** or until the roof is finished. Unfortunately, the Village Hall car park will be closed for the duration of the works.

Goosnargh Oliversons School have been notified of the closure so parents will be aware of the lack of parking and in order to minimise congestion, the roofing contractor will avoid deliveries at peak times between 8.30 & 9.30 and 3.30 & 4.30.

Despite these precautions, residents may need a degree of tolerance and patience during the building works.

Remembrance Sunday.

Wreaths will be laid at a Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church on **Sunday 13th November** starting at **10.30 am**. Further details will be available from the Church. After the service, the Parish Council Chairman will lay a wreath at the Memorial at Beacon Drive. Members of the public are also welcome to visit the memorial to pay their respects.

Whittingham Cemetery Benches

In partnership with Homes England, the Parish Council has provided 4 metal benches with an armed forces theme for people to quietly sit and reflect whilst visiting the graves of the service personnel who died at Whittingham Hospital. The benches should be installed by Remembrance Sunday.



Community Infrastructure Levy.

When new development is approved in the Parish, the City Council collects a Community Infrastructure Levy from the developers and passes 15% of the Levy to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is working through a list of expenditure suggestions put forward by residents. These are detailed in the **CIL Business Plan** on our website. The document has recently been redesigned with projects itemised in different categories.

Items in **category one**, where finances have been secured, include the Village Hall roof and the cemetery benches detailed on the cover of the Newsletter. Other items nearing completion include an **information sign and leaflets**, publishing details of 2 walks across the public rights of way in the parish and the installation of **cycle racks** at the Stags Head.

Items in **category two**, where more information is required to progress the items, include **traffic calming** measures, **speed enforcement** measures, a **marked football area** on the Village Green, provision of **outdoor gym equipment**, refurbishment of the **tennis club** and improved **street lighting** on the Village Green.

The following pages of this Newsletter provide feed back on the **Parish Plan** which the Parish Council has recently consulted on. The final document will set out our aims and aspirations for the parish and it will become an important document when responding to consultations and applications affecting the Parish. New projects will be financed by the **Community Infrastructure Levy**.

Community Grants

The Parish Council will shortly be considering the budget for 2023/24 and would like to remind community groups that it sets aside a small budget for community donations and will consider awarding a grant or donation to local community groups / events which will bring direct benefit to the area or some of its inhabitants.

If your organisation wishes to apply for a community grant, please contact the Clerk by email at wparishclerk@gmail.com.

New Sports and Social Club

One of the benefits of the new housing developments at the former Whittingham Hospital site will be the provision of a brand new sports and social club. The Parish Council recently received a presentation on the proposals which will shortly be submitted to the planning authority. If everything goes to plan, the building should be built by Spring 2024. The Parish Council has pledged to monitor progress to ensure the facilities are built in line with the proposals.

Speeding Traffic

The Parish Council continues to work with Lancashire County Council, the Police and the Road Safety Partnership to reduce the number of speeding incidents and ensure **the mobile police enforcement camera** still remains active in the area.

Concerns have been raised regarding the Camforth Hall Lane junction with **Cumeragh Lane** and Lancs County Council have stated that they are monitoring the safety of the road particularly as the amount of new homes / traffic increases.

The Parish Council has also approached Lancs County Council to adopt the roads on the new estate at Henry Littler Way. Once the roads are adopted, a **20mph** speed limit can be applied.

In addition we are pleased to report that the **Deputy Police Crime Commissioner** will be attending a meeting to discuss other traffic calming measures - including the possibility of a static, yellow GATSO box camera.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday 12th January at 7.15pm**. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public, so put the date in your diary and come along and get involved. You can view the Agenda and Minutes of previous meetings on our website which also includes contact details for local Councillors, finance updates and various news articles. www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Halfpenny Lane –Temporary Road Closure.

Lancashire County Council have informed the Parish Council that Halfpenny Lane will be closed from **21/11/2022** to **13/01/2023** to enable Cadent Gas to install a new gas main along the full length of the carriageway. The size of the excavations means a full road closure is required, however, it is understood that there will be a break for the Christmas / New Year holidays.

Cadent Gas will be instructed to issue correspondence to local residents which will include a telephone number for residents to report any concerns or access issues.

Love Clean Streets

Highway concerns including **pot holes** and broken **street lights** can be reported to Lancs County Council via their website where you can also access information on **road works** and **road closures**.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it

In addition, if you have a smartphone, you can also report issues and send photos with GPS location using LCC's Love Clean Streets App. To read about the app visit the news page on our website.

What Wasn't Important to you

There were some surprises in the survey. These included a lack of support for:

- public toilets
- provision of allotments
- improving the mobile library service
- providing a bus service through the new estate
- providing a bus service along Halfpenny Lane

Perhaps the most disappointing result from our point of view, was when we asked how important it is for residents to want to get involved and to actually get involved, in delivering the overall vision of the parish plan, this received just half the score of keeping the parish and village rural and a nice place to live.

