

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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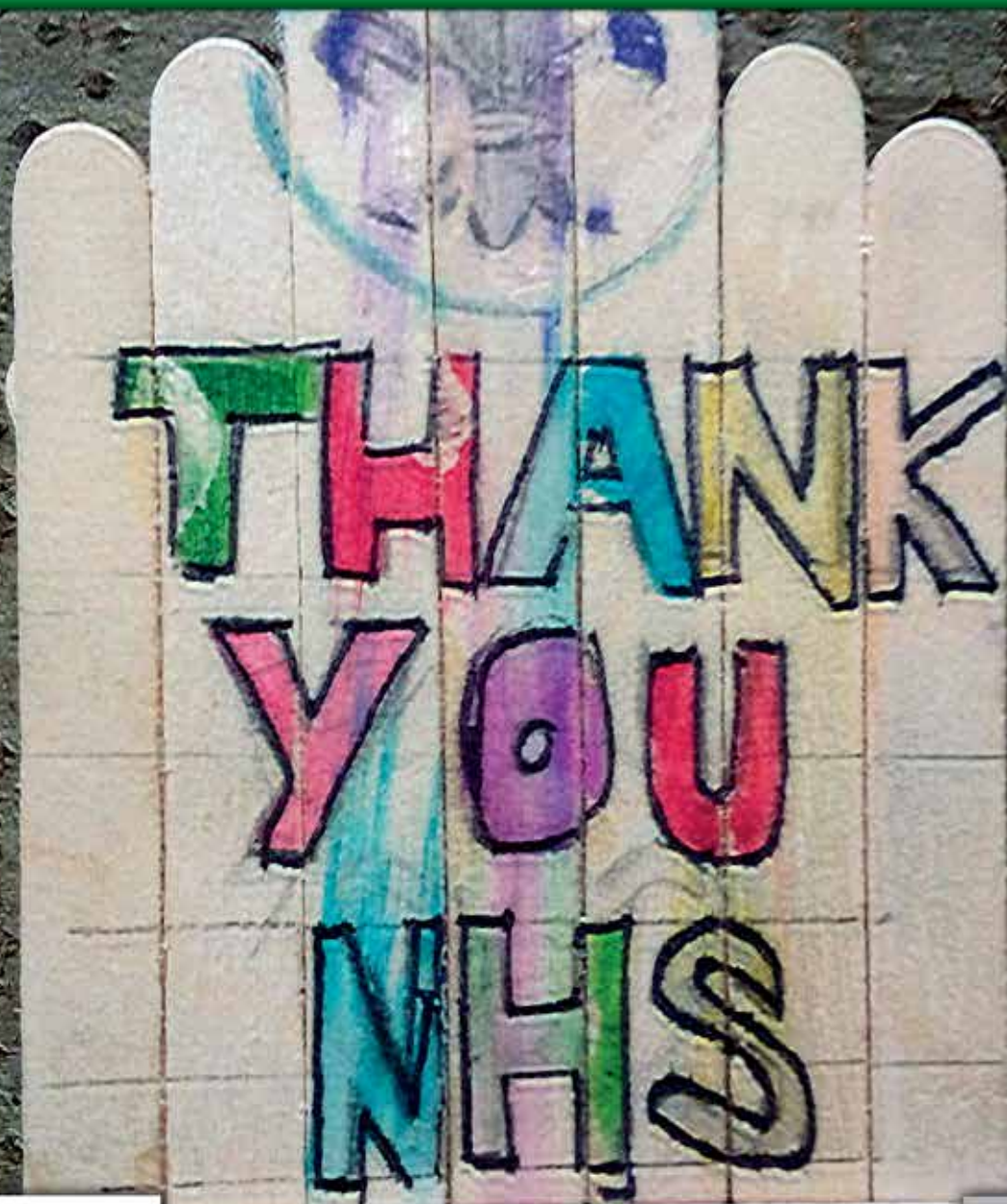
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Editor's Comment



As you will see in this month's issue, HS2 has been hitting the headlines – for all the wrong reasons for many local residents and businesses impacted by the controversial Golborne Link.

