

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

MEMBERS' REPORTS: JANUARY 2025



Report Reference C-24-21
Meeting Date 13th January 2025
Agenda Item 7
Prepared by Members

BACKGROUND

This item is for members to:

- Report on attendance at external meetings or events, e.g. where they are the council's representative on a body
- Bring other matters of interest to the attention of the Council

Items are raised for information only. Should an item warrant discussion, it should be referred to the relevant committee or the next meeting of the Council. No decisions can be made under this item.

REPORT OF CLLR DALZELL

Crosstown Community Orchard are holding their popular Wassail on Saturday 11 January at 4pm.

There will be mulled wine, vegetable soup and gingerbread to enjoy. The competition of best hat will be judged by the Mayor with prizes. Ringheye Morris Dancers and Gawsorth Ceilidh Band will provide musical entertainment. Tree toasting – this ancient tradition will be led by the Mayor and toasts & song sheets will be provided for everyone to join in.

REPORT OF CLLR FORREST

I attended the meeting of the Mid-Cheshire Rail Steering Group on 10th December. This was attended by various stakeholders, including friends of stations, local Councillors, representatives of various rail passenger services, and Network Rail. I was supposed to participate in the September meeting but due to an administrative error I was missed off the invitation list.

One of our residents - Amy Hayes - has been working with a group of other residents whose children rely on an 8:04am train from Knutsford to Altrincham to get to school. The service was cancelled during Covid but reinstated in 2021. There are 5 trains through Knutsford within a 2 hour window during the morning commute window, with 2 of them running within 5 minutes of each other but the 8:04am train has frequently been subject to cancellation, leaving children stranded on the platform wondering how they will get to school. So as well as being inconvenient, it is also potentially a safeguarding issue. The group is asking that the 8:04 train is prioritised when Northern Rail is faced with staff shortages.

During the meeting I was able to raise this with the representative from Northern Rail. He reassured me that an instruction was already in place to prioritise the 08:04 but he will ensure it is reiterated. I

will ask Amy to keep me updated going forward so I can continue to raise this if it persists as an issue.

The Britain in Bloom Level 4 award given to the Knutsford friends was highlighted and it was noted that the volunteers would like the memorial bench at Knutsford station to be returned to the Chester side platform now refurbishment of the station house is complete. However, the property owner is unhappy about the original location directly outside his property and is deciding on a suitable spot for it.

REPORT OF CLLR HARTLEY

MCCARTHY AND STONE RESIDENTS SURGERY

Residents have regular coffee mornings I attended recently and have been invited to further events. Approximately 15 residents attended, issues included medical centre, parking, pedestrianisation King St. Mc Carthy Stone have offered the use of their residents room for events.

REDROW ESTATE WALK ROUND MEET RESIDENTS

Two resident spoken with - will keep up regular walk around the estate. Issues were allotments and traffic signals on Northwich Rd

OTHER DUTIES

During the period I have supported:

- the Pumpkin Path with Cllr Russell as a marshal
- the Christmas Santa Parade with Cllr Russell as a marshal
- the Mayor's very busy Christmas Market stall with Cllr Gardiner
- the Crib Service with Cllrs Gardiner and Forrest diverting people from the outside service to indoors at the Methodist Church
- The We Are Knutsford Santa Sleigh, with Cllr Gardiner. I would suggest if any councillors do just one event they take part in this very long walk around the town. I was surprised by the number of people who I talked with on the walk and will certainly do it again.

Cllr Johnson and I have attended various meetings regarding the Market Hall Refurbishment. I have also helped planting town centre barrier planters for the spring display and daffodil planting at Canute Place with bulbs donated by Cottons Hotel.

REPORT OF CLLR JOHNSON

Knutsford Community Garden have agreed to join the Bee Trail. The group meets every Thursday afternoon behind Booths. Everyone welcome. Children must be supervised. Offers of volunteers would be much appreciated.

Friends of the Moor is working towards charitable status. Our next meeting is 18th January with an RSPB day planned for 25th January. If you'd like to join our email list please let me know. We are still looking for help to repair the shelter on the Moor, if anyone knows of anyone willing to help (paid)?

The Tatton Park in December was cancelled. But we hope to organise another meeting in January. Our request to erect a Knutsford map board in Tatton Park was declined. We're disappointed and

will be discussing how we might proceed at the next meeting.

Through the Nature Action Plan working group, our Knutsford Bee Trail has officially been named. We have finalised the route and we're currently working on signage. 17 May is our planned launch day.