

## Antrobus Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report May 2026

Your parish council continues to devote much of its time responding to issues around planning applications and highways.

The impact of restricted central finances can't be underestimated with the consequence of ongoing delays in the handling of planning applications causing frustrations for private individuals who follow due process, whilst at the same time resulting in an increase in less scrupulous developments.

A backlog of cases for CWACs enforcement team has resulted in recent guidance for parish councils to "prioritise" cases that are raised. How councils are meant to do this is unclear!

To achieve central governments housebuilding ambitions, CWAC have been set an increased target from c900 to around c2000 new houses per annum, hence the recent consultations about developments planned in settlements outlying Northwich.

Ongoing liaison with CWACs Highways department takes place with respect to road condition (potholes), speed limits, pavements, drainage and overhanging trees. We have all seen regular activity with road closures and a variety of action. The concern about efficiency and quality of repairs remains!

The subject of speed limits recurs regularly, with what appear to be limits inconsistent with the type of road or lane, traffic flow and numbers of properties.

CWACs response remains that in the absence of KSIs (their acronym for evidence of Killed / Serious Injury), based on existing policy, there is no reason to modify limits.

Fortunately there have been no significant flooding events recently; ancillary drainage work associated with the build of the new Community Hub / Tea room identified certain issues within and on the periphery of the Village Hall grounds. These were rectified and it is anticipated that they will provide a substantial drainage benefit moving forward.

Antrobus Parish Council benefits from regular contact with their ward councillors, Phil Marshall and Lynn Gibbon and their support continues to be greatly appreciated.

Specific tasks undertaken by the parish council this year:

- arranging for yellow lines outside school to be repainted
- liaison with bus company about timetable through village
- discussion with landowners about maintaining / reinstating footpaths
- visit at property owners request to discuss planning application
- attendance at CWAC meeting hosted by head of planning department
- regular audit of defibrillator & playground facilities
- financial support to Warm Space initiative
- refurbishment of village finger posts

In standing down as Chairman after completing my second "term of office", I would like to thank my Vice Chair Helen Metcalfe and other fellow councillors for their support. Also to our clerk Lucy Merry who continues to grow into her role with us.