New queens at the double

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ONE could be forgiven for thinking that Warrington Borough Council’s decision to approve the Draft Local Plan, releasing around 10 per cent of green belt land for housing and employment needs, was the green light for developers to put forward their plans.

Within a matter of days of the draft plan being approved, Eddie Stobart had re-submitted their controversial plan to build a brand new national distribution centre on green belt land at Appleton Thorn – previously rejected for various reasons, including being premature. Then a few days later Langtree submitted their own planning application for another huge logistics distribution centre on neighbouring green belt land – both applications coming on the back of some limited public exhibitions and consultations.

While both planning applications have been submitted and indeed, Eddie Stobart’s first attempt is currently going to appeal, there is still a long way to go.

First we have eight weeks of public consultation on the Draft Local Plan, starting on April 15 and if the feedback is anything like last time, it is going to take the borough council many months to process the information and report back the findings. And let’s be clear, just because the Borough Council has indicated areas of land in the Green Belt to be released for possible development, it still needs to have the criteria of exceptional need and meet other planning guidelines.

With the nearby M56 and Lymm Truck Stop, this is already one of the most congested road networks in the North West, with regular motorway tailbacks causing chaos on local roads and major pollution issues in the town. I remain far from convinced these green field sites are the right place for major logistic developments.

With many more homes already on the horizon, we need to make sure our infrastructure can cope, while at the same time addressing the serious pollution issues our town is facing. Before we even consider huge distribution centres on precious green belt land.

Please make sure you make your voices heard during the consultation - because these huge logistics centres are right on Lymm’s doorstep and we already have the largest truck wheel washing facility in Europe set to open this autumn!
Speed limiter plan for new cars welcomed by campaigner

LYMM’S Rod King, campaign director for the national “20’s Plenty” movement, has welcomed plans for in-car speed limiters as “a game changer for road safety.”

Mr King was commenting on EU proposals – which will be observed in the UK – to make in-car speed limiters compulsory on all new vehicles from 2022.

He said: “Speed limiters being widely used are a total game changer for road safety and quality of life. This will transform compliance levels and make obsolete any previous complaints about speed limits being ‘ignored’ by drivers.”

Effective

But he cautioned: “However, for a speed limit and limiter to be effective we do need the correct set of speed limits across our community road network and there is overwhelming evidence that 20mph should be the maximum speed limit where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists.

“Now in anticipation of ISA (intelligent speed assistance) technology, we should set a national urban/village 20mph default, with exceptions decided locally.

“It will transform the way we share the streets in our communities and provide the required conditions for a healthier and more active nation.”

Campaigns by the 20’s Plenty group have resulted in many towns and cities introducing 20mph areas – including Warrington.

Many cars already have speed limiters as optional extras. London buses already successfully use ISA technology to ensure drivers obey 20mph limits. Goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes and buses are already maximum speed limited.

The plan is not just for speed limiters but also for black box recorders which would track overrides and which would be available to insurance companies who would be likely to penalise offenders.

Speed limiters are also part of the EU proposals for in-car speed limiters, which will be compulsory on all new vehicles from 2022. The proposals also include black box recorders, which would track overrides and be available to insurance companies.

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May 13
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Speaker: Anna Alexander
Subject: Child Labour in Warrington in the 19th Century
Lymm Village Hall, 8pm

May 14
LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
7.30pm Lymm Village Hall

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB
Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP
Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Oughtonide Community Centre, Lymm
Details: 01925 755126

ROTOR CLUB OF LYMM
Every Wednesday at Statham Lodge Hotel 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Contact the secretary 01925 650189

LOVING HEARTS & HANDS
Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church, 2nd and 4th Thursday each month
1.30pm - 3pm. Details 01925 753298

MARKET LUNCHES
Eagle Brow Methodist Church
3rd Thursday in the month.
Light lunches 12 noon till 2pm. All proceeds to Youth For Christ and YMCA Room at the Inn.

LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
St Mary’s Church Hall
Second and fourth Fridays (Sept - May) 7.30pm
Details: 753853

GARDENING CLUB
Meet Third Wednesday of the month, Lymm Baptist Church, Higher Lane. 7.30pm
Visitors welcome. £2 includes tea and cake
Details: 01925 650189

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP
Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm
Visitors welcome. £2 includes tea and cake
Details: 01925 756378

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Celebrating 20 years of Lymm Life on an open top bus!

Lymm Town Crier Peter Powell, who says he feared Lymm village was “dying” 20 years ago, helped Lymm Life magazine celebrate two decades of publishing, hailing the special anniversary from the top of the open top double decker bus.

Peter, who has been the official town crier for Lymm for 25 years, was delighted to help the village’s free community magazine celebrate its 20th anniversary with an open top bus tour around the village centre, courtesy of Warrington’s Own Buses.

When asked what changes he had seen over the past 20 years, Peter, who is a local independent parish councillor, says he feared Lymm was dying at the turn of the century.

But thanks to the many hard working community minded people, local festivals and events and Lymm Life, he believed Lymm, as village, was now going from strength to strength.

Lymm Life was launched in March 1999 and soon became the official publication for the village, engaging in local community events throughout the year.

While many traditional print media have suffered from online competition, Lymm Life has moved with the times, engaging with social media as a sister publication to warrington-worldwide, which was also launched online 20 years ago, as the first independent online newspaper in the country.
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LYMM based businessman Andy Carter has been selected as the Conservative MP candidate for Warrington South.

The 45-year-old business owner is the deputy chairman of Warrington Conservatives and former Managing Director of Smooth Radio.

Andy, who lives in Lymm, with his family, started his career in commercial radio while at university, before going on to run one of the north west’s most successful media companies. He now runs his own consultancy and mail order business.

He said: “As a resident here I know the issues that matter locally, such as building on the greenbelt in Lymm and Appleton, congestion over the swing bridges into the town centre, the future use of Fiddlers Ferry Power Station and how we ensure young people can afford to own their own homes.”

“They’re the issues I hear about when I talk to my family and friends and when I knock on the doors and speak to residents. If elected as the next Conservative MP for Warrington South, I will champion these issues.

Residents here deserve better than what Labour has to offer. In just the last few days we’ve seen how Labour don’t listen to local people as they press ahead with their local plan to build more than 5,000 homes on the greenbelt. It’s now time for a change and I believe I am the right person to represent them as their MP, standing up and fighting for them and their ambitions here in Warrington and in Westminster.”

Among his priorities if elected would be to campaign for improvements to Warrington’s rail and road networks, so that the area’s economy can fully function without the hindrance of endless traffic jams.

He said: “I know how frustrating it can be sitting in queues around Bridgefoot when you’re trying to get to a meeting, time really is money. Our town has enjoyed significant economic success recently but we’ve not seen the necessary infrastructure investment to allow us to grow our economy further.

We also need to take steps to future proof our High Streets in village and town centres, so we can secure jobs and develop centres which are of value to communities in the future.”

Andy is also passionate about the National Health Service, having recently experienced the care given to an elderly family member at Warrington Hospital.

He said: “I’ve seen first-hand the dedication and compassion from our doctors and nurses within the NHS. The investment being delivered by the government in their long-term plan needs to benefit Warrington and I would want to see plans brought forward to deliver a new hospital for our town, fit for the 21st century.”

Andy was selected during a meeting at Statham Lodge, Lymm.
As we look forward to Spring and Summer the Parish Council is as always seeking to improve Lymm village for all those who live and work here. Last time we had hopes for positive moves forward in the managing of litter and issues around The Cross in the village centre. We are happy to report as a Parish Council that the CCTV cameras are due to be installed very soon which will help all concerned to monitor such activity in the village centre.

Can we emphasise again that to help with all incidents in the village, please report them to 101. Cheshire Constabulary records the calls to this number and it helps both the local and regional police assess the situation for the area. So, if you see an incident or experience an incident let the police know by calling 101. Of course, if it is an incident that you feel needs emergency assistance ring 999.

