

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT
PARKERS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELENTY DRIVE, RISLEY
ON TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2015

Present: Councillor T. Hearldon in the Chair
Councillors Balding, C. Bolton, J. Bolton, Bowden, Evans, Fitzsimmons,
Nelson and Spencer

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
Deputy Clerk – Mrs. C Caddock
Business and Finance Officer - Mr. G. Crowe

Cheshire Police Beat Manager PC Natalia Tuozzo

4 residents

Apologies: Councillors Allman, M. Hearldon and Higgins

Councillor Nelson proposed, Councillor C. Bolton seconded and it was resolved that:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council which took place on Tuesday, 22nd September 2015, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to declare any personal interest or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when the item is reached.

Councillor Balding: Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds

Councillor J. Bolton: Birchwood Partnership

Councillor Bowden: Birchwood Partnership and Birchwood Youth and Community Centre

Councillors T. and M. Hearldon: Birchwood Carnival Committee

Councillor Nelson: Birchwood Youth and Community Centre and Birchwood Carnival Committee

281/2015 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Monthly Update**

Beat Manager PC Natalia Tuozzo updated Members regarding policing activities that had taken place in the area recently. These had included:

- Dealing with reports of quad bikes/scrambler bikes. The Police have requested air support if available during future call-outs so that bikes can be spotted from the air and riders can be followed to their destination.
- Receiving reports of bicycle thefts – there have been over 30 thefts in Warrington last month a number of which were from the local business parks and Birchwood Shopping Centre.
- One theft from a motor vehicle.

On a more positive note, there have been no burglaries from dwellings or theft of motor vehicles recently. One person was caught and charged with a shoplifting offense.

Natalia also reported that the Police have worked with Your Housing Group and a couple of tenants have been evicted from their Birchwood properties because of ongoing anti-social behaviour. They will not be re-housed by Your Housing. In addition, local social housing landlords share information regarding tenants, so it is highly unlikely that another local housing group would offer them a tenancy. They might, however, be able to move into privately rented accommodation. Natalia added that if problem tenants move within Warrington, the Police are usually aware of where they have moved to.

The Police have undertaken a bike marking event recently and PCSO Wendy Stanley is coordinating a Cyclewatch scheme.

The Police are also working with the Prison Service and visiting schools to educate learners regarding the implications for offending; how it could affect the person's whole life and future, as well as how it might affect their family and friends if they break the law.

Councillor Nelson asked about the Junior PCSO scheme.

Natalia stated that PCSO Allison Davies had run this very successfully in the past. It is something that they will consider running again in the future.

In the run up to Halloween and Bonfire Night, the Police are running operation 'Treacle' as there is always an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour at this time of year. Natalia stated that any residents who may feel distressed should call the Police. Officers will be there if you need them. The Police will proactively target areas where they know there is a high likelihood of anti-social behaviour occurring.

The Clerk stated that we are aware of a number of recent instances of anti-social behaviour around the area. These include:

- A planter being pushed over near Jay Close
- Graffiti on the Forest Park on play and fitness equipment
- Graffiti in the Keyes Close underpass
- Graffiti and damage to tables and benches at The Birches (these had to be removed to be cleaned and repaired by Your Housing Group)
- The grit bin lid being torn off the bin near the Fire Station underpass
- Damage to lighting in the underpass near the golf club

Natalia said that she would pass the information on to the Officers that patrol the area. She added that the PCSOs now have the power to issue a dispersal notice for someone to leave an area if they believe that they are behaving in an anti-social manner. If the people/person then returns to the area within 48 hours they can be arrested.

Further discussions took place regarding Members' ongoing concerns about the PCSOs being out of area for a significant amount of time due to the travel time it takes once they have had signed on their shifts and had their briefing in Warrington – and the time it takes them to travel back to sign off at the end of their shift; particularly as the Town Council part-funds one of the Birchwood PCSOs.

