Borough Councillor’s Report – MB 02.07.18

I have received a number of complaints from residents about the parking situation on Weston Grove exacerbated by Dominos, after talking to the Manager we have agreed that the metal gates are to be left open which allows the delivery drivers to drive straight through and not have to do 5 point turns in the car park behind. This has improved things significantly; I’ll be keeping an eye on things.

Morrisons had been working late in to the night which had caused significant problems for local residents. I contacted Environmental Health and they sent an official warning and will seek prosecution if it continues. They seem to have heeded the warning.

Highways have agreed to put an H box outside the drop kerb next to the Post Office at Bache.

Cheshire Police have continued their speed checks in Upton and recently on Long Lane. They have also been issuing fixed penalty notices to pavement parkers.

Upton resident Anna Jackson has been awarded the Prime Minister's Point of Light Award for voluntary wheelchair basketball coaching.

Chester Zoo has altered their maintenance building plans to be presented to the public on Wednesday.

Casework has been busy ranging from grass cutting to housing issues.

Here are the minutes from the meeting Jill and I had with Stagecoach. We have another public meeting on Wednesday.

\*\*Please note this is a rough summary of things discussed at the time not official minutes\*\*

Present: CWaC officers Kristy Littler, John Ellis Jones. Cllr Jill Houlbrook. Cllr Matt Bryan. Jamie Reid Alex Crane

Number 1 bus route change meeting 11/6/18 8am CWaC HQ

Talked about the number one being of strategic importance. Stagecoach wanted extra capacity on the route and to roll out the latest bus stock.

Issues raised:

Residents missing out on the service on Mill Lane and areas around. Elderly affected by social isolation and independence. Autistic children who habitually use bus stops face the challenge of changes. Some residents were happy with the change others were clearly not. The embankment by the Golf Club was of concern and safety around the school was of significant concern. One resident advised of thuddering in her house and some had privacy concerns.

Stagecoach said categorically that the number 1 would not be returning to Mill Lane due to capacity issues and problems with the road. Both Cllr Houlbrook and Bryan said this was the opposite to what had been advised in the public meeting and was disingenuous and unhelpful as were both under the impression it had been advised as were resident in the public meeting.

Stagecoach said the double-deckers were the quietest and most environmentally friendly in their fleet using Euro 6 engines.

Stagecoach suggested that a meeting with the Principal of the primary school would be a good step forward and to commit to the rerouting of the number one at peak school times to be agreed with the school and to reroute the number one via the A41 during these times. They said this road and school location wasn’t a unique situation and was typical of many of their routes in the area.

It was discussed and Stagecoach advised that only option for the number 1 to avoid Upton Lane would mean removing the service from Upton all together and reroute all buses via the A41. This would mean all residents who approved of the change would have no service at all and residents at the top of Upton who accessed the bus from the busiest stop outside the Wheatsheaf would have no service at all. All agreed that having no number 1 bus service at all would not be a good thing, a lot of residents use the route to get to work and college.

Cllr Bryan asked if it would be possible, after satisfactory safety mitigation around the school and public consultation, to split the route with normal buses half and half on the original route and Upton Lane. It would reduce frequency on Upton lane and residents on Mill Lane would still have access to a frequent service. Stagecoach explained as it was a 3 an hour service it couldn’t work and to increase frequency to make this possible as it would cost nearly half a million pounds a year.

John Ellis Jones said his department would see if the Arrow Brooke Service on Mill Lane could be increased and a route made later to accommodate residents wanting to use the service later in the day.

In a subsequent meeting at 9am with highways Kay Parry would work with the school and stagecoach to improve the safety signage and markings around the school.

Matt Bryan - 07982090451