I find it somewhat surprising that this link has not been removed from the proposals considering the huge

impact it will have on the area – especially in such uncertain times.

In fact many are questioning the logic of progressing with the whole HS2 project in such times – although from the Government's prospective it helps keep the economy going in the construction sector.

But it's not going to be much use if no one has got a need for it in the future, with so many now experiencing the benefits of working from home using new technology during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Being part of Warrington we are now classified as a Tier 2 High Risk area but at the current rate of transmission it may be only a matter of time before things

are escalated due to our position between Greater Manchester and Liverpool.

As always we will endeavour to continue to keep you informed but it is becoming increasingly difficult to publish through print due to lack of advertising revenues. Hopefully we will be out again in time for Christmas.

Meanwhile take care and stay safe.

Cricketers triumph over Covid-19

THE 2020 cricket season – shortened by Covid-19 – saw some smaller clubs unable to raise teams.

But they were made of sterner stuff at Glazebury and the club finished in a respectable mid-table position in a reorganised UKFast Cheshire League which saw them playing against a number of teams normally in higher divisions.

Skipper Jack Warhurst was the leading batsman, hitting 282 runs at an average of 35.25 and a top score of 50. Paceman Sam Stanier was the leading bowler, taking 21 wickets, twice taking five in a match and recording a best performance of five wickets for nine runs.

Now the Hurst Lane club is hoping 2021 will have a "normal" cricket season – and anyone interested in joining as a senior member should call Jack Warhurst on 07780 460500. Prospective junior members should call Nirpal Bansal on 07761 824698.

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of Culcheth Life
is November 17**



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Update on local HS2 issues

HS2 has released new proposals to build a high speed line, the Golborne Spur, also known as the Golborne Link, to connect the HS2 Crewe - Manchester line near High Legh to the West Coast Main Line near Golborne.

This line will be built on the Croft side of Culcheth, crossing Wigshaw Lane near the Glaziers Lane junction.

Under HS2's original proposals, the line would have blocked Wigshaw Lane permanently to traffic between Culcheth and Croft. Recently, HS2 have released new proposals which include a new bridge over the line which will allow Wigshaw Lane to remain open, connecting Croft and Culcheth.

However, the Golborne Spur will still destroy houses, businesses, farms, and recreational facilities along the route, and threaten environmental features including the Culcheth Linear Park.

Farther afield, it will affect other communities such as Hollins Green which will have a massive viaduct 30m high towering over it.

Both Croft Parish Council and Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council oppose the Golborne Spur.

Peter Holmes, Chairman of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, said: "We oppose the Golborne Spur, it will have a devastating impact on the local community, environment, and economy, and bring no benefits at all to Warrington. Despite the

new bridge proposal, we must still fight to stop the Golborne Spur from being built."

The Golborne Spur is unnecessary. Frank Allen, Chair of CADRAG (Culcheth And District Rail Action Group) said: "The trains that would use the Golborne Spur can join the West Coast Main Line at Crewe instead of Golborne. Even if there are upgrades necessary to allow the existing line to carry more traffic, these will be less expensive and less disruptive than building the Golborne Spur and provide much greater benefits to many more travellers.

The Golborne Spur itself is hugely expensive. It is expected to cost in excess of £3bn and yet will carry only 3 trains per hour in each direction, one seventh of the number it is designed for and one quarter of the average usage of the HS2 network as a whole. It is a hugely expensive white elephant."

In January 2020, Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, commented that the Golborne Spur was very expensive for what it delivered and could well be scrapped. Since then we have heard nothing further on this. There has been a consultation on the review by the National Infrastructure Commission which includes this part of HS2, to which both the local Parish Councils and CADRAG have responded; this will report towards the end of 2020. We understand that other reviews are also in progress. Now, HS2 have launched a new consultation

on parts of their proposals, and released further detailed updates, that clearly assume the Golborne Spur will still be built.