Concerns were also raised by Councillor Bowden about the future of Risley Police Station, particularly as the emphasis now appears to be on using other organisations' facilities, such as the high school, for PCSOs and Police Officers to work from.

Natalia did not feel that she could fully answer the questions being posed and suggested that Members might wish to direct the more specific questions to Inspector Drum.

Councillor Bowden stated that he has been discussing these matters with the Assistant Chief Constable.

Councillor Balding said that he has also been raising similar questions with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members thanked Beat Manager Natalia Tuozzo for attending the meeting.

Priorities:

The most recently available information regarding local Policing priorities and updates can be found on the Cheshire Police Website: <http://www.cheshire.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/warrington-east/birchwood.aspx>

The Police Twitter address is @PoliceWarr.

(b) **Issues/Comments Raised by Residents**

A resident asked if the Town Council had any strategy planned with regard to a future policy to put out positive PR about the Town Council and the Birchwood area, for example to the local media.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that when there is anything specific to report, she does send a press release to the Warrington Guardian. She added that it is then the decision of the local paper to either print it, or not.

Councillor J. Bolton noted that there are other organisations beside the Town Council within Birchwood which might be better placed to release their own positive news. She said that this matter is something that is to be considered by the Birchwood Partnership at a future meeting.

Councillor C. Bolton suggested that this might be something to look at when developing the future Town Council strategy.

Councillor T. Hearldon agreed and said that this will be put on the agenda for consideration at the Strategy meeting.

Action To put this matter on the agenda for consideration at the Strategy meeting.

282/2015 **THE BIRCHES FAMILY ZONE**

The Clerk reported that vandalised tables and benches had been removed by Your Housing Group for repair and cleaning and it had been noted on a walkabout that the flower bed was in need of attention.

Councillor Bowden stated that the table and benches were now back in situ and that the flower bed had been weeded.

The Clerk added that the Town Council's team will be jet washing the safety surface in the near future to ensure that it does not become slippery.

283/2015 **COUNCIL SURGERIES**

The Clerk stated that the second Surgery had taken place this evening and asked which Members would be available to attend the next surgery.

Councillors J. Bolton and Nelson said they would attend.

Following the initial setting of the surgery date, later in the meeting a change of meeting dates and times was agreed by Members (see Part I Finance Minute 324/2015). The next surgery will now take place on Wednesday 16th December, 6pm – 6.40pm, prior to the December Town Council meeting.

There will be no November Town Council meeting (there will, instead, be a Strategy and Budget meeting, starting at 6pm).

284/2015 **LOCKING STUMPS FOOTPATHS**

The Clerk reported that on 8th October, a multi-agency walkabout took place with representatives of the Borough Council, Your Housing Group and the Town Council which looked at the footpaths in Locking Stumps from an environmental point of view. She said that each organisation had taken some actions away from the walkabout. The Borough Council will undertake work on some trees and Your Housing Group will take action on some matters that fall within their responsibility.

The Clerk circulated some before/after photographs of work that the Town Council's Maintenance Team had done following the walkabout, specifically where they had opened up the footpath running from Warrington Road to Glover Road, including cutting trees branches away from the tops of some lighting columns. She said that this type of work is very labour intensive and other jobs, such as litter picking, flytipping removal, footpath blowing and graffiti cleaning have to take a 'back seat' until the work is completed.

The Borough Council will arrange to have the lights repaired in the underpass that goes under Birchwood Park Avenue (near the far end of Heather Close) on the footpath that leads to Chadwick House.

A resident asked about the roads/paths that were covered on the walkabout, concerned that it appears to be the same areas that are covered each time.

The Clerk said that there are different roads and paths covered on each walkabout, but they do tend to concentrate on the main routes. She said that if residents wished specific other roads/paths to be included, if they email the road names to us they will be included on a future walkabout.

The Clerk informed Members that the next walkabout, looking specifically at landscaping, is due to take place in Oakwood on Wednesday 11th November at 10.30 am, with the following one in Gorse Covert, before returning to Locking Stumps.

