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Editor's Comment



WHY did Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) establish a business case for CCTV in Frodsham two years ago without telling Frodsham Town Council?

We asked the question in this column in December but we were unable to come up with an answer.

Well, perhaps we now can for, as revealed elsewhere in this issue,

we now know that the plan is for just two cameras. Hardly something to shout from the rooftops.

Given the size of Frodsham and the amount of anti-social behaviour and crime the town suffers from of a weekend, two CCTV cameras are surely going to be inadequate.

Frodsham's CWaC councillors do not believe two cameras will be enough and we agree with them. But, so far at least, CWaC officers are apparently unmoved and as there has apparently been no funding provision made available anyway, it may be a long time before even two cameras arrive.

There is no doubt about that CCTV is an enormous help to the police in combatting anti-social behaviour. Street disturbances are frequently dealt with speedily in towns where there are already cameras installed and a growing

number of more serious crimes are also cleared up.

In one recently reported case, an offender burgled a house, stole a credit card, used it to obtain goods from a supermarket, was picked up on CCTV and arrested all within the space of an hour of committing the original burglary.

That's the sort of success story we want to hear. But it's not the sort of story offenders want to hear – and it could persuade them to stay away from Frodsham.

A56 traffic delays expected

TRAFFIC delays can be expected on the A56 at Frodsham as a result of lane closures to enable essential maintenance work to be carried out on The Rock.

Earlier work was carried out just over a year ago by Cheshire West and Chester Council when it was discovered when some loose, insecure rock was removed. But the need for further work was discovered.

It is not thought the scheme will affect people living on The Rock, but lane closures will be necessary on the A56.

Work is expected to start on February 11 and should be completed by April 1. Where possible, it will be carried out at off-peak times.

Deadline for the March issue of Frodsham Life is February 26

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Research "nothing to do with fracking"

THE BRITISH Geological Survey plan to create a Cheshire Research Field Site at Ince Marshes is nothing to do with fracking, Frodsham Town Council has been told.

Cllr Carole Ashton said: "This is not a fracking application. It could offer an opportunity for us to enjoy a carbon free future."

The meeting was discussing the proposals, including concerns expressed by protesters that the centre would in fact be a "fracking research centre."

According to the British Geological Survey, two UK Geoenergy Observatories – the other is in Glasgow – would advance understanding across geological disciplines and provide real environments for studying potential energy technologies. They would be among a handful of research sites worldwide enabling scientists to deepen understanding of environmental management and the way geology could help solve the energy challenge.

The observatory at Ince Marshes would provide continuous long-term data on a complex geological research environment applicable to a range of energy technologies. It would have a network of deep and shallow boreholes containing advance listening devices which would act like stethoscopes to measure the state of the underground in its natural condition and any changes that might occur.

It might be possible to store energy created by wind, solar and tidal power in rocks beneath the ground.

CCTV for Frodsham - just two cameras planned

THE "secret" plan for CCTV in Frodsham, drawn up by Cheshire West and Chester Council two years ago, envisages just two cameras.

This was revealed at the January meeting of Frodsham Town Council by CWaC member Cllr Lynn Riley.

And although a business case for the system had been established, funding had not been allocated.

Cllr Riley – leader of the opposition on CWaC – said neither she nor Frodsham's other representative, Cllr Andrew Dawson, thought that two cameras would be sufficient.

"Let's have a proper job," she said.

The plan is for two cameras in the town centre, covering the A56 and Church Street..

Cllr Riley said she and Cllr Dawson had told CWaC officers they wanted more cameras covering the car parks, the medical centre and Castle Park.

They also believed cameras were needed in the Ship Street area.

But she said they had been "disappointed" by the response from the officers.

She accepted that there were ANPR cameras in Frodsham, which enabled police to track the registration numbers of cars



entering or passing through, but these were no substitute for CCTV.

There did not appear to be any provision in CWaC's budget for CCTV in Frodsham.

*As reported by Frodsham Life in December, Frodsham Town Council only discovered CWaC had drawn up a business case for CCTV in the town two years ago when a senior CWaC officer happened to mention it while attending a Frodsham meeting on another matter.

