

DECEMBER FORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – UPDATES/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Speed Signs – Hollins Lane

Cllr McLoughlin had an hour meeting with Alan Cox from Lancashire County Council and provisionally agreed the two locations for the new SPID signs:-

1. Scout Hut - due to the nearby tree it was decided to move the post to outside the building (level with the black drainpipe).
2. New Holly - to be moved further north to the first flower tub - opposite The Rowans.

When asked about cost of the posts, Alan thought that new poles and erection costs to be in the region of £1k. He will send a two page document outlining his proposals, at the same time he sends them to his line manager.

Cllr McLoughlin compiling letter to residents re location of signs.

Pond – School Lane

An update regarding the Pond for those Councillors who are not aware of the background. In Summary, the lease is for 10 years from 28 March 2009 so it expired in March 2019. It was originally leased from David Croskell, a local Farmer, and was then owned by Partner Construction the developer of Chapel Close. In November 2016 Partner Construction offered the pond and all of the land around Chapel Meadow, free of charge, to the Village via the Parish Council. By March 2017 no decision had been made regarding taking ownership by the Parish Council and communications with Partner Construction went quiet. In Autumn 2017 it is understood ownership transferred to Mr Whittingham as the Parish Council had not concluded the gifting of the land. The Village became aware of this when Mr Whittingham commenced legal proceedings against the Cricket Club in summer 2018, claiming cricket club land was his.

Cllr Povall, at the time, and Suzanne Nickson (Commercial Land and Property Lawyer) discussed options available to the Parish Council in late 2018 as the lease was coming up for renewal in 2019. The advice to the Parish Council at the time was to ensure all rents are paid on time (peppercorn rent so not applicable), evidence public activity is taking place and the Parish Council are maintaining it. The Parish Council are “holding over” on the lease and need to demonstrate continual public use and maintenance/insurance by the Parish Council. Tim Povall now suggests that the Parish Council should go about registering the site as an asset of community value. Advises against sending any correspondence as this will highlight the expiration of the lease.

Update from Cllr Leech

Here is a quick update of some of the bigger things Wyre Council have been up to recently.

- On Monday, we opened applications for the revised Local Restrictions Grant Support schemes for businesses forced to close. Full details of which businesses are eligible are on our [website](#), along with an online application form. We are still working through the guidance for the discretionary schemes and will update our website as soon as these schemes are open.
- This week we have written to all [5500](#) Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people in Wyre offering support following the start of the national lockdown and subsequent [government guidance](#). We have scaled up staffing capacity in the hub to handle any demand created. Instead of operating four hubs we have moved to one Wyre Hub. Further information about support for residents is available on our [website](#).

- A team of staff is now working in partnership with NHS Test and Trace to provide local contact tracing. Combining national data with local knowledge in this way is helping more people to self-isolate and stop the spread of Coronavirus in Wyre. You can read more about the work we are doing [here](#).
- A new grant scheme for COVID-19 support projects across Wyre and Fylde is now open thanks to a partnership between Wyre Council, Fylde Council and Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde CVS. Organisations supporting people during the pandemic can apply for grants of £300 up to £5,000. Please share with your contacts and encourage local groups to apply. Read more [here](#).
- Tuesday 10 November was Councils Can day – a campaign on social media to showcase the work of councils across the country. On the day, we shared reflections of the amazing work that's happened this year, including this short [video](#) thanking everyone involved.

Lumens Information

On the Government website this is the information re artificial light nuisance, following the query from a resident regarding acceptable levels of lumens from a floodlight.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/artificial-light-nuisances-how-councils-deal-with-complaints>

Signs

Estate Agents boards are subject to the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007, Schedule 3 Class 3 is the relevant section which sets out what advertisement may be displayed without consent. Anything that does not comply with the conditions and limitations would require consent and any person responsible for putting up a sign without such consent is deemed to have committed an offence.

The key requirement is that the sign can only be displayed on the land that it relates to. If it situated on land which is not part of the land or premises for sale/letting etc. then it is unauthorised.

Class 3 Miscellaneous temporary advertisements

Description

3A. An advertisement relating to the sale or letting, for residential, agricultural, industrial or commercial use or for development for such use, of the land or premises on which it is displayed.

Conditions and Limitations

- (1) Not more than one advertisement, consisting of a single board or two joined boards, is permitted; and where more than one advertisement is displayed, the first to be displayed shall be taken to be the one permitted.
- (2) No advertisement may be displayed indicating that land or premises have been sold or let, other than by the addition to an existing advertisement of a statement that a sale or letting has been agreed, or that the land or premises have been sold or let, subject to contract.
- (3) The advertisement shall be removed within 14 days after the completion of a sale or the grant of a tenancy.
- (4) No advertisement may exceed in area—
 - (a) where the advertisement relates to residential use or development, 0.5 square metre or, in the case of two joined boards, 0.6 square metre in aggregate;
 - (b) where the advertisement relates to any other use or development, 2 square metres or, in the case of two joined boards, 2.3 square metres in aggregate.
- (5) Where the advertisement is displayed on a building, the maximum projection permitted from the face of the building is 1 metre.
- (6) Illumination is not permitted.

(7) No character or symbol on the advertisement may be more than 0.75 metre in height, or 0.3 metre in an area of special control.

(8) No part of the advertisement may be higher above ground level than 4.6 metres, or 3.6 metres in an area of special control or, in the case of a sale or letting of part only of a building, the lowest level of that part of the building on which display is reasonably practicable.

Electric Vehicle Charging

The following was received from Wyre and has been put on the Facebook page and sent to village voice for anyone who is interested. The council has been made aware of an opportunity to install free electric vehicle charging points across the borough, which I wanted to pass on for consideration.

Charge My Street, a community benefit society based in Lancaster, aims for every home to be within a 5 minute walk of a charge point, allowing residents without access to off-street parking the opportunity to switch to an electric vehicle. Following successful trial installations, the society have been offered Innovate UK grant funding to install 200 charge points across the North of England by March 2021.

The society are actively encouraging suggestions for new host sites, with all costs covered under the funding from this grant. As a community benefit society, they are particularly interested in locations that benefit the local community, as opposed to main roads which tend to be serviced by larger companies. Most recently, the society installed a charge point on Walney Island, a remote location in Barrow-in-Furness. Community centres, town/village halls, cafes and local businesses would therefore be considered ideal.

This is a fantastic opportunity for fully-funded electric vehicle charging points in your local area, allowing your residents the potential to switch to electric vehicles where they may not have had capacity before. All subsequent electricity costs are covered by the society (by way of a meter), who charge users via a monthly subscription or 'pay as you go' fee using an app. No costs are incurred for hosting a charge point.

To check if you have a suitable site, consider these questions:

- Who is the site owner?
- Is there off-street parking for at least two electric vehicles?
- Are these publicly available, at least overnight?
- Is there a broadband connection or good mobile data signal?
- Is it in an area that could see it used well, if not now but in the near future?
- Could a charger be placed more than 2m away from the highway?
- Is there access to a building's energy supply?

If you are interested or have any questions at all, please have a look at the Charge My Street website (<https://www.chargemystreet.co.uk/>), which contains a useful FAQ section and webinar for further info.

Christmas Tree

The tree has been arranged and erected by the Village Hall Committee, not the usual tree switch on this year due to Covid but the Committee are sure it will brighten up the Village. It has been confirmed by Lancashire County Council that no licence is required as it is on private land. The Clerk to write to Mammoth Onion and the Village Hall Committee thanking them.