Councillor Evans expressed an interest in attending the walkabout.

Councillors J. Bolton and Nelson queried the time of the walkabout as the 11th is Armistice Day.

The Clerk stated that the meeting date and time had been arranged by Your Housing Group.

The Clerk said that at the last meeting Councillors J. Bolton and Nelson had raised concerns about some paths in Oakwood. The teams had been out to investigate, but could not find issues of the paths being significantly overgrown.

Councillor J. Bolton said that, regarding the path behind Birchwood Primary School, it is more a case of the shrubbery needing thinning out as it is quite dark.

The Clerk said that they would revisit this area.

Action Clerk's office to ask the Maintenance Team to see if there is anything we can do to thin out some of the shrubbery (with landowner's permission).

285/2015 **LIGHTING COLUMNS**

The Clerk reported that at a meeting earlier in the year, Members had suggested undertaking an evening walkabout once the nights were darker, to try to establish which lighting columns in Birchwood were faulty. She asked whether Members perhaps wished to have a walkabout prior to the meeting in November.

Members discussed the issue and agreed that it would take too long to walk all the paths in Birchwood to check all the lighting columns.

Councillor Balding suggested that Ward Members could walk their own areas at night and list any lights they identify as being faulty on the Town Council's Facebook page; which the office could then report to the Borough Council.

Councillor Fitzsimmons suggested that Ward Members who are able, could drive their areas and check the lighting columns on the roads.

Councillor T. Hearldon said that some of the columns not working are on side footpaths, but several of them do not have numbers on and are difficult to identify regarding location because of that.

Councillor J. Bolton agreed that it would take too long to walk all the roads and footpaths and suggested using social media to ask residents to report faulty lighting columns to us, so that they can be reported to the Borough Council.

Councillor C. Bolton suggested informing residents as to how they can also report faulty lights directly to the Borough Council.

Councillor Bowden stated that it only takes a few seconds to report faulty lighting using the online form on the Borough Council's website.

If there is no number on a lighting column, the location can be reported as near to a certain number house on a street, or if it is on a footpath, giving the general location of the footpath (maybe between two specific roads) and roughly how far on a certain side of the path the column is and whether there are any other identifying landmarks near it.

Action Clerk's office to ask residents (via our Facebook page and website) to report faulty lighting columns either to us, or directly to Warrington Borough Council.

286/2015 **BLACK/BLUE/GREEN BINS**

At the September meeting, the Clerk's office was asked to put some information on the website advising residents about refuse bins; particularly with regards to taking them back on to their own property as soon as possible after the waste collection.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that the information has been put on our website.

287/2015 **STREET SWEEPERS**

The Clerk reported that the street sweeper schedule/frequency list has not yet been published on the Borough Council's website. It should be published before Christmas.

The Clerk's office has circulated a copy of the previous list to Members.

288/2015 **DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator cabinet has been adjusted by the Police Estates team and now appears to be working correctly. (See also Minute 307/2015 (a) below re: locations of local defibrillators.)

289/2015 **POLICING CHANGES**

Councillor Balding, as the Town Council's Police representative for Policing matters, will be attending a meeting with John Dwyer, the Police & Crime Commissioner and other Parish Council representatives on 12th November 2015, at the Town Hall.

290/2015 **RECENT MEETING WITH BOROUGH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

A meeting with representatives from Warrington Borough Council took place on Friday, 11th September 2015.

The Clerk stated that the draft notes from the meeting have been circulated to Members. She said that if Members have any comments on the notes, they could email them to her.

291/2015 **FOOTPATH SWEEPER**

The Clerk reported that a copy of Borough's small sweeper schedule has been circulated to Members.

292/2015 **LACK OF SEATING AT HEATHFIELD BUS STOP**

At the September meeting, it was reported that the seating had been removed several years ago due to anti-social behaviour at the bus stop.

