

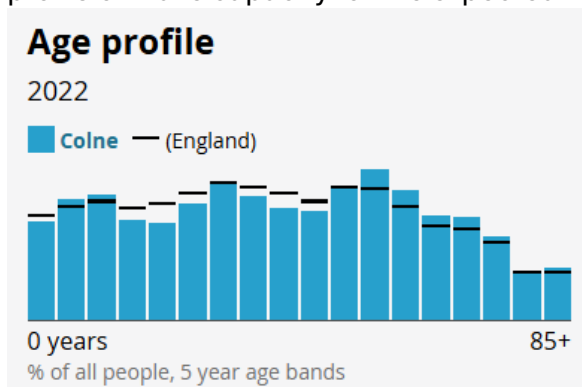


Borough Councillors' Report

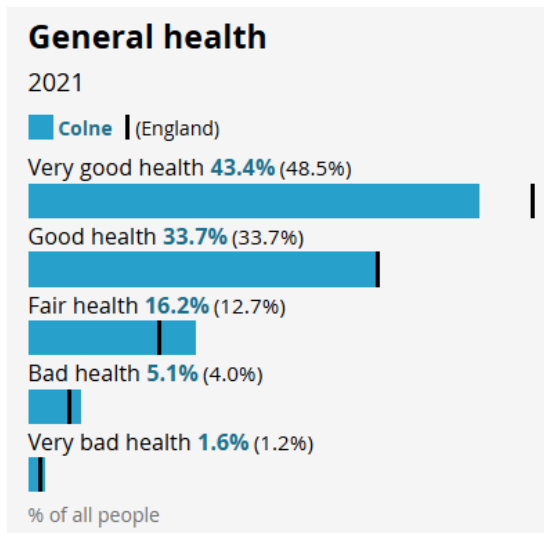
1. We have all read the letter announcing a consultation on the future of Favordale. This is of great concern to our residents. At Colne Area Committee, Sarah presented some questions she had drafted and it was agreed that the Area Committee should present them to Lancashire County Council. Here are the questions:

“For the consultation to have any real meeting, we need to know many more facts, such as:

- What does Favordale cost LCC to run each year? How does that compare with other homes in this consultation?
- How many residents does Favordale house currently? Is it full? What is its capacity? Could it be extended if the Day Centre was redeployed as residential?
- How many people does it employ and would they be redeployed, or made redundant if it were to close?
- There is talk of more elderly people being supported in their own homes. This is good, but what would this new service cost and how would it work practically? Some elderly people would always require nursing care in a home, so how are these to be catered for?
- How would LCC bridge the gap between the cost of Favordale care and the cost of care in a private home were Favordale to be closed? What is this extra cost expected to be?
- The demographics of Colne show an increase in our aging population, so would existing private provision have capacity for the expected increase?



At the same time, the health of Colne residents compares poorly to the general population:



These bar charts are from the Office of National Statistics.

- What would be the cost of bringing the facilities at Favordale up to a good 21st century standard? After this work, would Favordale be cheaper to run? If so, how much cheaper? Are there grants available if Favordale were to be made greener, e.g. ground source heat pump heating?
- Is there any chance that if the Council decides to close all its homes, that a private operator might take them over?
- If a private operator were to take them over, how would LCC help families bridge the anticipated funding gap? Would this be tapered relief?
- Given the levels of deprivation in East Lancashire, will LCC apply a deprivation weighting to its assessment?
- What is best practice in exemplar Council areas in terms of care for the elderly and what can we learn from these areas?

One cannot have a successful and sensible consultation unless one is in possession of all the facts. Colne Area councillors would like to provide input once the facts are known. Our community is very concerned about the threat of closure for both Favordale and the Byron Road Day Centre.”

