

News and updates from around our Parish...

Some 'Welcome' additions to our village

We hope that local residents are pleased to see the new village signs and planters that have been purchased by the Parish Council (PC) and situated throughout the village. There are currently 5 planters: at Owen's Corner roundabout; opposite St Matthew's church; at the entrance of Fir Tree Close; on the motorway roundabout at the A559 exit; and by the entrance to the Hollies Farmshop. There are 2 village signs: on Tarporley Road heading for the motorway roundabout from Whitley; and again by the entrance to the Hollies.



Both the signs and planters show either the Stretton or Lower Stretton name. The PC is hoping to

purchase another 6 signs in due course so that there will be one at each of the other entrances to the village. The PC has used money donated from the Creamfields Festival over the last 2 years to fund part of the cost, with the balance being made up from the precept.

Local contractors have been used for the erection of the signs, and the planting and ongoing maintenance of the planters. We hope everyone agrees that the signs and planters are a lovely addition to our village. They not only give the village more of an identity, but also are making it look loved!



Higher costs for the Parish Council

With all the cuts over the past 2 years at Warrington Borough Council (WBC), the PC increasingly has to fund work. Residents may have noticed that grass cutting in the village is now only being done every 5 to 7 weeks instead of historically being cut much more often in the summer. The PC has been employing a local contractor to cut the grass in areas that are becoming an eye sore. We regularly report to WBC problems in the village eg blocked drains, pot holes, etc. Unfortunately repairs are taking longer and longer to be carried out and are sometimes not addressed at all. We are led to believe



Long grass on verge opposite St Matthew's Church is no longer cut by WBC.

that the situation at WBC is likely to get worse, so the PC and local community will increasingly have to take responsibility for keeping our village in a tidy and well-maintained condition.

Stretton's Asset of Community Value

In March the PC heard that its application to register the Ring O' Bells pub in Lower Stretton as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) had been successful. This is the first pub in Warrington to be given this protection. Currently pubs can be demolished or converted to several other uses without a planning application. The ACV listing removes existing permitted development rights and ensures the pub is protected under planning law should it come under threat. The PC felt the sale of the Ring O' Bells in August 2015 to Red Oak Taverns meant that its future was uncertain. The PC argued that the Ring O' Bells was the only community asset in Lower Stretton and a valuable local meeting place where the local community have enjoyed numerous community events, including firework displays, a Mad Hatter's Tea Party and a Queen's Jubilee party. These events enhance the social wellbeing of the community. The application was supported by Borough Councillor



Royal Egg Hunt community event held on 16th April at the RO'Bs Paul Kennedy who said "I think it is fair to say that the Ring O' Bells is a community asset that would only be missed after it had gone." Councillor Jill Higgins, who led on the application, said "We are thrilled the application has been successful and the local community will now have a say in the future of their local pub. It is so important that villagers have a place to come together and the Ring O' Bells provides that for Lower Stretton.' Please support all our local pubs and join in the Stretton community events so they don't disappear.

Housing Proposals at Pewterspear

The Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) gave a presentation on the new housing proposals at Pewterspear to the PC at our July meeting following a well-attended community consultation event at the PGT pavilion in June. The proposal on the land between Henbury Gardens and St Matthew's school is for up to a maximum of 180 new houses, all of which will be for open market sale with 40% as starter homes. Under the Government initiative to help first time buyers, these homes will be available for sale at a 20% discount to qualifying people. In the proposal will be a childrens' play area, open space and new footpaths which link into the existing footpath/cycleways. Existing trees, hedgerows and central green corridor will be retained and more ponds created to drain the site and improve biodiversity. There will be two main entrances into the site: one off Pewterspear Green Road and one off Stretton Road. The plan is to submit an outline planning application for the scheme in August to establish the key principles of development. If planning permission is granted, the HCA will tender for a developer to build the houses and they will have to submit a further planning application showing details such as house locations, roads and other features. At this time there will be another round of public consultation - expected in late summer 2017. If approved, a developer could be on site building houses early in 2018. Residents will be able to comment on the proposals via WBC's planning website once the application has been submitted.

Pewterspear Green Trust News

Fun Day in May

The Trust celebrated its 21st Birthday by holding a Family Fun Day in May and the central theme was around sports for younger people. Despite a damp start, the event was a great success with several hundred children and parents joining in the fun. The Trustees and the volunteers who organised the event were delighted with the outcome and plans are now underway to hold another fun day next year.

New Defibrillator

The Trust was pleased to support an initiative launched by Appleton AFC by agreeing to install a defibrillator at the Pavilion. The defibrillator can be used to provide vital early treatment of a cardiac arrest. The device is located on the West wall of the Pavilion, close to the main car park and is available for use by anyone using the PGT facilities or walking through the parkland.