Following further discussion regarding this matter, it was agreed that the Town Council's Maintenance Team would undertake some thinning on the island to make the bus stop more visible from the road, in order to deter anti-social behaviour. The Clerk stated that we have permission from the Borough Council to do this.

Once this has been done, the Town Council will contact Warrington Borough Council again.

It was felt that some form of seating is needed, particularly as the stop is used by attendees to local seniors' groups in the area.

The funding of a new bench would be in the region of £450; it was suggested that an application could be made to the East Area Board for the money to cover this.

Action Clerk's office to speak to the Borough Council again regarding the installation of seating once the island has been thinned out.

293/2015 **WILDFLOWERS 2015**

The Clerk reported that two community bulb planting sessions, led by the Rangers and funded by the Town Council, would be taking place on 31st October 2015 at Birchwood Forest Park. Posters have been placed on our notice boards and on our Facebook and website pages.

294/2015 **GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS MATTERS**

The Clerk stated that, following reports from Councillor Bowden regarding a group of travellers at Birchwood Boulevard, the Borough Council had been contacted to enquire whether a Section 61 notice, which had been served on previous groups to the area, applied to this group. We had not received a response.

Councillor Bowden stated that the travellers did not stay in the area very long.

295/2015 **BIRCHWOOD PINCHPOINT PROJECT**

The Clerk reported that an update has been received on the works on the A574 Birchwood Pinchpoint Project:

Oakwood Gate

This is well advanced with the traffic signals due to be installed in the next two weeks. Next week the traffic management is being used by the Council's street lighting contractor to install new street lighting in this area. It is expected that after testing, validation etc., of the traffic lights that the junction will be completed and opened in full before the end of November.

Moss Gate

There is a lot of activity at this junction including the diversion of utilities and a start on the earthworks to the east of the roundabout. The Moss Gate closure has been confirmed as taking place from Saturday 7th November onwards for 6-8 days and will utilise the weekend to minimise disruption to local traffic. This is an important part of the new drainage system as it involves the installation of a large manhole at the junction of Moss Gate and the A574. This scheme is still on track to complete in early March 2016.

Faraday Street bus gate

Work has started on this junction with tree removal and a start on the earthworks. The footpath has been temporarily diverted and there will be temporary traffic lights during the off peak time on Ordnance Avenue. This scheme is scheduled to complete early in the New Year.

There will be drop-in sessions held at Birchwood Forest Park each Friday from noon to 1pm for the contractors to answer any queries regarding the project.

296/2015 **PARISH LIAISON MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2015**

The Clerk stated that much of the September Parish Liaison meeting was spent discussing the Boundary Commission's proposed changes to ward boundaries within Warrington.

Other topics raised included the 2016 elections, which will incorporate Borough, Parish and Police and Crime Commissioner elections on the same day. Town and Parish Councils will have the option to spread election costs over four years.

Information regarding the maintenance of war memorials was another item of discussion and attendees were also informed that a review of the Borough Council's budget was currently underway and it is likely that there will be some changes to several services.

297/2015 **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WARRINGTON**

At the September meeting it was decided that the Town Council would respond to the Electoral Review of Warrington Consultation that Birchwood Town Council is happy with the proposals, in that there is 'no change' to the Birchwood wards.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk stated that she had sent a response to the Borough Council.

Alleged Land Grab – Gorse Covert

The Clerk reported that this matter remains ongoing.

