

## **Antrobus Parish Council Chair Report May 2024**

Antrobus Parish Council (APC) holds regular meetings throughout the year which are usually held in St Marks Parish Church. Members of the public are very welcome to attend so that they can raise issues of concern at the open forum.

This report highlights some of the matters that have arisen over the past 12 months.

### **Planning**

APC has considered numerous planning applications this year . In some cases villagers have attended the open forum to voice their concerns in relation to planning applications and this has proved very helpful. In several cases detailed comments in connection with a planning application have been provided to the planning authority Cheshire West & Chester (CWAC) and in one case this resulted in the planning authority requiring part of a building to be removed.

### **Highways**

The managed decline of highways by CWAC has resulted in a proliferation of potholes. These can cause not insignificant damage to vehicles but are also a danger to cyclists and pedestrians. APC record, report and chase CWAC concerning potholes.

There has been fly tipping in our village which has been reported to CWAC. Due to the vigilance of our residents information provided has enabled the police to investigate although we await to hear the outcome of the investigation.

Verges in the village have been sown with wild flower seeds so we can reap the aesthetic and environmental benefits. Whilst this has proved popular one area has been cut back several times so will no longer be sown.

Dog fouling was a problem in summer 2023. There was also a report of a dog with threatening behaviour. These matters were reported to CWAC Regulatory Services who visited the village in order to identify the owners of the dog. The matters were reported to the police.

Villagers are requested to continue to register complaints about potholes, fly tipping and dog fouling on the CWAC website so that action can be taken.

The timing of the cutting of verges was changed last year and met with broad approval.

### **Playground and defibrillator**

Thanks to Councillors Helen Metcalfe and Carol Bunn for carrying out the regular inspections of the playground and the defibrillator.

New benches were purchased for the playground and thanks to Councillor Chris Wright for installing these.

A replacement slide is being sourced with a view to installing it later this year.

### **Village tidy up**

Last month was the annual village tidy up and thanks to all those who supported this. It really does make a difference. Also, Vale Royal Rotary have repaired the village centre bench.

### **Antrobus Village Shop**

APC has supported Antrobus Village Hall and Antrobus Community Shop Association with their application for a Community Right to Build Order (CRtBO). The progress of the CRtBO with CWAC has not been without problems and many hours have been spent trying to progress the application with CWAC. Efforts continue to be made with CWAC in order to deliver a community shop for our village.

### **Antrobus Village News**

APC has continued to support Antrobus Village News with the cost of publication. The importance to Antrobus of such an excellent village magazine cannot be overestimated.

### **Warm space**

This initiative by APC was started last year and has proved to be very popular. Thanks to Councillor Carol Bunn for continuing to run this and thanks also to Antrobus Village Hall for allowing the warm space to take place in the village hall.

### **Antrobus Splash**

Following the publication last year of the village Community Emergency Plan, which includes a flood action plan, Antrobus Splash has been formed. This is a group of villagers, including some parish councillors, who have assumed responsibility for monitoring and managing issues that may arise following heavy rain. This has worked well over the past 12 months with no major incidents and thanks to all of those involved. The clerk met CWAC's flood engineer in January who has agreed to start investigations into drains and gullies.

### **Manley Close**

APC has actively supported individuals in connection with their application for Manley Close vacancies.

### **Cheshire Police**

A representative from Marbury Neighbourhood Team attended our January meeting and we continue to liaise with our local PCSO.

### **Councillors**

All parish councillors were re-elected unopposed in May 2023. Our three ward councillors Councillors Lynn Gibbon, Phil Marshall and Norman Wright were re-elected in May 2023.

Councillors Helen Vanek and Steve Rigby have resigned from APC. Thanks to them for their contributions.

We have two new councillors, Councillor Jon Bloor and Councillor Mark Walsh.

I am also resigning from APC and wish my fellow councillors well for the future under the chairmanship of Simon Batey.

Finally, my thanks to the parish clerk Simon Palmer for his excellent support and guidance over the past 12 months.

Carol Bailey

May 2024