The Parish Council is aiming to install a new toilet at the Dam so that we can maintain Green Flag status and it also helps regarding tourism within the village. This will take place in the next few months. A second detection of speeding device has also been purchased to help with safety around the roads in the village.

Events to look forward to: The Annual Duck Race – we hope that you take part in this excellent event for charity which takes place on Easter Monday at 12.30pm. Ducks will be on sale soon at The Cross. Lymm May Queen returns in May once more – keep the date 18th May in your diary. Whilst June heralds the start of Lymm Festivities followed by Transport Day on 23rd June – again put that date in your diary.

Finally, many thanks to our retiring Chair Cllr Anna Fradgley for all her hard work this last year and a warm welcome to Cllr Geoff Hawley who takes over role in May.

Contact information:
Clerk to the Council: Kerry Duffin - 07741 877870
clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Website:
www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lymm Parish Council 2018-19

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Email: ppowell@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk
Planning chiefs have given the go-ahead for a new, floodlit artificial turf sports pitch at Lymm High School – despite objections from nearby residents and Lymm Parish Council.

The new pitch is not a replacement for the existing all-weather pitch but for an additional one.

Objectors were not, in the main, opposed to the principle of the additional pitch but were concerned about the impact of noise and light spillage on nearby houses.

But the borough council’s development management committee decided the scheme could go ahead.

The committee was told the new pitch would have perimeter fencing and entrance gates and an area of hardstanding.

Sixteen floodlights would be placed on eight 15-metre high columns.

Lymm Parish Council said it had no objection in principle to the development but argued that the pitch be moved to a position more sympathetic to neighbours in terms of providing screen from the glare of the floodlights.

Neighbours claimed the existing floodlit already caused considerable glare due to light spillage.

The committee was told the development would be more than 60 metres from the main school building, part of which was Grade 2 Listed. The nearest house was about 100 metres away so it was not considered light spillage would cause a glare problem.

Use of the field for football would free time on the existing pitch for other sports, such as hockey.
The last remaining RAF flying Dakota will take to the skies over Lymm at the seventh annual Historic Transport Day on June 23.

Seventy five years ago the Dakota C-47 was doing invaluable work as the workhorse of the RAF and allied forces during World War Two. As well as being a vital transport plane it was also involved in a wide range of troop carrying missions.

Today the RAF retains just one of these aircraft as part of its Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and it is that aircraft that will be visiting Lymm on June 23 where its aerial display will be just one of the highlights of the seventh annual Lymm Historic Transport Day, part of Lymm Festival 2019.

ZA 947 is now painted to represent FZ692 of 233 Squadron. This aircraft which was nicknamed Kwicheriben by her crews and was involved in para-dropping operations on the eve of D-Day and subsequently in resupply and casualty evacuation missions, into and out of forward airfields in the combat areas.

“We are delighted to have been able to extend our event to the air for the third successive year” said Bruce Thomas who has arranged the visit as well as also co-ordinating the traction engine segment of the show. Bruce who’s day job is as a long haul pilot for Virgin Atlantic will be a familiar sight to locals as the owner of a ¾ size steam lorry which has become a feature of many local events.

“We are delighted to have been able to extend our event to the air for the third successive year” said Bruce Thomas who has arranged the visit as well as also co-ordinating the traction engine segment of the show. Bruce who’s day job is as a long haul pilot for Virgin Atlantic will be a familiar sight to locals as the owner of a ¾ size steam lorry which has become a feature of many local events.

“The Lytham Historic Transport Day has been the perfect event for me as it enables me to indulge my two passions whilst also helping to develop this fabulous community event” added Bruce.

This year’s show will have a military flavour and organisers are also hoping to see more visitors and exhibitors than ever “dress the part” in costume of the last hundred years.