NEW ITEMS RAISED UNDER THE CLERK'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

299/2015 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Received – The Borough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy Document. This can be found online at: <http://www.warringtontogether.co.uk/strategies-and-plans/warrington-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>
- (b) Received – September newsletter from Warrington Health Plus.
- (c) Received – Invitation to the Chair to the Lymm Parish Council Civic Service.
- (d) Received/sent – Emails to/from WBC following the receipt of an email from a resident re: an accident their son had whilst on a play area in Locking Stumps. WBC has inspected the area, safety surfaces and equipment and no faults were found.
- (e) Received – Neighbourhoods Bulletin – October 2015.
- (f) Received/sent – Emails re: a complaint (to WBC) we were copied into relating to an accident a cyclist had on a local footpath. The Clerk took photographs of the path which we forwarded to WBC, with an offer to undertake some minor shrub trimming and path cleansing. We have also asked if additional signs could be erected, either asking cyclists to dismount or to make them more aware it is a shared footpath; also used by pedestrians, people on disability scooters, parents with buggies, etc.
- (g) Received – request from a resident to have two tree branches overhanging her property removed. They are too big for the Town Council team to deal with. This was passed to WBC which will be taking the appropriate action.
- (h) Received – Details of follow up meeting to the last Birchwood Community Meeting (19th October).

The Clerk stated that this involved a tour of the Tennis and Leisure Centre's facilities. The Manager will be sending us some details so that we can advertise some of the things available that local residents might not be aware of.

An invitation was also received for those people who have attended previous meetings to a 'development day' at Risley Moss on 2nd December.

- (i) Query re: gritting metal bridges/steps/stairs – we have been advised we can no longer do this due to the potential for salt corrosion. We have asked what WBC uses on similar structures and whether we are able to acquire any of whatever they use.

We received a reply from Colin Jenkins, which was not definitive, about the use of grit on the bridge; he has advised us to speak to Dave Vasey about this matter.

The Clerk stated that Councillor C. Bolton has forwarded some information to Officers regarding alternative de-icing materials and she has emailed the Borough Council to ask if we can have permission for any of these materials to be used on the bridge (as the bridge is Borough Council owned).

- (j) Received – Invitation to the Chair to the Annual Remembrance Day Service and Parade in Warrington. Unfortunately the Chair is unable to attend this service; the Vice Chair will attend in her place.

300/2015 **BIRCHWOOD FORUM**

- (a) The Clerk informed Members of the sad news we had received recently of the death of Philippa Kirby (nee Sudlow).

Philippa made a number of major contributions to the development of Birchwood Forum, amongst them was launching the Birchwood Partnership with the Town Council, the fundraising and launch of the Encounter Statue, and the first Travel to Work Plan.

Funeral arrangements will be circulated to Members when we receive them.

- (b) Received – Summary of planned roadworks in the North West 28/09/15 – 04/10/15.
- (c) Received – Request for people to support the campaign OtisLaw2015 – which is striving for a change to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to make it illegal to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal through leaving it unattended in a hot vehicle. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/106636>

Members decided that although many of them wished to support the campaign, they would do this in a personal capacity. It was agreed that it was not within the Town Council's remit to publicise the campaign on our notice boards.

- (d) Received – Programme for October meeting and subsequently received was the presentation given at the meeting by Lt.Col. Rosie Stone on NW Armed Forces Business Engagement.

301/2015 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received - Various updates/consultations/ information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received – Various issues of Birchwood Park's 'Parklife'.
- (c) Received – Complaint regarding a vehicle that has been left on the splitter island near the Penta Hotel for a number of weeks.
- The vehicle has now been removed.
- (d) Received/sent – various emails following a complaint from a resident regarding a number of matters, including parking and litter around the Spar Shop on Warrington Road, parking and overgrown hedges near the garages on Warrington Road and the speed limit on Warrington Road. Relevant organisations have been contacted and we are awaiting responses to the resident's complaints/queries.
- (e) Received – email from a resident saying that the team that collected some bulky waste items from their property did an '*excellent job*', that the Town Council has a '*great team . . . working for you. A credit.*'
- (f) Received – Big Lottery Fund Funding News – October 2015.

