



## **Borough Councillors' Report**

1. Three new Borough Councillors were elected to represent Colne in the recent elections: Cllr Mick Waddington (Vivary), Cty Cllr Nathan McCollum (Waterside and Horsfield) and Cllr Alan Whitehead, (Boulsworth and Foulridge). All three councillors represent Reform UK. There are now just three Borough Councillors left in Colne Town Council.
2. The designation of the Keighley Road and Carry Lane Conservation Area, comes back to the Exec on 28<sup>th</sup> May. Colne Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan designates this area as a "Special Character Area" and, based on the advice of heritage professionals, Colne and District Area Committee decided to fund the writing of the character appraisal by Pendle Borough Council's retained Heritage Consultants, Growth Lancashire, so it could become a Conservation Area.

The previous poor decision by the Exec was based on wrong information:

- The Peter Birtwistle Trust owns just 23 out of hundreds of properties in the proposed designated area (150 properties on Keighley Road alone), not the half of all properties claimed.
- The drop in events were not designed to keep a record of people's views, they were designed to provide information on the merits and demerits of Conservation Area status to residents. Pendle Borough Council had produced an FAQ document.
- The designation of a Conservation Area is not a popularity contest. Section 69 of the Act states that the Local Planning Authority "shall" ... "determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Pendle Council's heritage consultants, Growth Lancashire, have determined this in their Character Appraisal, so that now all Pendle Council has to do is make the designation.

Let's hope that the Exec simply designates this new Conservation Area for Colne on the third occasion that this item comes before them.

3. 26/0131/FUL – Replacement of original gates and railings at Primet Primary. None of the councillors supported the removal of this historic fabric and asked the Planning Manager to liaise with the school to see if a solution akin to those adopted at Park Primary, West Street and Lord Street could be arrived at, retaining the original railings and gates, while incorporating new, taller fences and gates behind them.
4. A new appeal has been lodged: 25/0774/HHO – Appeal against the refusal of planning permission of an erection of a rear orangery, rear dormer extension, car port shelter to main entrance and the replacement of a rear window with double doors and a Juliet balcony at Alkincoates Hall Farm, Red Lane.

5. The available monies to Colne & District Area Committee for the forthcoming Municipal Year are £44,674, though £5,000 was allocated at the most recent meeting towards the new Character Appraisal for the Trawden Conservation Area.
6. It was agreed at Colne & District Area Committee that funding should be made available to the Premises Improvement Grant on a case-by-case basis. Three councillors were chosen to decide on the applications for this fund, Cllr Dorothy Lord, Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price and Cllr Nathan McCollum.
7. Phil Riley informs us that the levelling and reseeded of the new football playing pitches at King George V Playing Fields is now complete. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price is meeting officers on site next week to discuss the further enhancements laid out under the Pride In Place Project.
8. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price has submitted a list of the first 50 streets under the Unlocking the Mystery of Colne's Streets Project to Pendle Borough Council. She has also briefed the first digital agency and has received a quote to digitise the existing paper-based Heritage Trail and incorporate it with the Streets Project to create an app which will operate via location tracking or QR codes to feed into an interactive map hosted by the Colne Town Council website. This will also feature a soundscape. The project will educate the public on Colne's rich history and will also drive town centre footfall. Cllr Cockburn-Price anticipates soon being in a position to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for exhibition infrastructure for Colne Town Hall. The first exhibition would be Unlocking the Mystery of Colne's Streets.
9. Lancashire County Council again rejected all but one of the proposed new Boundary Signs for Colne, but both county councillors said that they would attempt to reverse this decision.
10. The Secretary of State has now asked questions of Pendle Council re its administration of the Pride In Place scheme in Pendle, following criticism, primarily from Earby Town Council and Colne and District Area Committee and is awaiting a response.
11. After a Pendle Taxi drove through the cones and barrier during a Play Street session at Belgrave Road, ignoring the marshal in a High Visibility tabard, Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price complained to the Pendle Borough Council officer in charge of taxi licensing. He reported that no road closure had been put in place. This was a surprise, as the topic had been discussed at Colne and District Area Committee several times, two officer's reports had been brought forward to Committee, a resolution had been taken to operate pilot Play Streets in Colne and the Villages and funding had been applied for and granted to purchase the Play Street safety equipment. In addition, Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price produced all the letters to neighbours, the signed agreement for the responsible parents and the risk assessment. A policy officer at Pendle Borough Council confirmed that Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price could not have downloaded the road closure application forms, as they are not available on the Pendle Borough Council website. The taxi licensing officer confirmed that no action will be taken against the taxi driver, as no road closure was in place, as had been assumed by both Colne and District Area Committee and the residents of Belgrave Road. He further informed Colne and District Area Committee that it had no right to operate a Play Street Scheme and that the matter should be brought in front of the Exec for them to determine. No other officer involved in the planning for the Play Street Scheme in Colne and the Villages, including the Director of Place, had previously suggested that Colne and District Area Committee did not have the power to operate a Play Streets Scheme. Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price asked for the item to be brought before the Exec on 28<sup>th</sup> May, so as not to waste the summer for the children, some of whom are profoundly disabled and who deeply valued being able to play out safely. This request

