



## **Borough Councillors' Report**

1. The new chairman of Colne Area Committee is Cty Cllr Marion Atkinson. The new mayor of Pendle is His Worship Cllr Nadeem Ahmed and his Deputy is Cllr Brian Newman. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price was replaced as the chair of the Climate Emergency Working Group by the Exec directly. They nominated Cllr Yvonne Tennant.
2. The designation of the Keighley Road and Carry Lane Conservation Area, was eventually passed by Exec on 28<sup>th</sup> May as per the planning officer's recommendation.
3. The Area Committee learnt of major changes coming in about how planning applications will be determined later this year. Any planning application falling within Schedule 1 can only be determined by a planning officer. These are householder applications, minor commercial, minor residential and Permission in Principle applications. Schedule 2 applications cannot be automatically referred to a committee. They will need to go through a "gateway test" first. This would be undertaken by a nominated Officer and a nominated Councillor. The nominated officer and nominated Councillor can agree to refer an application to Committee only if an application raises economic, social or environmental issues that are of "significance" (currently undefined!). Schedule 2 applications are Listed Buildings, major commercial and residential developments and applications for advertisements. These regulations come into force in October and considerably remove the planning powers of councillors. The Area Committee decided to ask the Exec to object to these new regulations, as they essentially mean that the lowest standard, but technically compliant, applications will be approved automatically without scrutiny and without the special local knowledge that ward councillors have consistently and successfully used to help shape and improve applications.
4. 26/0131/FUL – Replacement of original gates and railings at Primet Primary. Disappointingly, Primet Primary did not engage with our planning officer, who asked for a compromised solution and nor did they supply the revised drawings requested with slimmer elements. None of the councillors supported the removal of this historic fabric and the Planning Manager felt that as the school is a Non Designated Heritage Asset in the Colne Neighbourhood Plan and the original railings and gates are mentioned in the description on the listing, that a refusal could be supported on these grounds and of poor design. Accordingly, the application was refused.
5. 25/0569/FUL – Erection of 11 dwellings on land off Laithe Street. This was passed on delegation. If the drainage issues cannot be resolved, the layout will have to change and so it will come back to Committee. There was discussion about the trees and whether trees in private gardens could be retained to support landscaping. On the Lower Rough, some of the trees and hedges on private land, which formed the agreed landscaping scheme, have been removed under Permitted Development, which makes similar landscaping schemes weak from an environmental perspective. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price opined that councillors had not had the benefit of the

detailed tree officer's report when the application first came to be determined, as 11 good quality trees have been felled.

