

Chatburn Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2022

The parish council has met many times but due to Covid restrictions some held via Zoom, some held in the Methodist Chapel and some held in the village Hall.

As villages will know we have been very concerned over the United Utilities massive Harp project which will have major traffic repercussions in our village. Our proposal for the company to consider using a temporary bridge to crossing the river Ribble at the end of the A59 link road to provide access to the site on Waddington Fell is now the favoured option which we welcome. Recently a further meeting has been held with U/U to discuss the implications of nine months of advance restrictions (on current roads). It is necessary to bring some materials for building the temporary bridge through Chatburn on HGVs but these will be smaller HGVs carrying bridge construction material, welfare cabins, cranes and excavators. The road past Hansons will be used whenever possible. There will be a maximum number of two escorted convoys per day and up to four convoys weekly. Ribble Lane will only be closed to allow the convey to pass and it will not be necessary to have any traffic control measures placed in the village.

The council is proud that the improvements to the Playing fields play area coupled with some adult exercise equipment is now complete at a cost of approximately £50000. Thanks must be given to Lancashire Environment fund and also Village organisations for their considerable contributions. It was recommended that we press the Borough council to include provision for playground improvements in future planning applications.

The council is investigating into the possible installation of a CCTV system to protect the play equipment and to monitor dog fouling on the playing field.

The council met the new County councillor Ged Mirfin along with our Borough Councillor Gary Scott in November. We were informed that the rail bridge on Downham road needs major repairs. A weight restriction has been imposed. The Parish council has been unable to ascertain a time scale for repairs to be scheduled but we understand it is not a priority.

The council has decided that we will not enter best the Kept Village competition this year but hope that residents will continue to keep the village tidy as the Queens Jubilee will take place in early June. (A sub – committee has formed to evaluate ideas but no programme of events has been formulated as yet.)

A litter bin has been installed on the bridleway between Chatburn and Downham. As Downham has no precept the parish council agreed to provide this and to be responsible for its emptying and maintenance. We understand that the Borough Council is considering the provision of litter bins in some tourist area designated footpaths but there is no timescale for this.

The Library has now reopened following Covid and is currently under used. Villagers are encouraged to use this excellent facility to ensure we do not lose it. Activities have been advertised in the village and on the parish council website.

Councillors urgently require helpers to erect and decorate the annual Christmas tree. This has been a tradition for years in Chatburn. It is enjoyed by residents and visitors to the village but if no volunteers come forward there will no Christmas tree this year.

Our thanks go to our clerk, Sheila Sturrock, all Councillors including our Borough Councillor, the Village Committee, The Changing Rooms Association and the Village Hall Trustees for their efforts during the last year.

Paul Whittaker

Chairman