This suggests that people want the parish to stay nice but want other people to make it happen.

Realistically, that is unlikely to be successful. The Parish Council is made up of just seven volunteers and a Clerk and we need everyone in the village to start getting involved and campaigning for what they believe in and want.

The developers are very, very good at this. Public sector funding appears to be heading for an all time low so we can't rely on other agencies to do things for us.

So that means you and us together!

We will publish information on the council's website when we need specific support so please keep an eye on that. But please, start letter writing, making a fuss with the powers that be and engaging your local representatives now. By all means copy in the Parish Clerk using the website email address clerk@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Let's see if we can become a campaigning parish that makes people think twice before trying to ruin what is important to us all.

Please note a copy of this Newsletter with **all of the website links** can be accessed from the 'other documents' page on our website www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

PARISH PLAN CONSULTATION RESULTS

As you are probably aware, the Parish Council is in the process of creating a new Parish Plan to guide its work over the next three or so years.

We circulated a draft plan earlier in the year, together with a supporting consultation document. We've now considered the results of the consultation and are working on the final draft.

The results have been added to the Parish Council website www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk and Members wish to thank everyone who contributed.

Overall Vision

Not surprisingly, you told us that it is important to keep the parish and the village rural and a nice place to live.

As part of that, you felt it was important to limit local development to local need as far as possible, to ensure an appropriate supporting infrastructure for existing developments and to avoid infrastructure projects that will drive further unwanted development.

The Parish Council has limited powers around this which we will use to the full. Preston City Council is currently developing a new Development Plan for the area and you can play your part in shaping that by writing to them NOW and asking them to minimise any further development in the villages and restricting growth to that needed to meet local needs.

Preston City Council will be consulting on their plan when it is ready but it would be better to try and influence the content **before** it is published rather than trying to change it afterwards. You can contact the City Council by email at devcon@preston.gov.uk or by writing to

The Development & Housing Directorate
Preston City Council
Town Hall
Lancaster Road
PR1 2RL

As the final document will be approved by local City Councillors, it is also worth sending them a copy of your comments. Their names and a contact number are on the back page of the Newsletter or you can write to them using the details on [this link](#).

Environment

Your top concern about the environment was making sure that we press Planning Authorities to require new builds to comply with the building standards that exist when building starts, rather than those that applied when permission was given.

This will ensure that developers cannot bank land for long periods of time and then build at lesser standards. You could mention this in your letter.

Recreation, Sport and Leisure

This was the lowest scoring section of the consultation but with the top three items being:

- support for the Bowling Club, Cricket Club and similar groups,
- play facilities for under 5s on the village green
- providing support for a new building for youth organisations.

Culture, Community and Services

The top scoring item in this area was helping to enable a regular community Police presence in the parish. We will do what we can on this but the Police are of course hard pressed for resources like all public services.

If you feel strongly about this, please consider writing to the Chancellor or email or write to our local MP wallaceb@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Member for Wyre & Preston North
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Education, Training and Employment

Not surprisingly, there was strong support for the idea of the Parish Council doing what it can to ensure local schools can favour local access. This was then followed by trying to get a new primary school built on the hospital site. Following a recent Area meeting, the Parish Council understands a consultation on this, will be issued shortly.

Transport

The most supported idea on the theme of transport was for the Parish Council to try and improve the condition of the parish roads. This is a County Council responsibility. Concerns can be reported to the Cabinet Member for Highway charles.edwards@lancashire.gov.uk
Business mobile - **07891 813640**

Also see the article on page 7 of this Newsletter.

Potentially controversially, although the parking around the village post office is unpopular, the police view is that this helps slow traffic down.

Housing

Not surprisingly, this was one of the highest scoring sections of the consultation.

Your top priority was for the Parish Council to find ways of ensuring that formal Planning Conditions imposed as part of planning permissions are properly enforced.

This is important to ensure the quality of housing stock and other properties being built and is under pressure due to developers being allowed to make their own arrangements for this and due to cuts in local government funding and staff.

We'll have a look at what we might be able to do about this but you can help move this up the council's priority list by writing to the City Council generally or your [local councillors using this link](#).

Your next concern was then about ensuring Preston Council's new Development Plan is explicit about the volume, location and intended timescale of any new developments to be permitted in the village and surrounding areas.

We would also want their plan to say specifically what it is that is special about the villages (*hedges, low density building, space for trees and lawns, maintaining separation rather than building along the main roads which would join places up etc.*) so that planning applications can be tested against these criteria.

The time to get these items in their development plan is while it is being drafted rather than when it comes out for consultation. Please write to devcon@preston.gov.uk or use the postal address on page 3 NOW to make your views known if you feel strongly about this.

Alongside the above, you felt it important for us:

- to find ways of preventing change of use / scope / scale of developments after planning permission has been granted.
- to understand what sites are currently being considered for development.
- finding ways to limit planning development to meet local levels of demand rather than for speculative development.
- ensuring residents understand the implications of the new national Planning White Paper when it is published.