- (g) Received – Poster for Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds ‘Pond and Woodland Management Event’.
- (h) Received – Complaint via Your Housing Group from one of their tenants about rubbish being dumped outside her property on a regular basis and litter being left in the bushes. The area is litter picked by our team on a weekly basis. Our maintenance team assured us that any litter visible to them is picked, but they will pay additional attention to the hedges; they also reported the area is used as a ‘den’ by children.
- (i) Sent/Received – Emails relating to damage to a piece of play equipment on The Birches play area, owned by Your Housing Group. Your Housing Group is dealing with this matter.
- (j) Received/Sent – Emails with Your housing re: litter picking.
- (k) Received/Sent – Email correspondence re: travellers on Birchwood Boulevard, following an enquiry from Councillor Bowden (see also Minute 294/2015 above).
- (l) Received – Details of how people could raise a free donation for Home-Start Warrington whenever they buy anything online.
There are over 2,700 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline, and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost shoppers anything extra. In order to do this the steps are as follows:
1. Join - go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=8669> and sign up for free.
 2. Shop - when you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
 3. Raise - after you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost to you.
- (m) Received – an invitation from Your Housing for the Town Council to field a quiz team at an event on 19th November, raising money for the Alzheimer’s Society.

302/2015 **ICAN ALERTS**

Full details regarding iCAN alerts and details of free membership to the service can be found at <http://www.tswarrington.co.uk/ican>

- (a) Reminder to residents to only buy fireworks from licensed retailers.

303/2015 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Alerts (*already circulated*):
- Reminding people to ensure vehicles are secure when parked and valuables kept out of sight.
 - Reminder for people to keep their purses out of sight and secure, especially in busy locations.
 - Stolen: specialised mountain bike – a white Rockhopper – please call 101 if you have any info.
 - Law update – from 01/10/2015 it is illegal to smoke in a vehicle with anyone under the age of 18 in the car – both driver and smoker could be fined £50.

- Fraudsters are targeting websites where items are acquired for free. They list items but tell purchasers they have moved but can arrange a courier, for a fee. The payment requested is usually via Money Transfer or an e-money voucher. The items promised are not received.
 - Reminder re: Birchwood Partnership's 'Safe Birchwood' meeting (13th October).
 - Advice for cyclists how to protect their bikes from being stolen.
 - Stolen: specialised mountain bike – a white Hard Rock – please call 101 if you have any info.
 - Advice re: securing sheds, garages or outbuildings and keeping your home secure.
 - Details of what is a hate crime; they can be reported anonymously online www.report-it.org.uk
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Council Tax Scam
 - Cheshire Constabulary is 'Outstanding' according to the PEEL inspection.
 - Reassurance that Officers will be available if residents are distressed on Halloween and need help.
 - Information re: the recent Talk Talk cyber-attack.
 - Details of a spam email purporting to come from 'Lyn Whitehead' from Lancashire Constabulary.
 - Bike theft statistics for October 2015 – 30 have been stolen in Warrington (that have been reported). Specific areas include Birchwood Shopping Centre.
 - Reports have been received that purse thieves are operating in Warrington Town Centre.
- (b) Sent – Email re: a scam operating in the local area; after one of our teams was approached by an apparently distressed man asking them for cash for petrol in return for his (fake) 'gold' jewellery.
- (c) Sent – Email re: vandalism to one of the planters on Warrington Road.
- (d) Received – Details of PCC meeting with Parish Council representatives, 12th November 2015.

304/2015 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

Received – New Bulletin – 1st October 2015.

305/2015 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (ChALC) AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC)**

- (a) Received – ChALC October Newsletter.
- (b) Details of NALC's 'Communities Can' conference (2nd December in London) and of the Elections to Larger Councils' Committee.
- (c) Received – Details of the ChALC Annual Meeting, 29th October in Middlewich.
- (d) Received – Details of a meeting (6th November) being arranged by ChALC working with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for those parishes funding a PCSO.
- (e) Received - NALC Task and Finish Group (Local Economic Development) e-survey.