was refused, as it was claimed that there was insufficient information available for a (third) officer's report to be produced. In addition, although Pendle Borough Council grants the road closures (under the Town and Police Clauses Act of 1847), it apparently takes 12 weeks, which is deeply frustrating to all those involved in this lovely community scheme. Colne's Neighbourhood Police have written to Pendle Borough Council expressing support for this Play Streets project.

12. Colne's revamped Market has now opened and has drawn huge crowds. Concern has been expressed about the prices charged in the Food Hall. However, the surrounding businesses, many of whom charge lower prices for food and drink, reported record breaking trade last weekend, suggesting that, in its initial phase at least, that the Market is driving footfall to the town and improving trade. Colne BID's manager and Cllr Sarah Cockburn Price have met with the deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Cosima Towneley, to discuss the potential issuing of Colne's Market Charter from the College of Arms.
13. There was a well attended drop-in session about The Calderdale Energy Park last week in Trawden. The final session is on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May at the Primet Community Centre between 2-7 p.m. We would urge all Colners to attend, if possible. Colne Town Council appointed Cllr David Cockburn-Price and Cllr Andy Bell as its representatives on the group of parish and town councils across the region affected by this proposed development. The first meeting was in person in Heptonstall and the second was online. Cllr Cockburn-Price attended both meetings and Cllr Bell the first meeting. Having comprehensively reviewed the documentation in readiness for the preparation of the response by Colne Town Council to this consultation before the deadline on 10<sup>th</sup> June, Cllr Cockburn-Price requested that the next meeting of the parish and town councils focusses on the impacts on roads, air pollution and traffic. It is noteworthy that of all the viewpoints highlighted by the applicants, the sole one in Colne appears to be from near the Cemetery. When the draft response by Pendle Borough Council was brought before Colne and District Area Committee, the Committee asked the Planning Manager to focus on the protected viewpoints in the Colne Neighbourhood Plan, the impact on the North Valley Road, including congestion and pollution and the impact on residents' dwellings, which are likely to be shaken by the estimated 124,000 HGVs travelling this route during the three year construction phase. In addition, Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price raised the detrimental tourism impact locally, given graves at Christ Church connected with the Brontës and the ruins of the fictional Ferndean Manor being sited in Wycoller. Any tourist looking for sites connected with the Brontës would be bound to visit these sites, and others in Lancashire, such as Gawthorpe Hall, she argued.
14. Colne and District Area Committee received an update on the Colne Town Centre Bus Service Improvement Plan Scheme. The majority of works are now complete, including kerbing, bus shelters, real-time passenger information and totems. A new clock will be installed on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Remedial works are scheduled to assist bus movements and it is a source of frustration to councillors that this additional work is required. The Phase 2 highway works will take place later in the summer and will see Craddock Road become two-way and the bus stops being removed from Market Street. A 7.5 tonne restriction will be placed on Windy Bank and a new signal controlled crossing will replace the zebra crossing on Market Street. There will also be new traffic signals with intelligent bus priority installed at the junctions of Market Street and Skipton Road and Keighley Road and Craddock Road.

**To Do**

- Please can the date of Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee be agreed?
- Have we built a database of volunteers for TOT?