



Parish and Town Council Newsletter

Summer 2019

www.lancashire.gov.uk



Welcome

I am delighted to begin this newsletter with some good news! I feel very honoured to have been asked by my fellow councillors to serve as Chairman of Lancashire County Council. It's a privilege to serve the people of Lancashire in this way. I am especially proud to be the 50th Chair Person, as my father and grandfather also served in the same role. I have also served as the Mayor of Fylde Borough Council in 2009/10, following in the footsteps of both my father and also my uncle, George Warbrick.



Farming takes a lot of my time, so with my council work as well, I'm a really busy person. It's thanks to my family and their support that I'm able to serve in this way. I've spent the past year working alongside County Councillor Anne Cheetham, during her year in office and I'd also like to thank Anne for all of her brilliant work.

I'm looking forward to highlighting the varied work people do across the county, especially farming and rural life, along with the voluntary work that people do to help others. The work of 'Our Lancashire', which is described later in this newsletter, can provide a useful vehicle for using volunteers to support the needs of residents in our communities. I view this as great partnership opportunity.

It seems a long time since we had a spell of warm weather at Easter this year, but finally the days do seem to be getting warmer and sunnier. I hope that you have been able to enjoy being outdoors and getting plenty of fresh air. One of the ways we have been helping to improve the air quality in Lancashire has been the rolling out of 150 electric vehicle parking points across the county and further information is included later in this newsletter.

Cycling offers another way of travelling without producing harmful emissions, whilst helping you to feel fitter *and* save money. I know that not everyone can afford to buy their own brand new bike and so there's information in this newsletter on how to get a bike without hurting your pocket at all!

Looking to next year, the next Parish and Town Council Conference will be held on Saturday 8th February at County Hall. Please 'save the date' and as usual please contact me if there are any issues or themes that you would like including on the day.

Best Regards

Paul

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New look Parish and Town Council Website



We have been busy redesigning the Parish and Town Council web pages. This has included a new look for the pages and updating the website content. We hope you'll find the pages helpful and informative, but please let us know if there's anything else you think we should include.

The new pages can be viewed by clicking <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/parish-and-town-councils/>

Personal Information and GDPR

Thank you to those of you who have already completed the recent review of personal details held by Lancashire County Council. There are still a small number of Parish and Town Councils that have not returned their consent details to us. This can cause issues if the council needs to send out urgent information such as planning application consultations, when responses are required within a short time frame. If you haven't sent a consent form back to us please contact parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk or telephone 01772 538031 for further guidance.

Parish Champion Grants

This spring, we have had a steady influx of applications for Parish Champion grants funding allocations, since we relaunched the scheme at the start of April 2019.

If you would like to apply for a grant or require any further information, please email parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk or download the application form from the website.

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

- Waddington Parish Council – New noticeboard £400
- West Bradford Parish Council – War Memorial £200
- Downholland Parish Council – Refurbishment/ repainting of children's play equipment £350
- Billington and Langho Parish Council – repairs to the bus shelter roof £300

Volunteering

Some of you may have already seen a presentation from The Lancashire Volunteer Partnership. One of the aims of the project is to provide opportunities for people who are looking to make a real difference in their local communities and match them with people who may need a little help and support.



From visiting people who may be feeling lonely or supporting those who are struggling to get out and about independently, to giving a carer some respite, volunteering alongside the neighbourhood policing teams as a Special Constable, at a children's centre or as a cadet group leader; the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership volunteers are truly amazing!

The website shows local volunteering opportunities available and describes the necessary training and vetting that the different volunteer roles need.

Another aim of the project is to develop the role 'uniformed community champion', where volunteers will become involved at the heart of their local community and to be a point of contact for their local parish council.

The uniform is a simple 'polo' shirt and a fleece jacket, so that it looks very different to police uniforms. The role is about building resilience, encouraging social action and empowering local residents to help each other and resolve local issues of concern. You can find out more about the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership by clicking <https://lancsvp.org.uk/>

An advertisement for the 'Feel Champion' volunteer role. It features a woman in a red jacket and glasses, holding two mugs, standing on a balcony. The text reads: 'IN BETWEEN CLASSES, VICKY IS THERE TO SUPPORT HER NEIGHBOURS WHEN THEY NEED A FRIEND. CHAMPION.' Below the image, it says 'VOLUNTEER TODAY. FEEL CHAMPION.' and provides the website 'www.lancsvp.org.uk' and the hashtag '#feelchampion'. The Lancashire Volunteer Partnership logo is in the bottom right corner.