306/2015 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

LGC Magazine – 17&24/09/15, 01/10/15, 08/10/2015, 15/10/15, 22&29/10/15
Cheshire Fire Authority – Annual Report 2014 - 2015

307/2015 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

(a) **Resident Request for a Defibrillator at the Forest Park**

Councillor Nelson stated that she had been asked by residents if there could be a defibrillator installed on an outside wall at the Ranger Centre on Birchwood Forest Park; particularly as there are numerous football teams that use the park, in addition to all the people who use the play and fitness equipment adjacent to the Ranger Centre.

The Clerk said that has spoken to Marika, from Ciaran's Cause, regarding this matter. The charity will provide the defibrillator, the cabinet and training, both in the use of the defibrillator and CPR.

The Clerk has contacted Warrington Borough Council, which owns the Ranger's Centre to ask for permission to install the cabinet and defibrillator on the wall. We are currently awaiting a reply.

The Clerk said that having previously been unsuccessful in obtaining information about locations of local defibrillators, Marika was able to advise us that the following locations in Birchwood have defibrillators (inside the premises):

- Locking Stumps Primary School
- Gorse Covert Primary School
- Birchwood CofE Primary School
- Birchwood Community High School and Gym
- Birchwood Medical Centre
- Birchwood Shopping Centre (x 2)
- Asda
- Thomas Risley Church

As the defibrillators listed above are inside these premises, they are not available 24 hours a day.

The defibrillator installed earlier this year by the Town Council in partnership with the Oliver King Foundation, Certas Energy and the local Police, on the outside wall of Risley Police Station, is available 24 hours a day.

The code for opening the cabinet is obtained when phoning the Ambulance Service.

Marika had informed the Clerk that the North West Ambulance Service has a list of available defibrillators; however the Clerk reminded Members that both she and the Deputy Clerk have tried to contact the North West Ambulance Service several times to try to obtain a local list that we could publish on our website and have never received a reply.

Members were supportive of the proposal to have another defibrillator, particularly one available 24 hours a day, in the area.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with Warrington Borough Council with regarding to obtaining permission for the defibrillator and cabinet to be installed on an outside wall at the Ranger Centre at Birchwood Forest Park.

Action Clerk's office to continue to liaise with Ciaran's Cause regarding this proposal.

(b) **Proposed new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) off Chatfield Drive.**

Councillor T. Hearldon reported that she had recently spoken to a representative of Your Housing Group regarding Your Housing's proposals to install new play facilities in the area where the current basketball pitch is, situated on Chatfield Drive.

Councillor T. Hearldon referred Members to an email from James Coates, Community Projects Officer at Your Housing, giving details of the proposals. This had been circulated as a late paper.

The email states that, "*Your Housing Group (YHG) are currently in consultation with the local community in Birchwood with reference to the proposed building of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on land owned by YHG adjacent to Brock Road.*

On the site currently is a basketball court that is not fit for purpose. The site is overgrown and suffers from fly tipping.

YHG is in the process of applying for £50k of funding from WREN. The deadline for the application is December 2015. If successful then work will commence in January 2016 and will be completed by March 2016.

YHG are also contributing £15k in addition to the long term maintenance of the site.

Active Cheshire have committed £2k as part of a post build activation project to place the facility on the map during the summer of 2016. This will involve the potential commissioning of local agencies such as Live Wire and Warrington Wolves to deliver a programme of activities on the site.

New Balance have also committed to financially contributing towards the project in addition to providing other resources such as staff volunteering.

Planning permission is being sought.

WBC have been approached re the placement of a new bin next to the MUGA which they will be responsible for emptying."

Several partner agencies have submitted letters of approval towards the proposed project and YHG has requested support in writing from Birchwood Town Council towards the proposed development.

Councillor T. Hearldon stated that, if successful, the development would involve the removal of the basketball court and many of the trees that currently overshadow the site and will see the installation of a MUGA, a children's play area and a seating area.

Councillors discussed the proposals and request for support.