The enclosed leaflet provides residents with some general information regarding the Trust and some outline proposals for the redevelopment of the Pavilion. For more information please use the following link: www.pewterspeargreentrust.org.uk/contact-us-1/

Update on the Buses

Last year GHA coaches took over the contract from Network Warrington (NW) to run the 45 bus route between Warrington and Northwich. Unfortunately earlier this year GHA pulled out of the contract and NW took it back over until it was due to run out in September. The PC wrote to NW to ask them if they would take the contract over from September as we are aware that some residents rely on this service. We have now been informed that they will continue the 45/46 services and the routes and times will remain as they are at present. The No. 8/9 bus service which runs through from Appleton Thorn to Hatton has been changed but it appears that it could be an improvement to what we have at present.

Creamfields 2016

The August Bank Holiday festival is opening a day earlier this year - here's the timings:-

Thur 25th Car park 12-11pm Music 5-11pm (silent)

Fri 26th Car park 7am-11pm Music 3-11pm

Sat 27th Car park 7am - 9pm Music 2pm - 4am

Sun 28th Car park 7am - 9pm Music 12-11pm

Mon 29th Car parks close at 2pm.



Once again we ask that if any residents experience problems with the event, please let us know so that we can report these to the relevant bodies.

Fancy a Walk?

Bridleways, public footpaths and rights of way provide interesting alternative views of our beautiful village and the surrounding areas. There are numerous walks across fields and countryside that link Stretton to Appleton, Appleton Thorn, Daresbury, Hatton and Whitley and form part of major regional trails such as the Delamere Way, the Mersey Valley Timberland Trail and the Mersey Way. On the PC website is an overview of the paths in the village and also the Mid Cheshire Walking Society have provided maps covering walks in the adjoining areas for Appleton PC and these can be found at <http://parish.cheshire.gov.uk/appletonpc>

Twinkling Stretton 2016 plans



This year we are going back to separate evenings for the switch on of the Christmas tree lights. So here are the switch on dates for your diaries:

Sat 3rd Dec at 5pm - the Cricket field opposite the Cat & Lion with refreshments after at the Pavilion.

Sun 4th Dec at 5pm - Summit Close, Lower Stretton with refreshments after at the Ring O' Bells.

A559 HGVs a real danger for residents

The A559 through Lower Stretton has increasingly been causing problems for local residents. The size of HGVs has grown considerably over the last 10 years and now there are so many that the situation is becoming



horrendous, especially for residents living on the road. HGVs have difficulty passing each other (as shown) and sometimes are mounting the pavement on some stretches and this is causing damage to properties as well as being a real danger for pedestrians. One resident had to throw

herself into the hedge to avoid being hit by an HGV and other residents have reported being clipped by wing mirrors! The PC has been on the case for some time and initially contacted the Police and WBC Highways to see if anything could be done. Unfortunately no solutions were offered. The next action taken was to contact all the other PCs along the A559. Stretton Councillors presented at PC meetings in Antrobus, Whitley, Great Budworth, Marston and Wincham and asked for their support which, along with Lostock and Pickmere PCs, they all gave. Last November we attended a meeting with the Police Commissioner and put the problem to him. He in turn asked the Traffic Officer from Warrington to liaise with our Chair and the outcome was that a meeting was organised in March this year with Traffic Officers from Warrington and Cheshire West, representatives from WBC and Cheshire West Council, and Parish Councillors from Stretton, Antrobus and Whitley. Although all present were very sympathetic to the problem, no one could still offer any solution. It was then decided to contact our MP David Mowat and request a meeting at Council level to see if he could help. A very productive meeting took place in early July and David is now contacting WBC to look into the possibility of having a traffic survey carried out and a weight restriction imposed on the road in the village. David has also agreed to attend a public meeting together with our new Police Commissioner David Keane and possibly Stephen Broomhead who is the Chief Executive at WBC. This will be an opportunity for local residents to air their views. The PC is now trying to coordinate a date for the meeting and will inform residents in due course.

Stretton Walking Day

Stretton Walking Day took place on 16th July with our Chair Linda Jones attending the service. Despite the dismal weather it was well attended. This year a little bit of history was made - for the first time we have



a Rose King, Kai Jamson, as well as a Rose Queen, Grace Edwards. The PC wishes them both a lovely year ahead.

Irresponsible dog owners watch out!



Dog fouling in Stretton is becoming an increasing problem. Whilst there are lots of responsible dog owners living in the village, there are also some who don't bother

to pick up after their pets. One hotspot (or should we say 'poospot') is the Triangle in Lower Stretton near the Christmas tree. A local contractor who cut the grass there recently said it was absolutely disgusting how much dog faeces there was. And this is meant to be a community garden for everyone to enjoy!

The Triangle community garden in Lower Stretton



Please help by reporting any incidences you witness in Stretton to either the PC Clerk or WBC via their online form. The following details are useful:

- Anything you know about the owner - name, address, description
- Dog details - fur colour, breed, name
- Where and when fouling took place
- Time the dog is walked and route details
- Any associated vehicle registration.