If you think that the Golborne Spur / Link is unnecessary, a waste of money, and will cause huge damage to our community, now is a really good time to tell people. Write to Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, email shappsg@parliament.uk and copy the email to your MP. The MP for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft is Charlotte Nichols, email charlotte.nichols.mp@parliament.uk. Please ensure you include your name and address.



Frank Allen.

The Warrington North MP has also set up a petition to "Say NO To The Golborne Link" at charlottenicholsmp.com/say-no-to-the-golborne-link/



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Council to delay Local Plan

DUE to the impact of COVID-19, along with the Government's proposed planning reforms and new housing calculation methodology, Warrington Borough Council is pausing work on its Local Plan.

The delay aims to give the council time to reflect and be confident that the Local Plan submitted for examination is the right one for Warrington, given the events of this year and the effects they are likely to have for years to come.

It is anticipated that the council will now be in a position to progress with the Local Plan in the summer of 2021.

Warrington consulted extensively on its 'Proposed Submission Version Local Plan' in the summer of 2019, attracting approximately 3,500 written representations from members of the public, landowners, developers and stakeholder organisations, as well as statutory consultees.

In late 2019, the council informed residents that taking account of all of the representations and bringing forward the right plan, with the right infrastructure, had been a complex and challenging process and would take time.

While the council has continued to make good progress with the plan, a number of developments this year are impacting on the work:

- The global impact of the coronavirus pandemic
- The Government's White Paper for a reformed planning system, which may bring a fundamental

transformation in the way the planning system is administered.

- A separate Government consultation on a revised method of calculating housing numbers when developing a Local Plan. While it is not yet clear how the new methodology would impact on the Local Plan, it could potentially affect the number of homes required for the borough.

Warrington Borough Council Leader, Cllr Russ Bowden, said: "Our Local Plan will shape Warrington's future – and that's why it's vital we get it right. We have been working hard for many months to analyse each and every one of the representations we have received. This has taken time, but it's a crucial, central part of our commitment to balancing the housing and employment needs of the borough with protecting the green belt, while following government policy."

"We have been steadfast that roads and infrastructure must be delivered ahead of houses being completed – in particular in the proposed Garden Suburb area in South Warrington. We've been working closely with landowners and developers to ensure that this infrastructure can indeed be delivered, and this work continues."

"However, the landscape has



now changed. Our efforts to deliver a Local Plan that works for Warrington have been impacted by developments beyond our control. The unprecedented challenges of the coronavirus pandemic – challenges which will be with us for some time to come – have undoubtedly had an impact on the way society interacts, the way the town moves, and in particular the way Warrington does business.

"This, combined with two rounds of Government consultation on planning reform and housing calculation methodology – mean that we are currently in a period of uncertainty. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to move ahead with the submission of our current plan to the Planning Inspector at this time."

"It's only right we pause. We don't want to rush ahead with a Local

Plan that wouldn't be the best fit for Warrington's future. This delay will give us the chance to consider our position, as we wait for the housing and planning picture to become clearer.

"We anticipate that we will be in a position to resume our plan next summer. We will keep you updated as our plan progresses, and rest assured we will continue to put the views of local people at the heart of the plan, to help us get it right."

The council is now preparing to upload all 3,500 representations to the Local Plan website so that people can view them. This will include ensuring as many representations as possible are accessible for people with disabilities, such as visual impairment. The representations will be uploaded and available to view over the coming weeks.

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Growing together at the heart of God's community

Bents prepare for Christmas after 'strange year'

BENTS have officially launched for Christmas following a "strange year" combining the Centre's beautiful displays and inspirational themes, with a carefully planned and controlled environment, to ensure the safest possible festive shopping experience for customers.

Whilst the layout may look a little different this year, the team has worked hard to ensure their much loved festive experience has the same magical wow factor, to help brighten up homes in a year that has brought many challenges.