The BAFO stated that there is already a MUGA just round the corner at the high school, which the Town Council helped to fund and which is open to the community outside of school hours. This seems to be a duplication of resources.

There is also, already a children's play area in Oakwood and the Town Council has/is putting significant funding into the recent/future development of facilities at Birchwood Forest Park.

Councillor T. Hearldon said that the MUGA at the high school is not always open.

The BAFO stated it is locked during school hours, but that the contract was that it should be open at all times outside of school hours and at weekends for the whole community to use.

Action Clerk's office to check the MUGA at the high school is always unlocked outside of school hours.

Councillor Nelson said looking at the figures in the email, it appears that the funding secured so far only amounts to £67,000; she believes that it will cost significantly more than that

Councillor T. Hearldon stated that she understands YHG would like the Town Council to sponsor the development, but are asking for the letter of support in the first instance.

Councillor Bowden stated that he thinks the proposals would cost in the region of at least £100,000.

Councillor C. Bolton said that, in principal he would support the proposal, but wondered whether there might be a better place to install such a development, as the current basketball court that is there is hardly ever used and he would question why this is/has been the case.

Councillor J. Bolton asked who will be expected to litter pick and check the site on a daily basis.

The BAFO suggested that an early meeting be arranged with Your Housing Group to discuss some questions and concerns that were raised by Members.

Action Clerk's office to arrange a meeting with Your Housing to discuss the above.

(c) **Traffic Concerns Admirals Road/Chatfield Drive**

Councillor T. Hearldon raised a late Member's Referral regarding traffic issues on Admirals Road/Chatfield Drive, following a recent collision between a bus and a car.

She wondered if sight lines at the corner of the junction might have played a part in the accident.

Councillor Nelson said that she would contact the bus company and ask for a report on what had happened.

Action Councillor Nelson to contact the bus company about the incident.

308/2015 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council**

(i) Received – Notification re: the Development Management Committee meetings on 7th, 8th and 28th October 2015. Nothing of specific relevance to Birchwood was on the agenda at these meetings.

- (ii) Received – Consultation re: The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - a planning charge based on legislation that came into force on 6 April 2010. The levy allows local authorities in England and Wales to raise contributions from development to help pay for infrastructure that is needed to support planned development (alongside other methods such as Section 106 obligations).

The Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule consultation runs from Tuesday 20th October until Wednesday 2nd December 2015. The consultation can be downloaded at:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/200564/planning_policy/1903/local_plan/6

309/2015 **ENFORCEMENT CASES**

Lists of enforcement cases recently opened/closed have been received and circulated.

310/2015 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

No planning decisions had been received at the time the Clerk's Report was published.

311/2015 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

All plans can be viewed on Warrington Borough Council's website via:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Search_planning_applications/

Certain applications are not Planning Applications; therefore there is no statutory opportunity to allow 21 days for comments, e.g: Non material amendment applications, Lawful development certificates (S192) and 28 day prior approval/determination applications. These types of applications are received on an information basis only.

- (a) Application No. 2015/26269 30 Inglewood Close, WA3 6UJ. Proposed single storey side and front extension.
- (b) Application No. 2015/26613 Ravenhurst Court, Risley Road, WA3 6PN. Proposed erection of building for use as a gate lodge (sui generis) and/or office (B1)
- (c) Application No. 2015/26696 Unit B, The Beacons, Warrington Road, WA3 6XU. Change of use from B1 office building to B1 (business) and/or D1 (non-residential institution).
- (d) Application No. 2015/26779 Hinton House, Birchwood Park Avenue. Proposed non-illuminated banner type entrance advertisements.
- (e) Application No. 2015/26752 The Quadrant, Maxwell Street, Birchwood, Warrington. Proposed discharge of conditions 10 (Details of bicycle parking) and 15 (Detailed landscaping) following previously approved application 2014/23358.

There were no objections raised by Members to the above applications.

This part of the meeting concluded at 8.35pm