



Lathom South Parish Council

servicing our local community

Newsletter 30

Winter 2022

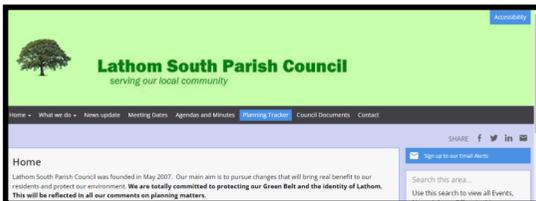
Welcome to the Winter edition of the Lathom South Parish Newsletter.

The Parish Council forms part of the local community, acting on behalf of residents. We will always welcome your input and we would be delighted to see you at our monthly meetings, held on the second Wednesday of the month (apart from August), at the Cricket Club on Blaguegate Lane. Meeting dates and agendas are displayed on the three Parish Noticeboards and on our website.

New Website Launch

We are happy to announce the recent launch of our new website

www.lathomsouthpc.co.uk



Please take a look and let us know what you would like us to include on the site.

One of the new features is a direct link to planning applications received by WLBC Planning Department. Just click on the 'Planning Tracker' tab to see current applications and application status.

Keep abreast of events such as organised local walks and view our newsletters by clicking on the 'News Update' tab.

The new website will evolve over time so please keep taking a look at it over the coming months.

Little Litter Pickers

Back in our Spring newsletter we asked for helpers to do some litter picking along our footpaths. Thank you to all those who got involved.

A special thanks goes out to William, aged 5, and Elizabeth, aged 3, along with their Grandad, who did a fantastic job litter picking. They filled 4



bags with picked rubbish!

The children even sorted the litter they collected so they could recycle as much as possible.

Well done William
and Elizabeth!



Slow Down, Save Lives

The simplest way to avoid road traffic accidents and the millions of deaths and injuries they cause is to **Slow Down**.

Lathom South Parish Council played its part in supporting Lancashire County Councils initiative by erecting a Save Lives Slow Down banner on a fast and dangerous section of Dicks Lane.



Discussions with residents and farmers were all very positive, all felt the signage made a huge difference in reducing excessive speed on what is notoriously a fast and dangerous road.

.....
: Busy traffic on country roads can be unpleasant and dangerous to
: local people, visitors and wildlife - slow down!
:.....



Respect, Protect, Enjoy - The Countryside Code

We are very lucky in Lathom South to have access to rural walks in picturesque surroundings which we hope many of you are able to enjoy. Whilst out making the most of our beautiful surroundings, please remember the Countryside Code. Issued by Natural England, it is designed to make rural areas safe for visitors to enjoy, without infringing the rights of those for whom the countryside is a place of work.

Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside -
Leave livestock alone, even if an animal appears to be in distress. In this case contact the local farmer.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available -
Keeping to paths is especially important in a field where crops are growing.

Protect the environment

- Take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit -
Litter isn't just dangerous to wildlife, dumping rubbish is a criminal offence.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do.
- Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions -
Some areas are restricted during wildlife breeding seasons.
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do -
Some areas of land are restricted if work is being carried out.
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

Woodland Wonders

Jacobs Wood - update

Following the clearance work and additional planting in Jacobs Wood we are pleased to report that the area is now looking much tidier. Most of the invasive weeds have now been eradicated though additional work may be needed next spring when/if any new growth is evident. There is, unfortunately, still some Japanese Knotweed on adjoining land. The land owners have been contacted and some spraying has been carried out - we will need to keep a careful watch on this situation to ensure that the spraying continues in subsequent years to remove this very invasive weed.

It is pleasing to note that the newly planted trees seem to have survived this summer's drought and, hopefully, next year will begin to flourish. The September storms did cause some minor damage to a few older trees but work is ongoing to remove any fallen trees and branches.

As mentioned in the Spring News-letter, two wooden benches have been purchased and installed in Jacobs Wood - a nice peaceful rest stop if you are out walking.



Swells Wood - update

A local forestry contractor was employed by the Parish Council to survey the area for us and to advise on necessary work. The immediate consideration was to remove fallen and dangerous trees along the route of the disused railway and this has now been successfully completed. The informal path is still quite uneven in places but is now a much pleasanter walk.

This is not a formal Public Right of Way but considerate walkers are welcome - bicycles and motorcycles are not allowed and notices to this effect have been installed.