The search is still on for more volunteers. If you can give just three hours to help the run day run smoothly visit the website and register now at lymmtransport.org.uk/volunteer or call Event Director Alan Williams on 07540-096282.
New queens at the double

RAVENBANK Primary School has the honour of providing both the Lymm May Queen and Rose Queen for this year’s event on Saturday May 18.

The new May Queen will be 10-year-old Isobel “Issy” Boucher. Her parents are Karen Taylor who owns Jessobel Boutique in the village and David Boucher, tennis coach at Lymm Tennis Club.

She has two sisters Jessyca aged 13 and Harriet aged three.

Described as an outdoor girl Issy enjoys netball and cycling. Her best friends are Lucy, Lizzie and Jess.

Meanwhile the new Rose Queen will be Olivia Lombardi Brown, who is originally from Ft Lauderdale in Florida, but moved to Lymm with her family when she was aged three.

She is an active member of Lymm twin Town Society, as well as having taken part in Lymm Transport Day parade for the past two years.

Olivia was honoured to be in the Rose Queen retinue last year. She enjoys horse riding and gardening with her grandmother.

She aspires to be a doctor and an environmentalist to help others understand how to care for our natural environment.

Most weekends she can be seen walking around the village centre making sure she stops to greet every passing dog!

Both girls are pictured with last year’s May Queen Jasmine Clews, aged 12, a pupil at Lymm High School.

New access approved for Lymm May Queen Field

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for a new vehicle access to Lymm’s historic May Queen Field.

The new access will be from Mayfield View, but it is intended that it will only be used to gain entry to the field for the two festivals held on the field every year – Lymm May Queen Festival and the Historic Transport Day.

It will be used only as an emergency access to the site, with the majority of vehicles continuing to use the existing access from Pepper Street.

Five neighbours expressed concerns that the proposal could lead to more development, that previous applications for housing on the field had been refused because of lack of access, and that the new entrance is not necessary.

They point out that the existing events have been running for many years without any problems.

The field has Village Green status, meaning it is protected from development.
LYMM Golf Club will launch its “Spring into Golf” campaign on Thursday May 9 with an open evening and taster sessions designed to appeal to golfers of all abilities and any individuals or families interested in taking up the sport.

Club officials say it is a great chance to have a look at one of Cheshire’s best courses and most friendly clubs which offers something to players of all ages and abilities.

The event takes place between 4.30 – 8pm with a chance to try out the game, have a go at putting, walk the course and learn more about a great sport that is now so accessible.

The event is likely to be very popular so email: tasterevening@lymmgolfclub.co.uk for more details and to register an interest.
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So apart from affordability, why has rental become so popular again?

Many people moving into their first homes are now turning to rental so they can keep in touch with the latest technology.

There is also peace of mind that if something goes wrong it can easily be exchanged - and there is always a team of experts on hand.

So don’t delay - if you are looking for the latest Smart TV or new gadgets or white goods for your home, call in at the Martin Dawes showroom at Westbrook where help and advice is free!
Lymm in Bloom prepare to create new bog garden!

LYMM in Bloom volunteers are set to make a bog garden in Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park as part of this year’s entry to the Britain in Bloom North West competition.

The volunteers have also been working hard to create a welcoming bed in the Davies Way Car Park, a border in Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park and a rose garden in the Sunken Garden.

After last year’s “drought”, the group are trying to come up with ideas to help use water better.

Chairman Ben Selwood said: “We have made great progress since we have started, seven years ago. Back then, some of the weeds in Sunken Garden were four foot high. Now we have thinned out the shrubs, painted and cleaned the street furniture, weeded and planted the garden up and it is a credit to the village. This year we are planning to continue our success by creating a bog garden for the park.”

The group also has big plans for the future, including a couple of new beds in Ridgway Grundy, a woodland walk and a new planter at the dam head. They are also working with the Bright Futures School Allotment and Oughtingston Community Orchard for this year’s entry.