Favourite features, such as Bents' forest of real look trees, inspirational displays and festive lighting all return and have been relocated throughout the Centre to accommodate the existing one-way system and social distancing measures already in place.

Christmas also extends into Bents' Open Skies Glass House which will feature a light tunnel as well as ideas for the festive garden and brightening up the outside of the home, a place which has grown ever more important during the last six months.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "It has been a very strange year and one which has brought many changes and challenges, but

since being able to re-open in May we have been committed to making Bents as safe and welcoming as possible and even more so as Christmas approaches.

"We want our customers to feel as safe as possible whilst also enjoying our festive environment and making plans for their celebrations. We've made big changes but still have incredible inspiration for both inside and out, helping make the home an even more special place to be this Christmas."

This year's themes include the Designer Touch safari scene, featuring faces from the jungle and desert plains as well as Cool Combinations, Sweet as Candy and Through the Woods. Changes have been made to the way decorations are displayed and packaged, to make shopping easier and safer, whilst not impacting on inspiration.

Bents continues to carefully control the number of customers in store, restricting entry with only two

of entrances open and monitored by colleagues. Strict social distancing and one-way systems continue to be in place and cleaning stations are located throughout the store, all in addition to the stringent cleaning schedules and track and trace system that continues to operate

throughout the store and its dining destinations.

Bents is now open from 8.30am – 9.00pm, Monday to Friday, which provides more choice as to when to visit and the Centre is working on a new solution for a better queuing experience.



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Runner raises £2200 charity run for

FAIRY fundraiser David Smithson, 73, from Culcheth completed his fundraising run around the village raising £2,200 for the Whizz Kidz charity.

His charity run, which was taking place to make up for missing out on this year's London Marathon due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he started on Lodge Drive in the centre of the village before heading up Wellfield Road and on to Twiss Green Lane.

Dressed in his Whizz Kidz fairy costume, David then ran up to Hob Hey Lane in a circular route waving to passers-by and drivers as he went.

Those who were out walking in the sunshine donated money to David for his fundraising efforts.

A resident on Twiss Green Lane had made a water station for him which had a balloon and small chair with bottles of water on it.

Another resident on Common Lane also made a water station for him with the union flag a picture of the fairy outfit, a notice with the RAF crest and the message Fairy Fuel plus RAF march past music playing.

Upon completing the three laps, he jogged back to Lodge drive where his charity fundraising run ended.

"It was wonderful to see so many

people at the finish line. It was tiring but the response was brilliant.

"With today's money, we are at £2200 raised for the Whizz Kidz charity, which is amazing.

"Over £200 was raised during the run through Culcheth."

David aims to continue running for the charity in the future and ensure that more young people have the opportunity to have mobility.

"In the next 12 months I want to raise as much money as possible so that more wheel chairs can be given to young people."

The London marathon has been a personal one for David and has been ever thankful for the support from members of the public with donations and wonderful comments.

"A big thank you to everyone who has backed me during the marathon."

In 2021, he will continue his charity efforts for Whizz Kidz with another run on the 3rd, October.

He will also be out running in the fairy outfit until the marathon in London takes place.

New community policing model launched

Cheshire Police has launched its new approach to community policing, which will see dedicated police officers assigned to each of the county's 122

policing areas to tackle crime and support communities.

The initiative has been developed by Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) David Keane who is striving for Cheshire to be the leading police service for delivering community policing.

It builds on the already successfully delivered initiative to provide a dedicated PCSO and police community base for each area.

The new community police officers will work with their fellow PCSO, the wider policing team, and key partners to build relationships within the community, sharing the same mission to solve problems at their root-cause before they become more serious.

They will spend more time in the heart of their dedicated communities and be given time to deal with issues that matter most to local residents.

