**Borough Councillors Report 28.11.16**

**Cllr Jill Houlbrook.**

There is positive news about the 'Plush Spice' site on Newhall Road. The new owners have served notice that the site will be secured and they have put in a detailed planning application for the apartments previously given outline permission. This will not only mean a tidy site but also provide much needed homes in Upton.

There are several tree works which either have been or will be carried out cover the next couple of months. These include a tree on St Christopher's Close the berries from which had been causing problems, two trees on Heath Road which have been removed and the large willow on Queens Crescent which will be cut back.

I would like to thank the Zoo for the prompt response to our site meeting about the green space on the corner of Flag Lane North and A41. The area has been cut back and tidied ready for spring. It is our intention plant the area to add a bench and an information board.

After complaints from residents who live on Flag Lane South I arranged a site meeting which included our Highways officer Kay Parry and PCSO Jenna Tapley. Upton Heath school has an arrangement with the Baptist church and parents use the church car park and access the school via a new gate between the properties. This is an excellent solution to the parking issues on Meadowsway and Upton Lane but it does cause problems on Flag Lane South at busy times. The school will be contacted to ask parents not to park on the junction of the road and A41 H bars will be painted across the dropped kerbs. Kay will also take up the issue Flag Lane South is not really suitable for buses.

Kay and I met on site at Dorin Park to discuss the parking issues on Wealstone Lane. These are generally caused when the school transport arrives before the on-site car park is open. Our school transport team has taken this up to discuss with the Head teacher.

I was pleased recently support the curry lunch organised at the Dale to raise funds for the Soldiers' Charity.

The illegal trespassers at the Moston Wildlife site have now been evicted but unfortunately have left damage to the site and not removed the litter they left behind. Once the wildlife trust has removed their equipment from the site, the entrance will be secured by concrete defenders. Councillor Vaughan and I have worked closely with the Moston community and we are attempting to ascertain why the group of trespassers used the site and how they knew about it. We have been informed that a member of the Parish Council advised the group they would be welcome on the site and that it is Parish Council land. This, if true is totally unacceptable and caused a great deal of worry and concern to the residents and cost to the council tax payers. The residents are now keeping a close eye on site and Councillor Vaughan and I are working with them to protect and enhance the area.

Last week I attended CWaC Emergency planning training. This is held every year and I attend to keep up to date as Upton is vulnerable with proximity to the Countess of Chester Hospital, the Zoo, the Dale, has sensitive underground storage and is just across the fields from Stanlow. The documentation appertaining to the Emergency Plan is available on the website.

There are still concerns about the speed of traffic approaching the roundabout by the Dale on A5116 and the safety of pedestrians on the foot way. I have asked our Highways Officer to take another look at the signage and where the warning lights are placed.

It was good to see that Upton Parish Council supported White Ribbon Day. As a community organisation we should be speaking out against all forms of violence towards women and girls and also men. I have plenty of white ribbon left ready for next year.

Our Locality Manager and I are working with the shop keepers on Weston Grove to deliver distinct directional signs for the shops there. At the moment the ideas are being considered by our CWaC graphic design team.

Among items of discussion and concern in Upton is the MOD announcement about the Dale Camp. I have put this on the agenda of the meeting as a discussion item. I have however been in contact with The Land Trust and other organisations in preparation. I do want to ensure the protection of the green belt and ensure that residents of the whole of Upton are kept informed and engaged in the process at the Dale Camp.

I am pleased that residents to whom the Parish Newsletter has not previously been delivered, have received their copy of the latest edition. Thank you to the Clerk for arranging the separate delivery rounds.

There will hopefully be a seasonable celebration at the Countess of Chester Heath Park for the first time this year. I am supporting this with my Ward Budget and will let you all know once a date and the activities have been finalised. Hopefully lots of our residents will come along.

PCSO Jenna Tapley and I continue to hold monthly street surgeries which are proving popular.

Following the recent dreadful disclosures about child abuse in football and with my background in Safeguarding scrutiny I'd like to make the following resolution for the Parish Council to consider. Given the seriousness I'm hoping we can find a way to take this to Monday's meeting. In case this is not possible I have included it my report.

'That, where it is relevant, Upton by Chester Parish Council is given a copy of and keeps on record the child protection/safeguarding policy of any organisation using the Parish Council facilities. Bookings should not be taken from an organisation which cannot provide such information.'

As a reference for advice I found the NSPCC website clear and easy to access.

