

Contact Details

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Your Parish Councillors are:

- Andrew Beeston
- Carol Blackledge (Vice-Chairman)
- Andrew Chanter
- Roger Clayton (Chairman)
- Richard Neale
- Andy Sanderson—Thomas

All contact via the Clerk

Meetings held at 7:30pm the
Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, WN8 8TY
4th August 2021
8th September 2021
13th October 2021
10th November 2021
8th December 2021

Please contact the Clerk (details above) to raise any
items you wish your Parish Council to discuss.



Newsletter

No. 28

Summer 2021



Jacobs Wood

Jacobs Wood

Regular walkers of Public Footpaths (FP) 21 and 22 (Firwood Road/ Moss Cottages/Fyles Farm/ Dickets Lane) and very local residents will have noticed substantial clearance work taking place off FP21 towards the unused railway line.

The line forms part of the proposed linear park, planning for which has been dormant for many years. Mr and Mrs Jacobs, who once lived on Plough Lane, retained ownership of this small triangle of land when they moved away from Plough Lane. The line itself between Firwood Road and Plough Lane belongs partly to Jacton Properties and partly to Lancashire County Council.

The Jacton Properties section is subject to an “option to buy” owned by Wainhomes, as are significant areas of local land, we believe, which currently lie in the Green Belt.

Over the years the small area of land owned by Mr and Mrs Jacobs has become less relevant to them because they have moved to a different part of the country.

Our Tree Officer, Parish Councillor Andrew Beeston, has been in touch with Mr and Mrs Jacobs over many years and early in 2020 he had to tell them of the threat of encroachment onto it by Japanese Knotweed from a local field.

Autumn Tree Walk

Our Tree Warden, Cllr Andrew Beeston is hoping to arrange a Guided Walk around the parish, paying attention to notable trees in our area. Dates have to be flexible to comply with COVID rules as they change but it is hoped that this will take place in the early Autumn.

If you are interested in joining us, drop us an email for more information closer to the time or keep an eye on the website and noticeboards where the Walk will be advertised.

Return to Physical Meetings

During Lockdown provision was made for the monthly parish council meeting to take place using Zoom Conferencing. However, physical meetings have resumed in the Cricket Club on Blaguegate Lane and you are welcome to attend. We must abide by whatever Covid rules are in place so you may be requested to wear a face mask (unless exempt), provide contact details, and maintain social distancing. Whilst inside the venue.

For up-to-date information, please see the parish council website at:-

www.lathomsouthpc.co.uk

The Local Plan

West Lancashire Borough Council published the latest (2020/21) 'Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment' (SHELAA) on the Council website at

www.westlancls.gov.uk/shelaa

This lists the sites that members of the public, developers / consultants and other stakeholders have submitted to the Council as potential future development sites. The sites are assessed against criteria to determine their suitability.

Not all of the sites will be suitable but some may be taken forward into the next draft revision of The Local Plan. So please be aware of this process and take a look at the website if you want further information.

A Plea from Local Land Owners

When out walking on our public footpaths, please:

- Keep to the route, avoid straying onto the crops.
- Dog owners, please pick up after your dog.
- Take litter home with you.
- Remember it is prohibited to cycle along a Public Footpath.

In the autumn, they offered to donate the land to the Parish Council.

The transfer has been completed and work has now begun to clear the area of some self-seeded trees and convert it into managed woodland, with public access.

It will be good for wildlife and for the environment, as well as enhancing the appeal of our footpath network, for which we have received many approving comments already.

We have been in touch with the farmer and the owners of this field to get the Japanese Knotweed professionally treated.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to Mr and Mrs Jacobs for their generosity and so, with their agreement, has called the area "Jacobs Wood".

A good deal of investment will be required to bring it to a finished state, so please be patient and allow our contractor, Andrew Greenough, of Working Woodlands and his team to get on with the job undisturbed.

Emerging from Lockdown: A Councillor's Musings

It's been an unusual year. One that's been filled with sadness and grief for many of us yet also one which has given us the time to reflect on what we cherish the most. For me that list includes talking to friends and loved ones - albeit now via video calling, cooking and baking, DIY, reading, and gardening.

When the first lockdown was introduced over 12 months ago the weather was much as it is now. The dark nights of winter fading away and the days starting to get a little warmer bringing with them the new blossoms of spring. I took to the footpaths of Lathom South and began exploring the local area. I have particularly fond memories of that time because it was so peaceful. The sound of garden birdsong took centre stage as the hustle and bustle of 'normal life' was put on hold, cars left idle and aeroplanes grounded.

