

Mollington Parish Council

Chairman's Report for the Year 2021-22

Covid 19

Covid continued to affect our council work throughout the year. We organised Zoom meetings to conduct Council business where possible but, like others, were unable to hold face to face meetings during lockdown.

Grove Road Speed limits

I am pleased to report that the 40mph speed limit has now been implemented along Grove Road with new signage from the stables to the 20mph by the school.

We have purchased a hand held Speed Gun to deter speeding through the Village. Unfortunately primarily due to Covid restrictions, we have not been able to proceed with the training required at the time of writing. This will be done over the next few months. Our intention is to raise awareness of driving speed rather than "catching" those who drive too fast

Road maintenance

We persuaded Highways to accompany us on a tour of the village to review the status of the road surface around Mollington, which was littered with potholes. After a very productive tour, CWaC sent out the team to repair potholes in very short order. This may have had something to do with the fact that the Essar Half Marathon was going through Mollington and Lea-By-Backford on May 15th.

HyNet

HyNet North West is proposing a hydrogen production and Carbon Dioxide capture plant in Stanlow. The CO₂ pipeline will pass through some land in Mollington although at the time of writing the detailed route through Mollington has not been agreed.

Mollington Grange Golf Club

In June 2021 a planning application for 6 houses on the old golf course came before CWaC planning committee. Mollington Parish Council formally objected to the proposal following the results of a questionnaire to all residents. At the Planning Committee meeting the proposal was unanimously rejected. The rejection was primarily related to the erosion of the Green Belt.

Within the last month we have heard the developers have appealed the decision. At the time of writing, we do not know the outcome of the appeal.

Village Maintenance

I am pleased to report we have appointed a gardener to help keep the village looking pristine. Whilst some of the jobs should be carried out by CWaC, the Parish Council decided to be more in control of the situation and ensure maintenance took place when needed.

Fibre Broadband

There is some confusion regarding rolling out fibre broadband to the community. Insufficient residents signed up for the B4RN project and Gigaloch informed us that they were putting fibre in without the commitment of the numbers required by B4RN. However, we have now been told by Gigaloch that they have been unable to acquire the wayleaves required and the project is on hold at this time.

Re-Wilding

This is a hot topic at present and the Parish Council has been involved with CWaC to discuss possible areas within Mollington that may be suitable. We have agreed two areas for trials. The first is at the junction of Parkgate Road and Townfield Lane on the triangle of land at the intersection. This is being supported by our Ward Councillor Simon Eardley. The second area is on the verge outside the School where the headteacher has agreed it would be developed as a project for the school children.

Emergency Response “Warn and Inform”

It is suggested we should develop a series of procedures to agree what should happen in the event of a local emergency, such as Covid 19, the recent storms and floods which caused power outages in the village. We have started this process and have had a meeting with the local Cheshire co-ordinator. Christine Jones has drawn up a first draft on behalf of the Parish Council and further work will take place in the coming 12 months. This may be restricted to a Mollington initiative or could be a Five Villages project.

Queens Platinum Jubilee

Your Parish Councillors and those from the other Parishes were instrumental in organising the Jubilee Beacon lighting and other village events to celebrate the Jubilee. Our thanks to all the residents who contributed to the celebrations which we believe helped to bring our five Villages closer together.

Personnel Changes

Mike Riley left the Parish Council in September 2021 and we were pleased to confirm Jack Jones as a replacement with immediate effect.

Finally, having served three years as Chairman of Mollington Parish Council I have handed over the reins for 2022-23 to Councillor Dave Wells. I will remain a Mollington Parish Councillor.

I take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors and those residents who have been willing and able to offer their services on behalf of our community.

Councillor Roger Jones

June 2022