Again invasive weeds have been treated (mostly Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam) and further spraying will be arranged next spring.

Our contractor has also been doing some clearance work in Swells Wood, removing excess regenerating willow etc. to provide more light and space for the previously planted trees to grow. There is lots of work still to be done in this area as funds allow. The possibility of a circular route around the area is under consideration.



Weeping Golden Cedar

The Parish Council also purchased a golden weeping cedar as part of The Queen's Green Canopy and this has been planted in Swells Wood - a wooden plaque will also be installed to mark this special tree.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Our tree will be added to the official "Queen's Green Canopy Map".



Parish Walk

Saturday 1st October 2022
By Cllr Beeston

Some 4 or 5 miles, starting, and more importantly finishing, at a pub - The Plough - with heavenly chocolate cake to reinvigorate the body (and refresh the soul with kindly thoughts) at St. James Church en-route. Two woods, Swells Wood and Jacobs Wood, recently acquired by Lathom South Parish Council, with a pleasant path mostly along the old railway track. Work has been done on Jacobs Wood, with clearance, new planting and with two new benches for resting, picnics and children. LSPC may add one extra path in Swells Wood but its thinking there is more to having a “wild wood” - and to keep both woods strictly for walkers : please, no bikers.



On from Jacobs Wood, across the railway track and then on via a strangely located L-shaped footpath - rare beast - a Public Right of Way (PROW) through the middle of a farmer's crop, probably a historical relic of two old hedge lines, with PROW rights surviving long after the disappearance of the hedges.

Crossing the main road by SWLF, up Holland's Lane, now drier thanks to action by the landowner, right at the Jubilee bench and on via FPs 17 and 15 to

Whiteleys Lane and some road walking, before the cake.... and one of the 15-20 tree varieties on the walk which still carries its identity label (how many spotted it ?)

Lastly, the footpath round the St James cemetery, into Westhead, with a sad glance at the old Halton Castle site, FPs 31 and 30 “round the Meadow” and back up the rest of Dicks Lane to The Plough for rehydration and, for those who could stay, lunch (and I would welcome help in trying to persuade the Plough to offer syrup tart amongst its puddings..)

Thanks to all helpers and the weather and of course all those who joined the walk making it an enjoyable morning. We hope to plan another walk next year so please look out for details on our new website.

In the meantime, whilst out and about walking, look out for some of the fabulous trees located throughout our Parish -

Alder	Ash	Beech	Birch
Cedar	Elder	Hawthorn	Hazel
Holly	Hornbeam	Horse Chestnut	Sweet Chestnut
Larch	Lime	Oak	Pine
Poplar	Rowan	Sycamore	Willow

There are varieties, sometimes lots of varieties of these trees.



Hollands Lane Surface Water

The law on maintenance of water courses is called Riparian Law, which is very old legislation affecting land through or, in certain cases, alongside which water flows. In very brief and general terms a water course can be anything from a small stream to a river and the stream might flow through pipework.

When the natural or designed flow of water is interrupted the consequences can be quite serious. One example is that water flowing down Hollands Lane towards Blaguegate Lane/Dickets Lane (A577) has caused problems for many years and the problem has been complicated by land ownership issues. Hollands Lane itself has no known ownership. Although it is a public footpath, in common with many such footpaths it is not maintained by the highway authority (Lancashire County Council). The most recent public



Ice on Dickets Lane (stock photo)

work carried out to relieve the substantial drainage problems was, in fact, done by LCC more than ten years ago, initially on the basis that water freezing on the surface of the A577 was hazardous and that the responsible parties would be charged for the work. In the event, the charge was never raised.

Various theories about the cause(s) of the problem and likely solutions have been put forward over the years but there has been no dispute about the outcome, with water almost continually flowing down the surface of the lane, onto the main carriageway and along Dickets Lane to the nearest road gullies. Sometimes the flow has extended almost to the middle of the public highway. The Parish Council tried on several occasions to bring about an agreed remedy

for the problems but the various parties were never able to agree what work was needed. Having failed initially to broker an agreement, the Parish Council eventually approached the Lancashire Council Highways Department to enforce the law but it is unclear whether or not that led, directly or indirectly, to action being taken. However, following further representations to one landowner by the Parish Council, involving video footage of water spurting from the surface of a field, work was carried out to unblock a manhole (with sand trap) which lies within the same ownership. This manhole takes field drainage which discharges into an old drain that lies under hedgerows or gardens, and then under the end of Hollands Lane itself, to the road drain under the eastern end of Dickets Lane.