The air felt cleaner and less polluted - it was as if we had turned back time by a few hundred years or so. For a moment I dreamed we had solved the climate change crisis overnight and as restrictions begin to ease and we get back to our daily lives we should perhaps be wary of a return to that same 'normal' that is having such a devastating impact on the natural world. Anyway, I digress. There was something eerily beautiful about walking past the fish ponds on footpath 22 early one morning and watching a Heron fishing there as the mist lifted rather than the usual sombre array of silent silhouettes beneath their umbrellas.

A Message from Lancashire Police

Through Lancashire Talking you can let us know what it's like to live in your area and gives you the chance to tell us what issues matter most to you. It is also an opportunity for you to raise any concerns you may have.

Significantly, your feedback received via Lancashire Talking enables our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, together with partner agencies, to act on the information received and tackle the issues raised.

In doing so, you are given a voice in how we prioritise our Neighbourhood Policing activity.

Members of our community messaging system *In The Know* will then receive updates from their Neighbourhood Policing Team about the action taken based on the feedback we receive.

Get involved. Have your say by visiting

www.stayintheknow.co.uk/LancashireTalking

PCSO Aisha Cooper is aware of the problem of off-road bikes and quads and has asked that residents report any sightings of such nuisance vehicles.

Firswood Road

In October 2019 outline planning permission for Wainhomes was agreed, with access arrangements that the Parish Council objected to.

Now the application 2020/0906/ARM is a request to approve reserved matters but the applicants have included an array of assumptions that they can reduce the amount of open space and remove trees that we cannot accept.

In summary: the plans now show-

- Housing is in proximity of Slate Brook but no SUDS scheme is included.
- The open land around the Powder House has been reduced.
- The tree grouping at the corner of the site, next to Old Engine Lane has been replaced by housing.
- Freshwater pipeline not complete
- Foul water drainage scheme missing
- Electricity Route missing
- Confusing footpath system based on a misunderstanding that public footpaths are also cycleways
- Firswood Road frontages have inlets with red chippings at intervals suggesting that this is a suitable parking area, and it is not.
- Water attenuation schemes are inserted as though they contribute to public open space and they cannot.

If affected by the proposal, please do take a look on the WLBC Planning Portal and make your comments online.

I began noticing more and more wildlife - Buzzards circling high above on the thermals, occasionally getting pestered by angry Crows if they flew too low. Kestrels hovering over scrub land at the edge of fields, wings flapping in frantic bursts, tails adjusting for balance with head perfectly still, eyes intently searching the ground for the next meal. I remember a young Robin, not yet with its ruddy red breast, coming to explore the garden and keep me company as I moved soil around in preparation for the annual planting of vegetable crops that the local farmers were also doing, albeit on a much larger scale and with flocks of Seagulls swarming on the newly ploughed fields keeping them company.

'Tractor Watch' has become a daily form of entertainment for me recently. Take solace where you can find it! Then later in the year the cacophony of Geese migrating in their seemingly disorganised v-shaped flocks, honking noisily in a not-so-rhythmic chorus similar to the sound a row of parked cars with their alarms going off in unison would make - I remember laughing at the odd Goose up there, forging its own path away from the others, towards 'wherever' and I couldn't help but think it reminded me very much of myself, wandering aimlessly around the Parish footpaths in ever increasing circles.

One day there was a Peacock, standing in the porch of a house just off Firswood Road, occasionally knocking at the door with its beak.

I presume it was waiting for its breakfast, as was I after another early morning ramble through Jacobs Wood and along the old railway line.

I was even fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of a Barn Owl hunting in the field at dusk near to footpath 142 between Blaguegate playing fields and Holland's Lane, screeching and swooping menacingly through the mild autumn evening air. I'm pretty certain the Owl got a tasty morsel for its supper. I wondered if the Voles and Weasels that occasion our garden mourned a lost relative that night too.

Along the way I also found myself chatting to the people I met and saying a passing hello to my fellow ramblers and although it's undoubtedly been a year of utter tragedy, I guess what I'm trying to say is we should remember that we are all the individual narrators of our own life stories so we owe it to ourselves - to tell ourselves - the best possible story about our lives that we can. So, if you can, get out there and enjoy nature and the lovely countryside that our Parish offers and I'll be sure to say hello as we pass.

Trash, Trash, Trash

Trash in the meadows
Trash in the streams
Trash in the verges
Trash on the streets

Please do your bit to keep Lathom South Clean

Trash in the gullies
Trash in the park
Trash from fly-tippers dumping their
Trash in the dark

Please act in good faith to keep Lathom South Smart

Trash in the scrubland
Trash all over the paths
Bags of dog waste hang on hedges
Or left strewn in the grass

Please dispose responsibly of *that which Dogs Pass*

Motorists lunch packages
Thrown from their windows
Drift on the wind
And lie rotting in hedgerows

Please spare a thought for our Children's Tomorrows

A beautiful Parish
A great place to Roam
All that we're Asking
Is that you TAKE YOUR TRASH HOME