2. Sarah completed the writing of Section 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan with new data (shared with all councillors). Michael Wellock, the Neighbourhood Plan’s Planning Advisor, has told Gina he is retiring. This means we now need to engage a new consultant to bring our policies into line with the emerging Pendle Local Plan (Inspector’s Main Modifications now published) and the new National Planning Policy Framework. Sarah has drafted some words for Gina to find a successor to Michael Wellock:

In July 2023, the Colne Neighbourhood Development Plan was made. It is a land allocating plan that was the subject of a public enquiry. Its previous advisors, Kirkwell's, have decided to stop supporting Neighbourhood Plans. There are currently 14 policies:

Policy CNDP1 - Colne Market Town
Policy CNDP2 - Shopfronts
Policy CNDP3 - Design in Colne and the Colne Design Code
Policy CNDP4 - Development Affecting Non-Designated Heritage Assets
Policy CNDP5 - Urban Character Areas
Policy CNDP6 - Future Housing Growth
Policy CNDP7 - Protecting Local Green Space
Policy CNDP8 - Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities
Policy CNDP9 - Protection of Local Shops and Public Houses
Policy CNDP10 - Protection of Sport and Recreation Facilities
Policy CNDP11 - Protection of Allotments
Policy CNDP12 - Transport
Policy CNDP13 - Conserving and Enhancing Landscape Features
Policy CNDP14 - Rural Identity and Character

The Town Council seeks to update its Neighbourhood Plan Policies in the light of the latest National Planning Policy Framework and the emerging Pendle Local Plan (expected to be made early 2026). Here is a link to the Inspector's Main Modifications of Pendle Council's Local Plan, which are currently out for consultation: https://www.pendle.gov.uk/info/20072/planning_policies/600/local_plan_fourth_edition

In addition, the Advisory Committee (made up of residents and town councillors) wishes to update the Non Designated Heritage Assets, the Local Green Spaces, the Housing Land Allocations, which will require viability analysis, and significantly increase the Climate Emergency provisions, possibly with the addition of a new Policy, closely linked to Lancashire's Nature Recovery Strategy which is expected to be published in the New Year: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/environmental/local-nature-recovery-strategy/> . The Town Council would also like to consider the addition of an HMO Policy and some small tweaks to its design code in the light of new evidence about deprivation and the increasing age of its residents, so that a greater proportion of houses are attached and are bungalows or flats.

The Advisory Committee is hoping for speedy updates to be made so that it is able to proceed to Regulation 14 in the New Year.

Sarah is researching firms to approach directly for this important work.

3. Councillors discussed the S106 for the Barrowford Road Playing Field at Colne Area. Essentially, there is confusion as to what is shown on the plan: two 7x7 pitches and one 9x9 pitch and the words which state that the pitches are for 10s and under only. The differential in maintenance cost is maintaining pitches for slightly older children is apparently negligible, but the College's position is that it is insisting on the words of the S106 being upheld, rather than the plan, which suggests something slightly different (the 9x9 pitch is for older children). It is recognised that the S106 was poorly drafted. The College says that if we want older children to play on the pitches then Pendle Council should pay for all the maintenance. None of the councillors agreed with the College's suggestion. It was agreed that Cllr Sutcliffe and Sarah approach the Principal, as they

know her and have a good relationship with her. In parallel, Colne Area aims to reopen pitches on King George V Playing Field for older children.