The officers for Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft are PC Phillip Greaves and PCSO Darren Samuel, who will be based from Culcheth Library on Warrington Road, Warrington, WA3 5SL

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100 after completing for Whizz Kidz

Report and picture: Michael Berry



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MP launches petition opposing HS2 Golborne Link

WARRINGTON North MP Charlotte Nichols has launched a petition over controversial proposals to retain the Golborne Link as part of HS2.

Ms Nichols has opened a petition to Transport Minister Andrew Stephenson after he announced that The Golborne Link 'remains part of the Government's current proposals.'

This is in advance of a consultation on the plan, which opened this week and will conclude on 11th December 2020.

In response to the consultation, Ms Nichols is encouraging residents in Warrington North to sign her petition to Stephenson to put on record the outpouring of local support against the proposals.

Fighting for Warrington residents against these proposals has been one of her key priorities since being elected in December, and she raised this in a question to Boris Johnson over HS2 in February.

Ms Nichols said: "It is crucial that the voice of Warrington North residents are heard in this consultation.

"I will continue to fight tirelessly against the Golborne Link and want to show the Government the strength of feeling of Warrington North residents, through this petition.

"The Link would be devastating for the environment and noise pollution as well as causing significant disruption to local residents. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps admitted the Link 'delivers very little' and there is a

clear alternative available through the West Coast Main Line at Crewe.'

"Residents are tired of empty words from the Government on the Golborne Link- it's time for action, and its removal from the HS2 plans once and for all."

The petition is available on Charlotte Nichols' website: <https://charlottenicholsmp.com/say-no-to-the-golborne-link/>

Meanwhile, Warrington Borough Council has reiterated its opposition to the proposed Golborne Link as part of the wider High-Speed Rail (HS2) scheme. The government has announced that it will be proceeding with legislation for the HS2 Western Leg Phase 2B as a priority. This phase is proposed to run between Crewe and Manchester, connecting to the West Coast Main Line south of Wigan via the Golborne Link, and the Eastern Leg will connect the West Midlands with Leeds.

Bringing forward the Crewe to Manchester section has been welcomed by the council, which includes plans for enhanced transport links in Crewe and extra platforms at Manchester Airport, which will help to support Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) services, which in turn will benefit Warrington through improved access and connectivity to the town.

The council also welcomes the government's response to its 2019 Design Refinement Consultation, where it has also been confirmed that infrastructure will be put in place for 'touchpoints' in High Legh, which would enable future development



of NPR to be constructed from Liverpool to Manchester Airport and Manchester Piccadilly, via Warrington. The council is pushing hard for this section of NPR to be brought forward, as it would bring real benefits to Warrington through more high speed and local rail services coming to the town at the same time as the western leg of HS2 Phase 2B.

However, the council continues to oppose any plans for the Golborne Link section, which is expected to still be included in the HS2 Western Leg Phase 2B.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Russ Bowden said: "The proposal for the Golborne Link remains a flaky business case which would bring little - if any - discernible value to Warrington. The case for the Golborne Link, in isolation, just isn't palatable for our town and runs the risk of physically dividing our communities for scant overall benefit.

"I am pleased to see other plans for HS2 which will provide Warrington with better access and transport links. I would urge the government to use Warrington Bank Quay as a central hub station

for NPR - it makes sense for the government to bring forward a hybrid bill for NPR to allow this section from HS2 to Liverpool, via Warrington, to be constructed in parallel with the Western Leg of HS2 Phase 2B."

"Our priority at this point, however, remains challenging the Golborne Link and we will continue to make representations to government with our concerns for the proposed spur."

The government has also, this week, announced a further Design Refinement Consultation for HS2 Phase 2B, though none of the four proposed changes directly impact Warrington. They are:

To add a Crewe Northern Connection and change the design of the proposed Crewe North Rolling Stock Depot

To change the design of the Manchester Airport High-Speed station

To refine the design around Manchester Piccadilly High-Speed station

To introduce a new train stabling facility at Annandale, in Dumfries and Galloway

Residents urged to engage with HS2 consultation

RESIDENTS are being urged to engage with the HS2 consultation following revised plans for the route from Lymm to Culcheth - known as the Golborne Spur.