IN BETWEEN CLASSES, VICKY IS THERE TO SUPPORT HER NEIGHBOURS WHEN THEY NEED A FRIEND. CHAMPION.

VOLUNTEER TODAY. FEEL CHAMPION.

www.lancsvp.org.uk #feelchampion

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

With the growing popularity of electric vehicles, the county council is working in partnership with BP Chargemaster to provide several locations where drivers of electric vehicles can charge whilst they park. More and more people are buying electric vehicles each year. As part of the partnership the county council is providing an initial 150 parking bays, either at the side of the road or in our own car parks, where charging points will be available.

The installation program is now well underway with site surveys and electrical connection requests in progress. A list of sites and installation progress can be viewed on the Lancashire County Council website by clicking <http://bit.ly/2J600wl>

For those travelling longer distances the location and types of vehicle charging points can be found on a website called Zap Map, which can also be used to calculate at home charging costs and plan routes, too. You can view Zap Map by clicking www.zap-map.com/

Bike Refurbishment Scheme

We know that too many serviceable bikes are taken to household waste recycling centres, simply because they are no longer needed. These bikes don't have to end up being wasted in landfill. Schemes are now available where the bikes from household waste recycling centres are taken to bike refurbishment centres located around Lancashire. The bikes are then passed on to people who would like a refurbished bike, after they have successfully completed a short maintenance session. If you know of anyone with bikes to donate or if you know of someone who needs a bike, please contact **Active Lancashire** by clicking <http://bit.ly/2J51elg>

Potholes and all things highways



Lancashire County Council is running a new campaign which runs until the end of September 2019 to help raise public perception of the excellent work our highways service deliver. It will focus on our work on fixing potholes and improving the condition of roads. We will be encouraging members of the public to complete the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey, which measures public satisfaction with services across different local authorities, as well as reporting potholes to us on our website.

This year, the council will spend £24m on road maintenance and continued investment has improved the condition of the county's roads, and helped to reduce

the number of potholes by 38% in the last 2 years. But with 4,600 miles of highways and 5,300 miles of footways to maintain, we have to focus our efforts on areas where it will make the most difference.

We need people to help us by reporting potholes on our website, and if they meet the criteria we will fix them within set timescales. We have set ourselves ambitious targets and last year we fixed 90% of potholes within our timescales. Please help us to promote the campaign in your constituency and direct people who want to report a pothole to the Report It tool on our website <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/pothole/>

We will also email you an article for your next Parish Council newsletter, if you would like one.

You can help support our digital campaign by sharing and commenting on our social media posts:

Twitter 

Follow us on Twitter [@lancashirecc](https://twitter.com/lancashirecc) and search **#LancsRoads** for messages to re-tweet from your Twitter account.

Facebook 

Like us on Facebook from your Facebook profile and share our **#LancsRoads** posts.

For more information about this campaign, please contact jennifer.dobson@lancashire.gov.uk or suzie.evans@lancashire.gov.uk

Contacting us about your highways concerns

The District Lead Office within the Highways Service provides support to County Councillor's, MP's and other stakeholders by providing information in response to queries and issues, typically raised on the behalf of constituents. The team plays an important role in providing County Councillors in particular with information related to the maintenance of the Highways network in their Districts.

The scope of the team also includes responding to Corporate Complaints and Freedom of Information requests. The team members play a key role in gathering information, often of a historical or technical nature and presenting it back to the stakeholder in a format that is easily understood. They play an important role in representing the service to wider stakeholders and constituents.

Please use the following emails address to pass on your issues, concerns or information:

For Speeding enquires please contact speedmanagement@lancashire.gov.uk. We will shortly be launching a new speed management website, further information will be included in the next newsletter.

For more complex highways related enquiries please contact the Highways District Lead Officer using highwaysdistrictlead@lancashire.gov.uk

For Traffic, Potholes and other highway defects please use 'Report It' www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/