4. Sarah has asked that the man camping in Midgley Street Car Park is moved on. Pendle Council has surprisingly responded that he has a right to camp on their private land for 28 days.
5. Worryingly, the negotiations between PBC and the preferred Market operator rumble on.
6. On Friday night, the C-Ps attended the launch of an exhibition on The Curlew Way with Dr William Tittley and Park High School pupils. Dr Tittley thanked David and Lidgett and Beyond who wrote a letter of support for the project and helped it secure the funding in excess of £50,000. At the launch was Russell Tennant who is employed by the Heritage Lottery Fund to assess applications for grants. Sarah took the opportunity to tell him about our Colne Street Name Project. As a reminder, Christine Bradley and Sarah have finished the “proof of concept” streets for the Colne Street Name Project. Sarah has asked CTC to lay one of these out as a sample webpage that would launch from the proposed interactive map and then she would have everything needed to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a small grant (£10,000). Upon discussing it with Mr Tennant, he spotted a flaw in the Project. He said it excluded older people, as they would be unlikely to use the QR codes or explore the interactive map. He suggested that we ally the Project to an Exhibition of Colne Street Signs and that we ask Geoff Crambie to get involved! This links to our plan for the Town Hall to host exhibitions, so Sarah has asked Gina to ask the Lancashire Archive to come for a meeting. Mr Tennant did not think that we should apply for a small grant, but a bigger one, given the need for an exhibition. I think we should take his advice and apply for a bigger grant for the original Project, plus an exhibition. Mr Tennant then suggested that we should take it further and when we have enough streets covered, develop a Colne Town App, so people can walk around with a commentary telling them about the streets and that he knows of a town that has done this. Sarah told him firmly that this laudable idea would be a Phase III!
7. Neil Watson is presenting the updated the conservation area appraisal on the proto Keighley Road/Carry Lane Conservation Area to the Executive. However, he did not have time to make the corrections to the draft appraisal, so it is hoped that the Executive will accept them.
8. CYAG’s Alkincoates Park outreach has now finished and a report is being written. Here is an extract: “Brad aided by CYAG volunteer, Alex Dawson, were dispatched to engage with young people using the Park. This is not easy but it’s a skill that comes naturally to Brad, helped by his laid-back demeanour, empathy and a great sense of humour. Being fluent at football and able to play the game, also helped. Young outdoor pursuits expert Alex, always calm, cool and collected, as you have to be if you climb ridiculously high rock faces for fun, is fluent in youth speak and full of good ideas. So, all in all, a dream team. The plan was to be at the Park at least once a week for a significant amount of time ranging from around 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. to engage with young people and make them familiar with CYAG. Brad and Alex based themselves in a play area with a good amount of green space for various activities and that included the chance to play football on grass and football on the MUGA, so attracting a variety of visitors. Bringing play/sport equipment, including football nets, which were non-existent on this part of the Park owing to vandalism, was a winner, along with skateboards and games to play outdoors, which attracted young people and made it easier to engage with them. The nets were greatly appreciated and the bottles of water handed out for free also helped generate a rapport with the young people. Brad and Alex also created bushcraft activities in the woods at Alkincoates, which has helped in building

relationships with their target audience. The residential areas next to the park, including Birtwistle Avenue and White Grove, were also part of the outreach operation due to the park's anti-social behaviour spilling into these areas. The point being that hanging around with your mates can be fun, but it can get boring and, as the Alkincoates community witnessed, it can be a nightmare when the devil makes work for idle hands to do. The aim of the CYAG outreach project was to show young people that there are places to go and things to do that don't involve anti-social behaviour and that can be fun, interesting and can positively enhance wellbeing and result in new friendships and opportunities. Bradley Croke says: "Anti-social behaviour is a consequence of boredom and so one of our key aims with the outreach project at Alkincoates, and also at the nearby North Valley Retail Park, where anti-social behaviour has been an issue, was to suggest places where young people can go to find something to do after school and/ or at weekends."

"Daisy Eve, owner of the popular Pavilion Café, which is within the Park just above the bowling greens, says: "We have had problems with graffiti and we have had to start bringing the tables and chairs from the outdoor area at the front inside the café when we lock up because they've been vandalised and thrown about and that has increased our workload. "The youths also congregate on our picnic benches at the side of the café when we are closed and the benches have been vandalised. They have also tried climbing on the roof of the building." As for what can be done, Daisy says: "You can't discipline young people these days and teachers can't discipline them so it's very difficult to know what to do." Daisy made a difference by kindly suggesting we leave her some CYAG leaflets so she can put them on the café notice board for parents and young people to see and act upon. Thank you Daisy."