Croft and Culcheth and Glazebury parish councillor Val Allen is encouraging people from anywhere in Warrington to engage with the public consultation.

Cllr Allen said: "There has been lots of scaremongering in the press and online recently and I know that a few petitions have been established too. As a local parish councillor and a resident, I've been opposing the Golborne Spur for more than six years, working closely with the community and CADRAG - the Culcheth and District Rail Action Group.

"I would encourage everyone in the town, whether they are impacted by the Golborne Spur or not, to participate in the consultation."

"The community here in Croft and Culcheth would be cut off and devastated by the Golborne Spur, if it was to go ahead."

Members of the public can contribute to the consultation, which is open until 11 December 2020.

Changes that have been made include:

- extending the M62 west viaduct to incorporate Holcroft Moss, replacing the previously proposed embankment
- realigning the A574 Warrington Road to reduce the impact on the playing fields and listed buildings south of Culcheth
- building a bridge over the track west of Wigshaw Lane
- changing the size and/or location of satellite compounds
- utility works near Moss Farm, Glazebrook, off Slag Lane, Lowton, off Lightshaw Lane, Golborne, off Lily Lane, Bamfurlong
- new telecommunications sites
- works to public rights of way
- auto-transformer stations north of the M62 and east of B5207 Wilton Lane
- a pumping station off Carr Lane, Lowton
- realigning the A573 Wigan Road to bring it closer to the West Coast Main Line, including amended access to Lightshaw Lane
- changing the railway connections to the West Coast Main Line near Bamfurlong.

Scouts receive £10,000 grant

SCOUTS in Culcheth have won a £10,000 grant from Awards for All which has enabled them to carry out major improvements to their headquarters building in Jackson Avenue.

Daphne Eastburn, project manager for the 3rd Warrington East (1st Culcheth) Scout Group: "We would like to say a big thankyou to Awards for All for making this happen.

"The projects are now complete and have made a big difference. The hall is still being used by our local PCSO and by Slimming World."

The improvement work started in January when safety flooring was laid at a cost of £4,320. In March, the heating system was upgraded, with new radiators installed together with a new fuse box. This work cost £1,550.

Finally, a new and improved front access was built, costing £3,792.

At the same time, a leak developed in the roof and had to be repaired.

Meanwhile, Scout meetings have been continuing online, due to the Covid-19 lockdown with a wide variety of activities.

The Scout Association has introduced a new staged badge, The Great Indoors Badge, for use during the lockdown.

Some of Stage 1 was completed at home, with camping in the garden or indoors, gardening, cooking and washing-up. The badge also ticked a few boxes for some of the Challenge Badges needed to complete the Chief Scouts Award for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Beavers had a fun online meeting making paper aeroplanes and flying them around as part of the staged Air Activity Badge. Cubs enjoyed taking part in yoga and learning about its origin. The Scouts had a walk around Culcheth with a difference, using an online map.

Stage 2 of the Great Indoors Badge included map reading skills for both Scouts and Beavers, there was a talk for Scouts from the charity Dogs for Good and Cubs achieved their Road Safety badges.

Several members took part in Camp at Home at the end of September.



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PARISH NEWS

We again thank all in the NHS for their dedication and sacrifice, and all our residents who are working to help others either through their employment or volunteering.

The Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Christmas Market has been cancelled but we will still have the Christmas Lights in Culcheth and in Glazebury. We have just had our annual invitation to be part of the Newchurch Christmas Tree Festival which starts on December 11th.

HS2- There is a Phase 2b Western Leg Design Refinement Consultation closing on 11th December. The Golborne Link or Spur is still there, and the "update" leaflet and map book for our area - MA05 Risley to Bamfurlong - are on line. Search HS2 MA05 to see both the 2020 and the 2018 map books for comparison. Search the title of this consultation for wider information.

