



## **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 two months having elapsed and formal chasing by Pendle Borough Council. County councillors were copied in at their behest to no avail. We have consequently responded to the consultation without the sensible information required. We think everyone would agree that this consultation has been very poorly managed.
2. Sarah would like to thank FES for supporting the Neighbourhood Plan in hiring and funding new consultants. Today, Gina and she had our initial kick off meeting with them. Gina took some notes and will share these with the Advisory Committee. One of the consultants, Dave Chetwyd, is coming for a fact finding/policy determining drive round on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Sarah will fetch him from Preston Station at 8 a.m. There was broad agreement that, given our various land plots that may, or may not, be put forward for development in the next iteration of the Plan, we should have an overarching theme based on Colne Culture and History linked to Regeneration. We plan to build on the Colne Masterplan and designate a regeneration zone in a bid to increase the coherence of our development, as well as its viability. We await the publication of the Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy next week and plan to embed that within our policies, as well as develop new green policies. The individual Conservation Areas will be integrated more thoroughly within our policies, as will our updated Design Code. Sarah will add to both the Non Designated Heritage Assets and the Local Green Spaces over the next few weeks.
3. Pendle Borough Council reports no further progress in the talks with Nelson and Colne College to discuss the Barrowford Road Playing Pitches. This is disappointing.
4. Worryingly, the negotiations between PBC and the preferred Market operator continue to rumble on.
5. Neil Watson has worked hard on the FAQs and consultation collateral for the events requested by the Exec for the Keighley Road/Carry Lane new Conservation Area. We are grateful to him. He has posters and flyers and has liaised with both The Library and the Cricket Club. However, the planning portfolio holder has not approved any of it, as yet, which is frustrating to us. We remain hopeful that these public consultations can take place soon, as this needs to fit into the updated Neighbourhood Plan prior to Reg 14.
6. Colne BID held a very successful town centre litterpick prior to Christmas in Colne, involving Colne school children.
7. £500 was awarded to Sarah's Play Streets Project by Colne Area Committee for kit and collateral. Belgrave Street residents seem the keenest to embark on a pilot project for this scheme.

8. 25/0479 (3G pitch at Park High School) – this item was deferred until February, pending additional reports on noise underpinned by reliable data.
9. A bid for a handrail for Newtown Street was submitted to Colne Area Committee, but the councillors agreed it was too costly, so cheaper quotes and other materials were requested.
10. Colne Area Committee awaits a response from Lancashire County Council re its potential characterful new boundary sign straplines. Mock ups were submitted and the county councillors were copied in after they offered to support the initiative.
11. Reports were received from the newish Empty Homes officer by Overview and Scrutiny. The processes for both enforced sales and compulsory purchases were outlined. A list of Colne properties was put forward for consideration and these will be taken to the Exec.
12. The Pendle Local Plan was found to be sound and on 18<sup>th</sup> December, the borough councillors will vote to “make”, or adopt, it. This will be a moment for celebration for many. It was clear that Colne Town Council being represented at the public hearings over six days led to positive developments being retained in the final Plan, such as both The Lenches and The Upper Rough being designated as Local Green Spaces.
13. Sarah brought forward a discussion item on a small patch of land at Ruskin Ave/Birtwistle Ave a couple of months ago. Newground has responded that they plan to plant trees and cultivate a wild flower meadow on this area. While this sounds positive and is to be welcomed, she has urged them to consult with local residents first.
14. Re Fould’s Mill on Derby Street, the Colne Community Safety Partnership received an update that there is positive multi agency working and that the building has been secured and the tenants have now left.
15. It was agreed at Colne Area Committee that the three taxi spaces in the Midgley Street Car Park should be de-designated and made available for all car park users.
16. The work to make all the field parcels accessible to tractors on Gib Hill has been satisfactorily completed. This will enable mowing in future years to further improve ecology. Further work has been carried out to rationalise fencing and a meeting has been held with Fisher More to discuss fencing and hedge planting. Small waymarkers have been ordered. Visit [www.gibhill.org](http://www.gibhill.org).

## **To Do**

- 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.