

Parish and Town Council Newsletter

Summer 2018

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Welcome

I hope that the recent warm weather has allowed you get out and enjoy our beautiful surroundings in Lancashire. Being outdoors and enjoying the fresh air, whether it is in the countryside or in more built up areas, has such a positive impact on our mental and physical health.

More people getting outdoors has positive impacts on crime reduction, in the form of increased local vigilance and this can strengthen our feelings of community cohesion. I am always grateful for the role our parish councils play in keeping people safer and gaining health benefits from being outdoors. Many of the parish champion grants awarded this year have shown a clear desire for helping our residents enjoy family time together outdoors.



This year, as we approach the Parish and Town Council Conference, on Saturday 24th November 2018, we will be focussing on reducing crime and mobilising our communities. Keynote speakers will be presenting at the conference and will be available to have informal conversations on the day.

Crime data is analysed on an ongoing basis and every three years a strategic assessment is produced to identify what the local priorities are. This assessment includes information on how safe our residents feel and not just the numbers of crimes committed.

In September, the strategic assessment document for community safety will be made available for consultation. I hope that as many of you as possible will take the time to provide us with feedback, based on your local knowledge of what you feel our priorities in this work should be.

County Councillor Paul Rigby

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Parish Champion Grants

This spring, we had a flurry of applications for Parish Champion grants. Due to the popularity of this scheme, we couldn't quite process all of the applications from last financial year's funding allocation. However, the good news is that the Parish Champion's grant funding is still available for the current financial year and we have been able to process all the eligible awards that we have received to date.

If you would like to apply, further details and application forms please contact Janet Nuttall on: 01772 533110 or janet.nuttall@lancashire.gov.uk.

The following are just a few examples of how the Parish Champion grants have been invested across the county.

Catterall Parish Council have installed a new toddler and young children's play area as the first phase of their project. The second phase is to install a fitness trail. This was following a suggestion from local residents as something they would like to see on their local playing field. This facility will provide a safe place for residents of all age groups and abilities to exercise or just relax in an attractive rural setting.

Bretherton Parish Council have received a contribution towards the replacement of three wooden picnic tables at Bretherton recreation ground which have come to the end of their useful life. These tables will offer the opportunity for families and friends to meet together outdoors and will also provide a welcome resting place for older residents to have a break whilst on their 'keep fit' walks.

The picnic tables also are located so that parents can keep an eye on their children as they are using the play equipment at this site. People from different generations can enjoy leisure outdoors as they have a picnic. This is a really useful amenity for the whole community and those in nearby areas.

Hilldale Parish Council are aiming to carry out essential repairs to playground equipment, with a contribution from the Parish Champion's fund. The wooden play equipment had become in a dangerous state as the supporting legs had begun to rot away over time. Hopefully, this funding will mean that new wooden play equipment can be provided, so that children can enjoy getting exercise and fresh air whilst getting away from their screens and devices at home.

Trawden Forest Parish Council will have been putting their 6 self-watering planters to very good use throughout this recent dry spell! The planters are sponsored by local businesses to provide all year round plants, compost and vinyl signage for the planters. All planting is done by the voluntary group, which helps to keep residents fit and active, whilst giving a real sense of pride in their own parish. It's great to see that the displays are entered into competitions.

Yealand Redmayne Parish Council have received funding towards the purchase of a solar speed indicator device. The speed indicator device will make drivers aware of their speed and if they are driving too fast, encourage them to reduce their speed. This should have a very positive effect on life in the village and help to keep all road users safe.

West Bradford Parish Council will be commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War with a formal war memorial in the shape of a Celtic stone cross. This will be located on a newly-prepared site at the Coronation Gardens, near to the millennium stone in the heart of the village. The Great War had both international and local significance, with nine men in the Bradford losing their lives in serving our country. The lives of the fallen will be remembered and a Parish Grant allocation has provided a contribution to this.



Road Safety Presentations

Road collisions and injuries on the road are a constant concern as they affect our lives in many ways. Initiatives are constantly being undertaken by officers in our Safe and Healthy Travel Team to try and reduce casualty levels, but we can all help in our daily lives, as we use the roads. The team offer training courses and run publicity campaigns all year round to help keep people safe on the road.

If you are a member of an organisation or group you could receive a **free** 40 minute road safety presentation. This is aimed at Lancashire residents aged 50+, and will provide advice on how to stay safe and independent whilst travelling. These presentations are delivered by Lancashire Road Safety Partnership colleagues, at a time and place to suit your group, (subject to availability).