Fines are up to £1,000. The law is clear, says Keep Britain Tidy. "It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any dog foul left by their dog." And simply being oblivious - or pretending that you are - is not an excuse. "The regulations state specifically, that being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after your dog."

Following WBC's recent public consultation where more than 1,400 residents aired their views on dog fouling, the Council's executive board member for environment and public protection, Cllr Judith Guthrie, said: "Our consultation on dog fouling has shown us that it continues to be a major issue for local people. The behaviour of irresponsible dog owners causes a real blight on our neighbourhoods, and we're determined to tackle it."

Want to hear direct about events in the village? Give the Clerk your contact details. 😊

New faces on the Parish Council

In addition to the 2 vacancies advertised in our 2015 newsletter, we also said goodbye to Parish Councillor David Hutchinson this year.

So to introduce our new Councillors:-

Bryan Jones 'I became a Parish Councillor in October 2015. I have lived in Lower Stretton since 1999 and although I have not been on the PC for long, I have been involved for many years with the various projects the PC has worked on.



Recently I have reduced my working hours and felt that I was in a position to offer more to the PC and the residents of Stretton which is why I thought it was the right time to become a Councillor. Hopefully I can help to make Stretton a better place to live.'



Pat Lyons 'I moved to Hatton Lane in Stretton in 2004 having lived in Warrington for most of my life, and other members of my family also live in the

area. Having worked for Local Authorities for over 20 years, I believe that the PC has an important role to play in providing residents with a channel through which they can raise their concerns about local issues. I am looking forward to working with my other Councillor colleagues in supporting all members of our community and in implementing initiatives that will help to improve and maintain our lovely village environment.'

Jayne Fox 'I moved to the North West in 1993 and have lived in Hatton Lane in Stretton with my partner, Phil, since 1996. We both love the area. I originate from the Midlands. The village I was brought up in where my Mum



still lives is quite similar to Stretton which is probably why I feel so at home. I've recently retired and would like to use some of my free time to help local organisations, like the PC, to make life better for people in Stretton. I really enjoy learning new things & am sure joining the PC will be an interesting experience.'

And our new PC Clerk **Gillian Lett** 'Having enjoyed



a career in corporate finance for 25 years, to be honest I never looked up to appreciate the beauty of my surroundings or make a concerted contribution to them.

However as PC Clerk I can now

work with the Councillors to enhance the look of the borough and improve the everyday life of its residents. Additionally, as a parent of a young family, I have seen the borough from a different perspective and feel I can work to improve its safety and encourage younger members of the community to contribute.'

Stretton gets Selecta DNA

Cheshire Constabulary's unique DNA marking system is protecting homes and businesses by reducing burglary opportunities, deterring offenders, and identifying and recovering stolen property. It uses unique DNA liquid with an individual code to mark property in your home, garage and shed. The DNA coding is registered solely to your address and added to a database so if marked items are stolen they can be traced back to you. At the June PC meeting, Police Sergeant Gareth Kerr gave an update on policing matters, including Selecta DNA. £10k funding was made available to Warrington Police in 2015 to complete a pilot rollout and some parts of Stretton were included. The PC is now looking at offering the kit to all parts of Stretton on a cost share basis. The retail cost is approx £50, however Warrington Police can secure a price of £10 per kit. If you are interested, please contact the PC Clerk.



Meet Stretton's PCSO Stephen Parr

I am the Police Community Support Officer covering Hatton, Stretton, Walton and parts of Appleton working out of Stockton Heath Police Station. I deal with low level crime, community reassurance, crime prevention advice, intelligence gathering and have specialist training in enforceable speed devices. I am pleased to serve the Stretton community and can be contacted via Stockton Heath or Stephen.parr@cheshire.pnn.police.uk



Hatton, Stretton and Walton Ward changes

New boundary changes mean that the electoral ward of Hatton, Stretton & Walton no longer exists - we are now incorporated into the Appleton Ward. Fortunately our PC remains unchanged. We now have 3 new Borough Councillors: Sharon Harris, Brian Axcell and Judith Wheeler, with Judith taking a lead for Stretton and attending the monthly PC meetings.

A big thanks to Paul Kennedy, who has now stepped down, for all his help and support over recent years.

About the Parish Council

Stretton PC meets in St. Matthew's Church Hall on the 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm. All meetings are open to the public and the latest agenda can be found on the PC noticeboards (outside Stretton Newsagents, the Ring O' Bells pub and on Pewterspear Green Road). If you have any problems that you would like us to help with or want to be involved, please come along or contact: Clerk to Stretton PC, Mrs Gillian Lett, c/o Newtons Cottage, Hatton Lane, Hatton, Warrington WA4 4DB. Tel: 07557 680528
Email: strettonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
Website: www.strettonparishcouncil.co.uk