After the dry summer months it was not clear that the work on the manhole had solved the problem; there had been much more rain in recent weeks and surface water had not re-appeared. However, following the more recent spells of very heavy rain (up to 6th November) the flow over the surface has resumed. How persistent this will be when the rain has eased has yet to be seen.



Heavy rain will always cause abnormal water flows and flooding but we remain hopeful that this work has had a positive impact and that the hazard of ice on the A577 during much colder weather will not return. Further work could prove to be necessary but in the meantime we are extremely grateful to the landowner for his willingness to have this work done and trust that regular clearance of the manhole will be carried out in future to help prevent the persistent flow from re-occurring during normal weather conditions.

How to Report Highway Issues



You can now report all highways issues to Lancashire County Council via the **Love Clean Streets** app.

How it works

It's simple to use and your issue can be logged in seconds. The reports will go to the highways team in the usual way, but you will be able to report issues on your mobile whilst out and about.



You can also use the App to report an issue when you get home. Although the App picks up your current location you can move the map to place the pin in the location of the issue being reported.

Attaching a photo to your report (optional) will help LCC inspectors to assess the work quickly.

You will also be able to keep up to date on the progress of your report via the app.



Download the app



The app is free to download.

Simply search for '**Love Clean Streets**' on the App store or Google Play Store on your mobile phone or tablet.

Set **Lancashire County Council** as your home authority.

Don't want to use the App? No problem..... You can still report highway issues by phone on 0300 123 6780 or on line via the Report It website

www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/

**Please note that any reports you make via the app, will not be visible on the Report It website.*

Severe Weather



Lancashire County Council advice for residents:

- **Find out if you are on a gritting route and don't block the road** - if you park your car on a main road or gritting route during winter, please make sure it's not causing an obstruction as blocked roads could mean we are unable to grit that road.

Gritting map: www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter/gritting/gritting-map/

- **Stock up on salt/grit** - stock up on salt/grit for your personal use from a range of DIY stores. It's also useful to have a snow shovel, a torch, batteries and a first aid kit handy.

- **Take extra care** - during freezing conditions do not assume a road has been treated and drive with caution, ice could have formed despite our efforts.

- **Clearing snow and ice yourself** - there is no law about clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property or public spaces.

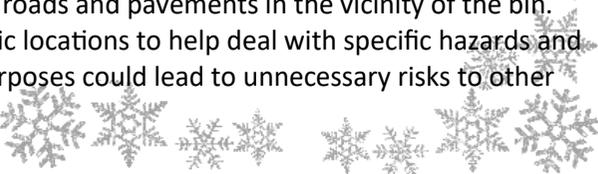
More information about clearing snow: www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter/were-prepared-are-you/tips-for-clearing-snow-and-ice/

- **Travelling safely during the winter** - check the weather forecast before you set off and leave extra time for your journey during winter.

Travelling safely: www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter/travelling-safely/

- **Looking after older and vulnerable people** - look after yourself and keep an eye on friends, relatives and older neighbours who may be more vulnerable to the cold weather, especially if they suffer from any ongoing medical conditions.

- **Grit bins** - how often we re-fill grit bins depends on a number of factors including weather, the number of grit bins needing to be filled, and the availability of material. Help everyone by not using the grit for purposes other than for gritting the roads and pavements in the vicinity of the bin. They are placed in strategic locations to help deal with specific hazards and using the grit for other purposes could lead to unnecessary risks to other people if the grit runs out.



Contact Details

Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith
Oakdene, 1 Vale Lane, Lathom, L40 6JH
Telephone: 07495 970005

Email: lathomsouthpc.clerk@yahoo.com

Website: www.lathomsouthpc.co.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

- Andrew Beeston
- Carol Blackledge (Vice-Chairman)
- Andrew Chanter
- Roger Clayton (Chairman)
- Ian Moran
- Ernie Pallas

All contact via the Clerk

**Meetings held at 7:30pm the
Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, WN8 8TY**
Meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of
the month but please check the website

www.lathomsouthpc.co.uk

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



Wishing you all a happy and safe festive season