These presentations are interactive and very informative. Themes include:

- Keeping yourself and others safe on the roads
- Causes of road casualties in Lancashire
- Vehicle safety – for you, your passengers & pets
- Maintaining your fitness to drive
- Licence renewal and informing the DVLA of medical conditions
- How do alcohol, drugs & medication affect your ability to drive?
- Have a look at life through a pair of beer goggles!
- Alternatives to driving in Lancashire

For further information please contact the Safe and Healthy Travel Team at Lancashire County Council:

Email: safetravel@lancashire.gov.uk

Tel: **01772 537960**

Modern Slavery Update

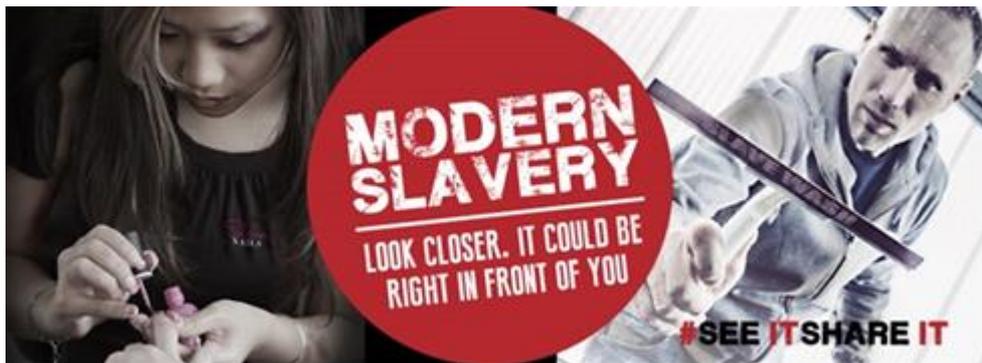
Since our last newsletter, it has emerged that modern slavery is a fast growing problem in it costs the UK up to £4.3 billion a year. The Home Office estimates there are 13,000 victims and survivors of modern slavery in the UK; 55% of these are female and 35% of all victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Each instance of this type of crime is estimated to cost around £330,000, including the cost of support, lost earnings and law enforcement but most significantly the physical and emotional harm suffered by individuals, who are often exploited over months and sometimes

years. This places each modern slavery crime as second only to homicide, in terms of harm to its victims and cost to society the UK.

Modern slaves in the UK, are often said to be 'hiding in plain sight' - working in nail bars, construction sites, brothels, cannabis farms and in agriculture. Traffickers are using the internet to lure their victims with hollow promises of jobs, education and even love. Albania, Nigeria, Vietnam, Romania and Poland are the most likely countries of origin, but some victims are from the UK itself. Children as young as 12 years old are known to have been victims, particularly in domestic slavery.

As we go about our normal daily lives, there is an increasing chance that we will come across a victim who has been exploited and that's why we are asking everyone to recognise their concerns and report them. The National Crime Agency advises we can all look for signs of abuse that may suggest someone is being controlled or coerced into work, such as:

- The manner of their dress.
- Visible signs of injuries.
- Signs of stress.
- The manner in which they had come to work in a particular area.



Please continue to be vigilant for these signs and report any concerns that you have to Lancashire Police in the usual ways or call the national modern slavery helpline for 24/7 advice on Tel: 08000 121 700.

Road Peace

Lancashire's RoadPeace World Day of Remembrance service is scheduled to take place at County Hall in Preston on Sunday 18th November 2018. The multi faith service is open to all who have been bereaved or injured through road traffic collisions. The short service is followed by a chance for family members and attendees to lay flowers at the County Hall RoadPeace memorial stone.

The group aims to give families and friends who have lost their loved ones, a place to offer support to each other and is supported by agencies across the county. These include: Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, Lancashire



Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council.

If you would like to attend the service or to find out any more information please contact the Safe and Healthy Travel Team at Lancashire County Council:

Email: **safertravel@lancashire.gov.uk**
Tel: **01772 537960**

As the evenings begin to 'draw in', I wish you all a healthy, safe and prosperous season ahead. I look forward to working with you and hearing from you if you have any concerns that you would like me follow up. Alternatively, please contact:

Amanda Downes

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Health, Equity, Welfare and Partnerships

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Best Regards

Paul

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