

## **Antrobus Parish Council Chair Report May 2023**

Antrobus Parish Council (APC) consider various issues at our monthly meetings and Minutes are circulated through Antrobus Village News (AVN) and our website. We welcome members of the public who would like to attend the open session at the start of our meetings. This report highlights a few of the matters that have arisen over the past year.

### **Highways**

The lack of maintenance of our roads and pavements by Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) is a constant concern and is despite continued complaints from APC. This is not uncommon in rural parishes. In July 2022 a team of parish councillors cleared a large part of Knutsford Road pavement.

Potholes are also a continuing problem with patching rather than repairs being carried out. APC encourages everyone to report potholes and other maintenance issues with CWAC.

Parking at the junction of School Lane and Knutsford Road was becoming a risk for pedestrians and drivers and measures taken appear to have alleviated the situation.

Several verges in the village were identified as being suitable for wild flower seeding. The wild flowers are not only aesthetically pleasing but are ecologically beneficial. Thanks to Councillors Helen Vanek and Andy Dunkley for progressing this. To protect wild flowers APC reached agreement with CWAC in relation to a reduced verge cutting regime.

### **Arley Hall**

In summer 2022 due to the extremely dry ground conditions concerns were raised by residents in relation to the fireworks competition being held at Arley Hall. APC contacted MLE Pyrotechnics, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and Arley Hall. Due to concerns raised by APC safety measures were reviewed and details provided which allayed many concerns raised by villagers.

### **Warm space initiative**

APC approached Antrobus Village Hall (AVH) to suggest that a warm space be provided for residents during the cold months. This suggestion was approved by AVH and has become a popular regular event which is to continue during the warmer months. Thanks to Councillors Carol Bunn and Paul Harrison for taking this forward with AVH.

### **Planning**

APC has considered numerous planning applications taking into account concerns raised by villagers. The backlog of planning applications that are outstanding with CWAC remains a concern. One applicant appealed the refusal of planning and as a result APC prepared a detailed response to CWAC. The appeal was unsuccessful.

### **Community Emergency Plan**

The Community Emergency Plan and the Flood Action Plan prepared by APC are dynamic plans which are constantly being reviewed as required. The plans are on APC website and contain detailed information for use in an emergency. It is disappointing that flood reports and action plans have not yet been forthcoming from CWAC despite APC continuing to chase for these.

### **Village tidy up**

A team of volunteers renovated the centre of the village in time for Remembrance Sunday 2022 and a new union jack flag was purchased.

In April 2023 residents of the village worked hard to litter pick our lanes, clean signage, tidy the bus shelter and scrub benches.

Thanks to all involved.

### **Playground and defibrillator**

Thanks to Councillors Helen Metcalfe and Carol Bunn who have inspected the defib and playground regularly.

Thanks also to Councillor Chris Wright who is in the process of installing two new benches which have been purchased by APC for the playground.

APC has also contributed to the cost of a second defibrillator at The Antrobus Arms.

### **Antrobus Village Shop and Antrobus Village News**

By acting as the public body qualified to ask for a Community Right to Build Order (CRtB) APC has continued to support Antrobus Village Shop with their application for a CRtB in connection with the shop redevelopment.

APC has supported AVN with the cost of publication.

### **Manley Close**

APC has actively supported efforts by individuals to negotiate the process for applying for Manley Close vacancies.

Finally my thanks to Simon Palmer for his invaluable advice as clerk over the past 12 months. Thanks also to Simon and my fellow councillors who have without hesitation given their time for the benefit of the village. At the recent May election your councillors have been elected unopposed for a further 4 year term.

Ms C Bailey