Thanking all the volunteers that keep the working group going, Ben added: “We need to recruit volunteers to keep the momentum going, now we are well established. The village does not plant and water itself. All the planting in the village centre is done and looked after by volunteers.”

“We are also appealing to business to help by doing bloom themed window displays for when the judging takes place in July/August time.”

The group is also extremely grateful about the support they receive from Lymm Parish Council and receive help from many of the other groups and businesses in Lymm such as the Lymm Festivities Group, Lymm Jubilee WI, Keep Lymm Kleen, Lymm Jubilee Gardening Club, Lymm Open Gardens, as well as Warrington Borough Council’s Street Services department. Volunteers from Lymm in Bloom also run a gardening club at Statham Community Primary School, as well as helping to look after the grounds at St Peter’s Church.

Lymm in Bloom is always looking for volunteers to help plant, weed, deadhead and litter pick areas in Lymm. The group meet every last Sunday in the month at 10:30am in Sunken Garden (In between Sexton’s and Karl Welsh Florists).

More details can be found on the Lymm in Bloom website www.lymminbloom.btck.co.uk

Keep Lymm Kleen group go litter-picking

THIRTEEN members of the Keep Lymm Kleen group carried out a group litter pick in the village to contribute to Keep Britain Tidy’s Great British Spring Clean.

The group carry out regular, monthly litter picks in an effort to keep Lymm’s streets free of rubbish – but they could do with a little help.

Anyone interested in joining the cause, even if only on an ad-hoc basis, should contact co-ordinator Brian Harman by email at ruinbruin@talktalk.net
Abba, Easter fun and scarecrows – its all hotting up for Lymm Festival

LYMM Festival’s recent sell-out ABBA Winter Warmer Mamma Mia proved to be a great success!

The evening kicked off with an hour of live music from the band. Dancing queens Helen Elliott and Vassillenna Kolarova provided outstanding vocals and glamour and were ably supported by supernovas Nic Sims, Martin Fowler and Paul Thompson. Steve Harper also made a guest appearance.

The enthusiastic audience – including party-goers who had turned out in memorable 1970s fashions - took a chance and joined in. A keenly contested ABBA quiz followed (it seems that ABBA songs played backwards make more sense after a glass or two) and then the floor was filled for an ABBA-themed disco. Thank you to all involved, both for the music and the donations.

The money raised was divided between Lymm Festival and the fundraising effort to develop the community facilities at Eagle Brow Methodist Church which is aiming to upgrade the existing premises.

The building is already used by a range of community organisations and activities, but the intention is to update the whole building and make it a suitable performance space for music, drama and dance.

More fundraising events are planned soon so look out for details.

Lymm Festival’s final “Winter Warmer” Easter Eggstravaganza will provide the perfect entertainment for the whole family this Easter holidays. Come along to an Easter Eggstravaganza in the Village Hall from 11:00am – 4:00pm on Saturday April 13.

There will be craft activities for the kids, including making Easter hats and wreaths, decorating jam jar light holders and decorating ginger biscuits. Three activities are included in the entry ticket. There will also be face painting by the lovely team from Kids Planet.

There will also be a baking competition for just £1 per entry. Adults can bake either three hot cross buns or one of a decorated Easter chocolate cake or Victoria sponge cake. Kids can enter too with three small Easter nests.

Bring your completed cakes to the Village Hall at 11:00am to join in.

Refreshments will be sold in aid of Marie Curie and there will be a brilliant range of stalls, including Studio Squee (playful products to make), Daisy-Jane Bakery, Lemon Studio pottery and Cheshire Soaps.

All this for just £2.50 for children (includes 3 activities) and 50p for adults. There will be no advance tickets so just turn up on the day and pay on the door. It is sure to be another fun event to end the bumper season of Winter Warmers.

Meanwhile with the Summer Festival just around the corner, the theme for this year’s scarecrow trail is Explorers and Exploration. Get your thinking caps on now to create an unforgettable scarecrow. This year organisers are suggesting you build scarecrows on a smaller scale so that they can be displayed in your window, porch or garden.