We were given four paper copies of the documents and have placed one set in Culcheth Library. We will continue to oppose the Link.

Local Plan News The Borough Council has paused the Local plan until Summer 2021: a number of developments are impacting on the work. The global impact of the coronavirus pandemic plus a number of government consultations on the planning system. These include a revised method of calculating housing numbers and the Government White Paper on the reform of the planning system. This closes on October 29th. We and Croft Parish Council are working with our planning consultant to respond to this. We work to protect our Green Belt, to improve traffic through our villages, retain and improve residents' ability to input the planning system but also to suggest alternatives. Search White Paper: Planning for the future.

You will have noticed that a number of our roads are being re-surfaced. Notices of the work have been in formal locations and details sent by post to residents. You will also find notices for Licence applications and some planning applications there. They are a useful form of communication. Notice that lamp posts are numbered so that the number and the street are a good way of identifying problems.

The decision to improve the play area on the Green was made some time ago but there has been a delay because of Covid, with the play area first being unavailable and then having to have changes because of social distancing, with some equipment removed. The improvements will happen. We are also looking at placing more seats throughout the villages.

Openreach have been in the village with respect to proposed telecommunications development. They look for the best way to do the improvements, and will engage with residents subject to Covid restrictions. If anyone has difficulty with this let us know and we will contact Openreach

Planning applications continue to come in, contact us if you have a query or an opinion.

Note the contact details for our new parish clerk.

Publication of Information

The Parish Council has adopted a publication of information scheme. Details of who we are, what we do and how the public can access information is published on the main notice boards, Common Lane, Culcheth and Culcheth Library and on our website:

www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk



Weight restriction on HGVs would be "a dream come true" for campaigning councillors



SECURING a weight restriction on a village road blighted by HGVs would be "a dream come true" for local campaigning councillors.

The proposed new weight restriction on roads around the Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft ward of Warrington would limit heavy goods vehicle access to roads in the area except for access. Councillor Matt Smith, who chairs the Glazebury traffic working group, said: "Councillors have frequently heard from residents about the problems caused by HGVs passing through our villages, often as a cut through to access the motorway network from the East Lancashire Road and vice-versa. Despite their A-road designation, these roads are not suitable for this number of larger vehicles, with houses and school playgrounds only a pavement width from the road itself. We have seen a significant increase in the number of HGVs passing through Glazebury as a result of weight restrictions imposed by Wigan MBC on a road bordering our ward. The Glazebury traffic working group brought together residents, councillors and council officers to address these issues."

Cllr Jan Davidson added "There has always been concern from the residents here about the noise, poor air quality and damage to property caused by these vehicles passing within a few metres of peoples front doors. As councillors we have been pushing for many years for action to be taken to improve the situation. We're exceptionally pleased to present this proposal to the residents of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft. Although the focus was on Glazebury, the plan should reduce HGV traffic across the three

villages. This will be a dream come true for all those residents who have been blighted by HGVs running through our villages with no care other than taking a minute or two off their journey to a motorway."

Cllr Andrew Hill from the neighbouring ward of Rixton & Woolston also welcomed the restriction, saying "This proposal will benefit the villages of Glazebury and Hollins Green which are also plagued by heavy goods vehicles using them as a short cut, often at inappropriately high speeds and times, we fully support the implementation of the scheme as will the residents here."

Parish Cllr Ben Alldred added: "The weight restriction is just one of a package of measures we are looking at to improve road safety in Glazebury and beyond. Work has already taken place to repair sections of the road, add "slow" markings and provide residents parking bays. In recent years the Parish Council has also funded the provision of several speed indicator devices along the road, but we will not be stopping there. We have now begun discussions with David Keane, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, on joint funding of other ways to potentially reduce speed and enforce the weight restriction through the village."

The proposed weight restriction is currently being consulted upon, further details are available from www.warrington.gov.uk/permanent-traffic-regulation-orders. The consultation closes on 29th October 2020.

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