6. Appeal Ref: APP/E2340/F/25/3360061 - Pine Garth Farm, Coal Pit Lane, against the decision to remove the uPVC windows and doors from a Listed building in a Conservation Area. This was dismissed and the appellants have three months to replace the windows and doors in wood with a suitable design.
7. 25/0338/FUL 25/0030/AP/Refuse – Appeal against refusal of planning permission for siting of an additional five static park homes at Prospect Farm Caravan Site was dismissed, but costs were awarded to the applicant as the decision on landscape and ecology was made without any evidence of harm at the time of the decision.
8. The Exec agreed, following the advice of Colne Area Committee members, to declare the land at Windy Bank as surplus to requirements and to agree to the proposed access road on a temporary basis only.
9. The available monies to Colne & District Area Committee for the forthcoming Municipal Year are £44,676, though £1,000 was allocated to the Colne Dramatic Society at The Little Theatre for stage surround improvements and installation of visual aids. £250 was allocated to Trawden Men's Shed.
10. It was agreed at Colne & District Area Committee that Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price should continue as the representative on the Colne BID.
11. Phil Riley informs us that he is now assessing railing types for King George V Playing Fields under the Pride in Place project.
12. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price was fortunate to sit next to Freeman of Colne, Geoff Crambie, during part of the excellent Colne Grand Prix earlier this week. He told her he had carried out research into Colne streets during the 1970s and offered to share this with her. Apparently, Richmond Court was named after Henry Richmond who lived in Colne in the 1820s, for example. Therefore, she has arranged to spend 26<sup>th</sup> June with him to better inform the Pride In Place project, Unlocking the Mystery of Colne Streets. The project will educate the public on Colne's rich history and will also drive town centre footfall. We now have three quotes from firms able to meet the project brief and there appears to be a preferred bidder. Our Clerk will ascertain the correct procedure for awarding the contract with Pendle Borough Council. Gina and Nathan have obtained a quote for exhibition infrastructure. However, a chance conversation with former Colne librarian, Darran Ward, led to a consideration of whether we might also need a few museum cases for secure display of objects. Darran thought that Colne Library might have some unused ones which were originally funded by Pendle Borough Council. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price has tried to discover whether this is so, but has so far drawn a blank. Given that a future agenda will feature whether Colne reinstates its mayor ahead of the transition to the new unitary council, following the abolition of Pendle Council, the quest for secure, museum cases seems a wise one, as while the first exhibition would be Unlocking the Mystery of Colne's Streets and therefore will not need cases, future exhibitions might well. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price has therefore sought the advice of Darran Ward who has experience of staging exhibitions and is waiting for him to get back to her. As soon as she has the final specification and quotes, she will be able to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund and she has held a further discussion with their regional administrator and he is waiting for the Expression of Interest.
13. The Secretary of State is content with Pendle Council's responses re its administration of the Pride In Place scheme in Pendle and the second tranche of funding has been released.

14. A paper on Play Streets has been prepared for the Exec on 25<sup>th</sup> June by Neil Watson and the Exec will decide whether to support the scheme, which would see road closures under the Town and Police Clauses Act of 1847 for children to play safely near their homes for no more than three hours a week. The scheme ran successfully on Belgrave Road, for four weeks, with Keighley Ave applying to be the second Play Street. However, the scheme was paused when it was discovered that Colne Area did not have the right to run a Play Street Scheme and that the decision as to whether or not to do so must be made by the Exec.
15. The Cockburn-Prices drafted the response to The Calderdale Energy Park consultation, as promised, by drawing on a myriad of sources and keeping the focus on the consultation process and the impact on Colne. This was an immense amount of work. Thank you to those of you who reviewed it. This response was submitted before the deadline and a confirmation was received. However, since the deadline passed, the developers have decided to re-open the consultation until 11.59 p.m. on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July. This allows Colne residents to review the Town Council's response and make their own before the new deadline. They could even just respond by writing that they support the Town Council's response. We think that few Colne residents will have responded, so we would like to see Colne Town Council putting the final response on its website and then promoting the response, and the new deadline, via social media, so that more residents engage with this process.
16. Colne and District Area Committee received an update on the Colne Town Centre Bus Service Improvement Plan Scheme.
- Pendle Council has completed the demolition of the old toilet block and it will become a secure cycle store.
  - It has also cleaned all the walls around the bus station and replaced or refixed the coping stones.
  - Additional benches and bins have been installed following the completion of the wall works.
  - New signage has been introduced at the bus gates, including stand number information on the front and 'no pedestrian access' signage on the rear.
  - A smart, new clock has been installed.

The Phase 2 Highway Improvements are undergoing detailed design and further details and a confirmed timeline will be shared. Cllr Ash Sutcliffe has written to LCC to ensure that Colne's red flecked road surface in the Town Centre will be retained.

## **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price has been in touch with our Planning Advisor, who is rewriting our policies in light of further NPPF changes. She has rewritten the foreword and the first three chapters of the draft, updated Neighbourhood Plan. She has also completed all the new Non Designated Heritage Assets, of which there turned out to be a significant number.

## To Do

- Please can the date of Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee be agreed?
- Have we built a database of volunteers for TOT?
- Please can we publish the final version of the response to the consultation to the Calderdale Energy Park on the Town Council website?
- Please can we promote this official response via social media and encourage residents to respond before the new deadline on 8<sup>th</sup> July?