Borough Councillors Report January 2017 – JH

May I firstly take the opportunity to wish you all a productive and happy new year? There will be challenges and opportunities in 2017 and I hope this Parish Council will makes the most of them both.   
  
I'd like to thank the resident of The Acorns on Caughall Road who has taken such an interest in the garden area. The area as been cleared by the CWaC ready for spring planting with some new shrubs and bulbs. These are being paid for from my Ward Budget. If as a resident of the Caughall Road area there is anyone who would like to be involved please do contact me.   
  
The children of Westlea School choir joined the residents of Arderne House for the switch on of the lights on the Christmas tree in December and we all hope this will continue to be an annual event.   
  
I had received complaints about the crab apple tree in the grounds of Arderne House. The fruit had caused problems for the neighbours and make the pavement slippy. The tree cannot be moved as it is the subject of a TPO but the Sanctuary Housing manager has ensured the tree is monitored and arranged for the fruit to be cleared away when it falls.   
  
The shop keepers on Weston Grove have asked for a street sign that will highlight the variety of businesses. Unfortunately this is taking a little while as there has to be an application to planning which where the process is at the moment. The businesses will be contributing to the costs and I hope that the sign will soon be in place at the junction of Wealstone Lane and Weston Grove. I hope that members of the Parish Council will support this application.   
  
I recently met again with members for the Zoo grounds team and Manon from Wildlife Connections team to discuss the green space at the junction of A41 and Flag Lane North. You will notice the area has been cleared ready for spring planting. Local schools are being invited to become involved with planting and caring for the area as part of the connections project. I will be funding a bench and a basic interpretation board from next year's Ward Budget.   
  
It's great that the pavement to one side of Gatesheath Drive has been rescued and I am now working with Highways to bring the other side of the road up to standard.   
  
The concrete defenders at the Moston wildlife area are now in place much to the relief of the local residents. I am taking up the residents' concerns about the safety to pedestrians and motorists at the roundabout and will be visiting the site with Kay Parry to look at what mitigations are appropriate and feasible.   
  
The funding for the wood for new benches and for wildflower seeds for the Countess Health Park which has been ongoing for a few months has now been approved and I'm looking forward to making use of the benches when I'm walking through the area!   
  
The Youth Club discussions are an agenda item which I have been advised by legal is best taken under part two of our meeting.   
  
I have been to visit Mill View school to meet the new Head Teacher and talk about the aspirations the school and Governors have for the future. I am aware that there are concerns from residents about parking so I will be working with everyone to manage expectations and promote the good neighbourliness that makes for a happy community.   
  
The double yellow lines on Weston Grove and Cotebrook Drive will be painted very soon. Unfortunately due to an oversight the installation had been delayed.   
  
There are around all the schools in Upton times when parking and vehicle movements are of concern to residents. Where and when possible these concerns can be mitigated by physical changes such as double yellow lines/ FPNs but essentially being a good neighbour and a considerate driver would go very far in dealing with these problems. Being a good neighbour will be one of my focuses in Upton for 2017.   
  
Jill Houlbrook   
  
9.1. 2017