

ITEM 7 – July 2025 Full Council

Re the Borough Councillors' Report from the C-Ps, please take this report from us both:

1. Good and bad news re our Police, we currently have more Police than we have had in recent years in the Neighbourhood Team, with fully six officers and PCSOs across Colne. However, no sooner did we bask in that fact than we heard that PCSO Keely Evans is leaving us to take up a position with... Pendle Council. Currently, she does not have a replacement, so we'll soon be down to five: PCs Dylan Burrow, Kai Lyddiatt, Matt Lunney and PCSOs Neil Wallin and Ivan Hartley. We continue to share our Sergeant (who is soon to leave us) with Nelson.
2. The new Chief Exec of Pendle Council has been announced as the same one who used to be the CEO, Dean Langton.
3. The Local Plan Hearings have been taking place. I have been representing CTC with our professional planner and advisor, Michael Wellock.
4. The Government's recent Spending Review put a stop to all funding for Neighbourhood Plans and also for Neighbourhood Planning Champions.
5. PBC put in its response to the Calderdale Energy Park, taking heed of the points put across at Colne Area Committee, such as the importance of deep peat as a carbon capture sink, the literary and therefore tourism implications on Walshaw Moor and the potential for long term transport disruption to Colne, Laneshaw Bridge and Trawden.
6. I continue to work with Christine Bradley on the proof of concept for our Colne Street names history project.
7. Pendle Council voted to pave the front of Colne Market with York Stone at a cost of £200,000. It was admitted that it is now too close to call as to whether the Market will be open for Christmas.
8. LCC wrote back to Colne Area Committee re Colne's cast iron bollards stating that it might remove some and it might replace some and, if it does replace them, they will be plastic. Colne Area Committee voted to write back expressing its disapproval on this stance within the Albert Road Conservation Area. Colne's County Councillor, when questioned on the retention of the cast iron bollards, described her feelings as "agnostic" and on that basis, did not support the Committee.
9. £2,000 was granted to Colne Dramatic Society to help with roof repairs.
10. 25/0233/FUL (former garage on Cumberland St) was deferred, because it seemed from councillors who had spoken to the applicant that the use case was potentially more disruptive to residents than the use case understood by the planning officer. More information is being gathered, but it was noted that the garage is now largely demolished and the applicant has sited scaffolding on a neighbour's property.
11. The long held ambition to create a new Keighley Road/Carry Lane Conservation Area rumbles on, as does the ambition to update both the Albert Road and the Lidgett and Bents Conservation Areas. Growth Lancashire are frustratingly slow and to me underlines why Pendle Council should employ its own Conservation officer.
12. We fear that our Arts Project to re-site the Hartley Square stone spheres and give them a Knurr and Spel context has been hijacked by Pendle Council, who claim that it should be "rolled into" arts projects in Nelson and Brierfield. We are trying to reassert our individuality...
13. The Car Park Strategy now has consultants assigned to it and a meeting is being arranged.
14. Work is underway to plan parking for the proposed Wheelpark on Vivary Way in preparation for a planning application.
15. The Primet Academy Year Nine day on Gib Hill was cancelled, owing to atrocious weather. I doubt it will be rearranged before the end of term.
16. Colne centric boundary signs are being mocked up for LCC approval.
17. Colne BID has a new BID manager, Vena Reid. She has already met with CTC officers and the plan is to develop townwide events calendar.
18. At Full Council the new Climate Change Strategy for Pendle was presented and approved. I am chair of the Climate Emergency Working Group and we have been heavily involved in formulating this strategy, which will help us to focus our efforts. It was all looking so positive, except in the Government's Spending Review, all funding for Public Sector De-carbonisation grants was axed. If that wasn't bad enough, we then learnt that our dedicated Climate Change officer, who has won us so much in grant funding in a very short time, is to leave us to be closer to his family in the Midlands. We had really struggled to recruit him, so I fear another lengthy hiatus. It is very difficult to drive things forward on one's own, even aided by eager volunteers.