



Borough Councillors' Report

1. We have asked the housing team to supply a flow chart to make it clear to councillors who to report problem houses and buildings to and when a team approach is preferable.
2. Sarah has spent two afternoons driving round the streets of Colne with the new Empty Homes Officer. We didn't just look at empty homes, we also looked at blighted homes and run down houses that are occupied. Overall, there are around 80 houses of concern we will monitor and try to take action on. Interestingly, we found several houses that were listed as empty but were occupied – these will be investigated.
3. Sarah spoke to Michael Wellock for an update of our Neighbourhood Plan's policies as they relate to the new NPPF and the emerging Pendle Local Plan. He expects to have them with the Advisory Committee in around a fortnight. She is rewriting and updating section four, using the latest stats from the ONS website. Sarah has asked Gina to arrange an Advisory Committee meeting around three to four weeks from now.
4. After a presentation on economic development, we asked for an updated org chart of PBC officers to be shared with councillors, so we know who to contact for what.
5. We sadly lost the appeal at 18, Keighley Road, meaning that some of the Non Designated Heritage Asset (the Carry Lane wall with stone buttresses) will be lost.
6. Councillors will discuss the S106 for the Barrowford Road Playing Field at the next Colne Area.
7. Sarah has chased the repair of the sun dial at the Library.
8. Sarah has asked that the lighting in Hartley Square be repaired.
9. Behind Hartley Square, the BSIP is enabling the former public loos to be demolished and there will be a new, covered bike store to replace them. There will be new public loos in the Market when it opens.
10. Worryingly, the negotiations between PBC and the preferred Market operator rumble on and now the Market will not open until Spring 2026.
11. We have, in just six months, spent our entire PBC budget for replacement street signs and street sign repainting. Sarah applied for additional budget from Colne Area and was granted an additional £1,600 to cover the second half of the year. If you see a missing road sign, or one that needs painting, please do report it to her. We currently have 16 on our list to be done and these will be completed soon.
12. 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 will have everything needed to apply to Heritage Lottery Fund for a small grant (£10,000).

13. Neil Watson and Growth Lancashire are updating the heritage appraisal on the proto Keighley Road/Carry Lane Conservation Area following Sarah's revisions and David's chasing.
14. CYAG's Alkincoates Park outreach continues, supported by CTC, LanPac and the Fire Service. It will recommence its popular cookery club on Thursdays. SoundHouse will continue over the winter, as will SENSational and Weekend Wanderers. Our (unpopular!) Homework Club has restarted and has been repromoted to senior schools. Over the summer, a great success were the "Off The Grid" days out with some referred young people, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Further announcements of the CYAG Autumn projects will follow.
15. Colne Area Committee has repeated its repeated request for a meeting with the owner of Langroyd Hall.
16. A paper was received at Colne Area around Sarah's Play Streets project. The sticking point was the cost of insurance at £100 per session! She did research into this and has now received confirmation from the Borough Council's head of legal services that, in fact, no insurance is needed at all! She will continue to try to roll out this project to some pilot front and back streets.
17. We have a full complement of Police in our area - new (another one!) Sgt Paul Meades, PC Dylan Burrow, PC Matt Lunney, PC Kai Lyddiatt, PSCO Neil Wallin, PCSO Ivan Hartley and PCSO Suzanne (not sure of her surname). At the last Community Safety Partnership, there was a focus on speeding cars, especially those with noisy modifications, and fireworks. The Police are aware of addresses with allegations of drug dealing and are investigating. The Police also said they would patrol the cut through from Barrowford to Greenfield Road and stop people who are using it as a rat run. Four Colne shops were tested by Trading Standards and were found to be selling illegal vapes.
18. The Colne BID's next event is the "That 70s Fest" on 27th September.
19. Colne Area councillors met with PBC's Sandra Farnell, other senior officers and our arts consultants to discuss a way forward for the various arts projects proposed for Colne. It was agreed that our art consultants could apply for a small (£30,000) Arts Council grant for a Knurr and Spell related project under the aegis of Pendle Council. We hope that we will be able to host the **World Championships** in Colne once more.

To Do

- We keep asking for a meeting to be arranged dedicated to asset transfers. It is **really** important we do this.
- 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 one example of the streets for the Colne Street Name Project so Sarah can apply for funding.
- Sarah thinks we need a new approach to promoting Treasure Our Town in 2026 and building community involvement.