No objection to shop plan

FRODSHAM Town Council's planning committee has raised no objections to a plan to subdivide the ground floor of 86, Main Street, Frodsham for use for retail, financial and professional services, or restaurants and café, with conversion of the residential flat above.

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Deputy Mayor's anger over the way Frodsham is being treated

FRODSHAM'S deputy Mayor, Cllr Liam Jones has expressed his deep dissatisfaction and frustration at the way the town is being treated by Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC).

In a letter to CWaC leader, Cllr Samantha Dixon, he complains that Frodsham and its Town Council is being ignored by the unitary authority.

He says: "Frodsham will soon experience the unpopular and devastating car parking charges you are intent on seeing through despite huge public opposition and a motion put forward at the Cheshire West and Chester Council on Thursday December 13, to think again and stop the parking charges."

"We continue to be ignored despite our borough councillors' best efforts to seek investment in our services and have our streets repaired properly, with which you've received over £800,000 from government lately to spend on repairing our infrastructure."

"We've seen massive Cheshire West Council Tax increases for the last three years, Frodsham Town Council no longer receiving the 'New Homes bonus' money, which brought tens of thousands of pounds into the council with Cheshire West having millions of pounds of unallocated funds sat in its account."

Cllr Jones says he was appalled and dismayed to learn accidentally that despite Frodsham Town Council repeatedly calling for CCTV, CWaC had two years ago drawn up a business case for CCTV in Frodsham without even telling Frodsham about it.

He pointed out that he had, himself, presented a petition signed by more than 1,000 in favour of CCTV to CWaC two years ago.

Since then Frodsham had experienced several robberies which could have been prevented by CCTV on the streets.

He accused CWaC officers of a gross dereliction of duty for hiding information about the CCTV proposals from Frodsham Town Council.

Cllr Jones said he had submitted a Freedom of Information request to CWaC to see the CCTV business case.

He had been forced to do this because Frodsham was being ignored. But when the business case was received it lacked detail – particularly as it was two years old.

"Please explain to me why this has been allowed to be kept so secret for so long?"

In its reply to Cllr Jones' Freedom of Information request, CWaC said: "The Council considers that your request has been answered in full by either confirming that information is not held, providing



you with the information requested, or explaining why any information has been withheld and the reasons for any redaction. Where applicable, the Council has also told you the reasons for the delay

in responding to your request."

It also states the document is still in draft, with some parts still requiring completion, that the target date is March 2019 and that funding has not yet been agreed.

Town Council approves spending plans for coming year

FRODSHAM Town Council's spending proposals for the coming year will cost residents of the average Band D house an extra £13.65 in council tax for the year – and increase of 26p a week.

The figure was confirmed by the Town Council following recommendations made at the annual budget meeting.

It excludes Cheshire West and Chester Council's charge and the police and fire service precepts.

Two major projects will be

funded in the coming year and a council manager will be appointed to oversee day to day management.

To meet these costs the Town Council will levy a precept of £269,066 which equates to £72.78 a year for the average (Band D) household: an annual increase of £13.65 or 26p a week.

The increase will allow the Town Council to extend the cemetery into the unused upper portion. The work is essential as the current burial area will soon be full.

The War Memorial is in a vulnerable condition and requires conservation and repair works, including new foundations, cleaning and repointing the obelisk, base, plinths and surrounding apron and repair and repainting of the railings. The Memorial Field entrance gates and railings also need repair and refurbishment. The estimated cost of these works is £115,000, although the War Memorials Trust have agreed a grant of £30,000 towards the

costs.

The Council has also decided to employ a full-time Council Manager to replace the vacant post of Town Clerk following evaluation by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. The Council Manager will deal with the complex projects which have been initiated by the Council and there will be a greater emphasis on community engagement.

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Frodsham Matters

By Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley



With local elections for Cheshire West and Chester in May 2019, residents will get to decide who is best to run the borough for the next 4 years.