"CYAG has so far managed to get three young people in the Alkincoates area to sign up to join its youth group and work continues to encourage more. The general recruitment drive at CYAG is organic and turbo charged by the young members spreading the word and bringing friends to the club to see what goes on there, so it is highly likely that more young people from the Alkincoates area will become CYAG members. Bradley says: "Ultimately, we believe our outreach work has been beneficial. Anti-social behaviour has fallen since CYAG began its outreach sessions at Alkincoates Park and while we can't accurately measure our impact, we know for sure we have made a difference, along with the police."

The Sound House Concert was held at CYAG to wild acclaim following a performance by The Boneheads, presenting their original music.

Here is the up-to-date timetable for CYAG:

Colne Youth Action Group

Members only; membership is £5 per year
Join today at www.cyag.org/join

Mondays



Homework Support
5.30 - 4.30pm



Junior Youth Club
4.30 - 6.30pm



Senior Youth Club
7.00 - 9.00pm

Tuesdays



Sen-sational
4.30 - 6.30pm



The Sound House
6.30 - 8.30pm

Wednesdays



Homework Support
3.30 - 4.30pm



Junior Youth Club
4.30 - 6.30pm



Senior Youth Club
7.00 - 9.00pm

Thursdays



Cricket
3.50 - 4.50pm

Find us @colneyag



Colne Youth Action Group Charity
Byron Road, Colne, BB8 0BQ
Registered No: 1192629

Saturdays



Weekend Wanderers
10am - 4pm



Funded by
UK Government



Pendle

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND



To become a member you must be aged 10-16 and live or go to school in Colne, Laneshawbridge, Trwiden or Poulitridge.
Junior = Ages 10-13 / Senior = Ages 13-16

9. David, as chairman of Colne Area Committee, has held a meeting with the owner of Langroyd Hall and Neil Watson after over a year of chasing. An application is expected to be brought forward shortly for housing for the over 55s.
10. Another paper was received at Colne Area around Sarah's Play Streets Project. She has managed to get Lancashire County Council to agree that they will not insist on insurance for the running of this scheme. Now Sarah has to write all the documentation for the flyers and parental waivers for the first Play Street pilots to run. However, there are good templates already in existence. A Barnoldswick councillor has contacted Sarah, as he is interesting in running a similar scheme in his town.
11. The Colne BID's directors decided that their BID Manager had not demonstrated the qualities necessary to pass her probation. Therefore, this post is now vacant. The Directors are seeking to urgently fill this post.
12. Handyman Leo Brightley is painting all the cast iron bollards in the Albert Road Conservation Area, save for the ones outside the Town Hall, which Colne Town Council agreed to restore themselves.
13. Sarah has put in a bid for significant expenditure to be made to improve King George V Playing Fields under the newly announced £1.5 million Pride in Place Grant.
14. 25/0328/FUL was approved for three holiday lodges with associated parking at land at Whitemoor View, Red Lane, after a protracted discussion at Colne Area Committee, after which, the councillors accepted that there were no grounds to reject it.

15. The residents of Greenfield Road asked Colne Area Committee to help them overcome antisocial behaviour and rubbish, as well as speeding residents, by paying for an additional gate with keycodes, the resiting of the existing gate and improved signage. There was an extensive discussion and the residents were asked to keep a diary of events for just one week. Already, Sarah has heard that a speeding van (caught on CCTV) crashed into one of the residents' cars. The idea is to present this dossier to EG Garages who, coincidentally, have brought forward an application for a Popeye's Drive Through (25/0360/FUL). It is hoped that EG Garages will take pity on the residents of Greenfield Road, as the diminution in the quality of their lives is as a direct result of the development of the EG Garage.
16. The Area Committee was approached for £2,376 to erect bollards on Fountain Street/Zion Street to prevent anti social driving up and down a slope. The Committee brainstormed and felt that as this site is directly adjacent to the Colne Town Council Allotments that the site should be offered to the Town Council with an additional £1,000 to form more allotments, or even a community orchard.

To Do

- We keep asking for a meeting to be arranged dedicated to asset transfers. It is **really** important we do this.
- Seek a new planning advisor for the Colne Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Painting the bollards outside the Town Hall as soon as the watering season is at an end – 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.