This should mean less work, but definitely no less fun!

Organisers already know several local businesses will be displaying scarecrows to accompany the Festival scarecrow in the St Rocco’s shop window, but it would be great to get more businesses involved so that the scarecrows can be really present in the village centre. Many people follow the scarecrow trail so this is the perfect opportunity to showcase the beautiful village and all it has to offer.

Registration forms will be available from Lymm Electric, Bridgewater Street from May 2 and completed forms must be returned by June 8 with the £5 registration fee. For more details, please visit lymmfestival.org.uk
THE funeral has taken place of Alfred Breen, aged 90, of Hopefield Road, Lymm, who died at Heathercroft Nursing home on December 4.

Born in Broadheath, Alf became a Lymm resident upon marrying his late wife, Barbara. Afterwards he remained in the village for more than six decades.

After completing his National Service as part of an RAF crash crew, he later returned to the emergency services in a civilian role with Cheshire Fire Service as a control room operator based at Warrington.

He was a keen gardener and together with Barbara enjoyed all aspects of village life. He is survived by his son, John, nieces and nephews.

He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

The funeral took place at Dunham Massey Crematorium and funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and sons of Lymm.

‘Rev Bev’ has bats in her belfry

THE Rev Beverley Jameson has bats in her belfry – or to put it more correctly, in her church belfry!

She also has mice in the church – and in fact one even attended a meeting of the Parochial Church Council recently.

So the “Rev Bev” and other officials at St Mary’s Church, Lymm, have decided to put their furry friends to work raising money for the church.

The Rector said: “St Mary’s has some severe financial challenges to maintain the church building and the church hall in the coming years, so we are looking at ways to raise funds.

“We will be having a stall at The May Queen Festival on May 18 and as we have mice and bats also living at St Mary’s we thought it would be nice to make mice and bats to sell on our stall.

“Some of our church congregation have begun to knit, crochet and make felt soft toys. If you would like to help us and are willing to make soft toy mice or bats - a bat being a mouse with felt wings attached - please drop off your home made creatures on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10 am and 12 noon or after a Sunday Service (about 11.30am).

“There are plenty of patterns and ideas on line and there are also some patterns available at the back of church.”

Churches come together to mark Good Friday

LYMM’S churches will get together on Good Friday (April 19) at 12 noon for a half-hour celebration of what is an important date on the Christian calendar.

St Mary’s Parish Church, St Peter’s Church, Oughtrington, Lymm Methodist Church, the Cherry Lane Independent Methodist Church, St Winifride’s RC Church, Lymm United Reformed Church and Lymm Baptist Church will all be represented at the event at Lymm Cross.

There will be readings, hymns and prayers to mark the occasion.

The Rev Beverley James, chairman of Churches Together in Lymm and District, said: “We have not had anything like this before. It is an important day in the Christian calendar and it is very special that we can all gather together to remember Jesus on Good Friday. Everyone is welcome to join us”

Village tennis youngsters win five out of five!

THE junior section of High Legh Tennis Club pulled-off an amazing achievement in Cheshire County winter league competitions – winning in five different age groups.

It was a record year for the club who entered 16 junior teams in red, orange, green and full yellow ball competitions. Reaching the finals of five competitions and then winning all was an unprecedented performance.

The girls’ Under 12 competition was particularly noteworthy as High Legh not only were crowned champions but came runners-up too. They were up against top clubs and organisations such as Brooklands, Widnes Tennis Academy and David Lloyd Cheshire Oaks.

Head of Tennis Emma Silcock said: “We are all incredibly proud of the achievements of the juniors and the successful programme at the club that has helped bolster our membership from 64 in 2016 to 154 this year, with more than 50 per cent being juniors.

“Not bad for a three-court club with limited facilities and finances. At our core is being a friendly and supportive local facility, providing access to tennis for all, with a large spacious of fun. Huge thanks also must go to the support of club chairman Matt Bannon and all the committee”. 

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