



Borough Councillors' Report

1. Colne Area Committee received no response from Lancashire County Council to its detailed questions around the consultation on the future of Favordale Care Home, despite a month having elapsed. As this is of great concern to our residents, we asked that a second letter be sent urging a swift response.
2. Sarah contacted around thirty different local firms to ask whether they would be interested in quoting for the update of our Neighbourhood Plan. So far, she has received silence from most, a few outright rejections, one detailed consideration that ultimately led to rejection and two firms willing to quote, one of which has quoted for the work. Sarah felt it was important that firms had an understanding of challenging viability – something that is not the case for the southern neighbourhood plan consultants, by and large. Both the firms that are interested in quoting for the business stated that they would seek to embody the updated design code within our policies. This will represent an improvement because, if you remember, our design code was added after Regulation 14.
3. Sarah tried to get an appointment with the Principal of Nelson and Colne College to discuss the Barrowford Road Playing Pitches, as she knows her. However, the College has stated that it is currently in discussion with Dean Langton, CEO of Pendle Borough Council about this issue.
4. Sarah has made a bid to the Pride in Place Impact Fund for both the reopening of the pitches on King George V Playing Field for older children, as well as the addition of railings. She made a secondary bid for the Newmarket Street Event space. A working group is being set up to look at the competing bids across Pendle.
5. The man camping in Midgley Street Car Park has left.
6. Worryingly, the negotiations between PBC and the preferred Market operator rumble on.
7. Neil Watson did make the corrections to the proto Keighley Road/Carry Lane Conservation Area Appraisal and this version was duly presented to the Executive. The Executive expressed disappointment about the paucity of residents who engaged with the written consultation Pendle Borough Council carried out (23). Some of the residents asked questions and these were taken as negative responses, meaning that the consultation was judged to only have 50% approval. This was frustrating to Sarah, who had wanted to have a consultation event for residents, but was told by Neil Watson that this would not be appropriate, as she would be part of the decision making process. In fact, this was not the case, so she has met with the ladies from the Library and local historian, Darran Ward, and she intends to campaign for this new conservation area to preserve the history and architectural integrity of this area. Of concern was the view of the Independents on the Executive who stated that the residents who live in the area now were equivalent to the future residents in ten to twenty years' time. Cllr Hanif stated that he would hate to see future

residents thwarted in their ambition to add front dormers and large extensions to their houses, as the residents of the Whitefield Conservation Area currently are. The Independents additionally stated that there was no point creating a new Conservation Area if it did not come with an additional grant for the area from the Government. Colne Area Committee was also accused of “rushing this through”, by the Executive, whereas, in fact, this project has been costly and has taken over two years. Other than Sarah’s speech as a guest, there was no discussion on the merits of the area and its qualification as a conservation area.

8. Colne BID has a new BID Manager, Scott Smith. Despite being without a BID Manager at the time, the directors worked hard to deliver activities, such as a pumpkin patch, a themed shop window competition and a fancy dress dog show for Hallowe’en.
9. Sarah’s documentation for the Play Streets Project was presented to Colne Area Committee and approved. She will now re-connect with those who expressed an interest in being pilot streets for the project. Once this is confirmed, a bid for funding will be made to the Committee.
10. 25/0384/FUL (the former workshop site next door to Crumb and Play) – the owner attended and explained that he knew the design was not good enough for this sensitive location and that he would try harder and bring an improved application back. This was refreshing and the Committee welcomed his sentiments.
11. 25/0479 (3G pitch at Park High School) – this item was deferred, pending additional reports on noise, lighting and ecology.
12. 25/0556/FUL (a detached house adjacent to Woodlyn on Barrowford Road) – Colne Area Committee took on board the views of Colne Town Council and refused this application on design grounds and referred the applicant to the comments made by CTC.
13. 25/0567/VAR (pair of semis adjacent to 3, Greenfield House, Greenfield Road) – the Committee approved the variation for an additional side extension, but rejected the removal of the chimney stacks in this sensitive location.
14. A bid for a new union flag parade standard was considered by Colne Area Committee. It was felt that this bid would be better coming from Colne Town Council, so that it becomes a Colne asset. It was also felt that a new price should be obtained for a standard that contains the word “Colne”.
15. Colne Area Committee considered the mocked up boundary sign designs. These have been submitted to Lancashire County Council with the following tweaks:
 - That the twinning information is removed, as Colne is not twinned with these places and Pendle is soon to be abolished under Local Government Reorganisation
 - The one strapline is amended to Bonnie Colne Upon the Hill
16. A report was received along the lines that Pendle Council does not consider that Colne has a pigeon problem and that residents and councillors are to detail specific locations if they think there is a pigeon problem.
17. A report was received from the newish Empty Homes officer. It was apparent that he is working hard to get the ball rolling with the owners of long term empty properties. It was also acknowledged that these processes are time consuming and that he is dealing with the whole Borough, with other areas deemed worse than Colne.

18. A report was received on Colne Cemetery Chapel which Pendle Council has allowed to fall into disrepair. It is estimated that full refurbishment of the building would cost £136,000, but that Pendle Council would spend £5,000 on short term measures to prevent further rainwater ingress.
19. Sarah brought forward a discussion item on a small patch of land at Ruskin Ave/Birtwistle Ave. She had previously written to both Pendle Council, who stated that this land was not a priority for them, and Together Housing, who, despite several emails over two years, did not reply. It was agreed that she should write to Newground. She has done this, but has yet to receive a response.
20. The Colne Community Safety Partnership received a distressing account of negligent activities taking place at Fould's Mill on Derby Street. Both Cllrs Sutcliffe and S. Cockburn-Price have been in touch (not for the first time) with the Police, the Fire Service, Pendle Council Environment Health and Pendle Council Planning Enforcement and are assured that the various parties are now working on a co-ordinated response.

To Do

- Now the PBC Asset Transfer Working Group has had its first meeting, a date needs to be set aside for a site visit, so some items/areas can be considered in more detail.
- Painting the bollards outside the Town Hall we don't want to be the only place where they have not been done!
- Mocking up (graphic design) one example of the streets for the Colne Street Name Project so Sarah can apply for funding.
- Arrange a meeting with the Lancashire Archive at the Town Hall re its use as an exhibition space.
- Sarah thinks we need a new approach to promoting Treasure Our Town in 2026 and building community involvement and has written to the Clerk outlining ways we can build a database of volunteers during the "off season" for TOT.