The Council has been Labour led since 2015 and it's operating budget has risen by £24m to £297.57 in 2019. You might have heard from Labour about the the £57m reduction in funding since 2015, but probably not about the £2b in other service grants that have made their way to Cheshire West since then. In November alone CWaC got £20m for roads and new affordable homes. From 2009-15 the Conservatives managed to reduce council tax by 14% while running the Council for £130m less; since 2015 council tax has risen by over 20%. The Government agenda is to open up new ways for working together on things that matter to us all; so one example that is driving real improvements is joining up NHS health with CWaC social care; this has created an annual pooled budget of of £109m that has seen £36m added over 3 years to care for our older and vulnerable residents.

We want to see every penny count and the latest CWaC budget report tells us that this is not happening. Efficiency targets set by the Council for itself are being missed; 2 out of 3 isn't good enough and just drives increases onto our council tax bill. Costly overspends and overruns on major projects like computers and council offices are literally costing millions. And the business case that is putting over £2m into new carparking machines hurts our towns, our residents and businesses and just make no sense.

Labour campaigned against parking charges in the election of 2015 and are now doing something very different by rolling them out in Frodsham. They campaigned for the NHS and have just awarded contracts to Virgin. Labour also promised a ban on fracking in 2015, something they knew they could not deliver; they have gone on to introduce local planning policy to help would-be frackers, ignoring our plans and pleas to strengthen regulation and give local communities a greater voice through local referendums. Local Labour representatives have deliberately mislead you about the plans by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), to set up the £31 million UK Geoenergy Observatory at Ince Marshes. Based at the University, this would make Cheshire home to independent leading-edge geoscience

to provide the important knowledge needed to move the UK towards a low-carbon economy. All the data would be made free and open via a publicly owned website. The array of sensors that would monitor how the underground system of rocks and water works would protect Frodsham's environment and place us on the doorstep of the green energy revolution that we all want to see.

Frodsham pays a lot into the Council budget and sees very little back. We're pleased that our main carpark is finally to be resurfaced but this comes at the cost of parking charges for the first time in town. We hope the Council will not be digging this up in a couple of years to put in the extra capacity needed for the Halton Curve. There is some good news about funding for projects like more station parking by 2021 and new 3G pitches at Helsby High but this should have been possible before now from the £10m surplus on the Council tax fund in 2017/18 and 2018/19. This is being used elsewhere for CWaC priorities like new offices in Ellesmere Port and early retirement options rather than on Frodsham priorities like reworking the waste land around the medical centre and library and getting serious about anti social behaviour, CCTV, traffic congestion and air quality on the A56.

The Government recently announced £675m as the Future High Street Fund. We have lobbied hard for Frodsham to be part of the bid that Cheshire West submits in March 2019. Latest national research and reports highlight the need for a diversified High Street that sees a mix of retail, residential, activities and community facilities. So where better than Frodsham that has so much to offer including some forward thinking ideas in the community-led Local Plan for 'active high streets'. Think what it might mean for us to have some sensible transport options for getting people to the many things in Frodsham, including soon-to-be great rail links in 2019; new markets and opportunities for locals and businesses could be opened up digitally and just think about the smarter and starter homes for older residents and young people that we could wrap around the medical centre with new walking and cycling options. We could be a unique test bed for smaller villages and showcase to to others how this could be done. We believe in the talent, skills and potential of Frodsham; we want CWaC to believe it too.



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 Vimeo: Frodsham Conservatives

Cheshire West and Chester Council, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP

Good school's leadership praised by Ofsted

FRODSHAM Manor House Primary School continues to provide good provision for its pupils, according to its most recent Ofsted inspection.

Ofsted inspector Aelwyn Pugh, who visited the school in November, praised the school leadership and said parents were very positive about the school.

They commented on the friendly atmosphere, good communications, care of pupils to develop confidence, transition and the wide range of activities on offer.

Pupils were well behaved,

confident and enthusiastic explaining that there is nothing they would wish to change as the school is "just perfect" as it is.

A great strength of the school was the provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with international links, teaching of world religions, fundraising, musical and theatrical opportunities and residential visits.

The many local and national awards which the school had achieved reflected the high aspirations and wide horizons which pupils are encouraged to develop.

Pupils feel safe in school and know how to access help when required. Support for vulnerable pupils is strong, the report added.

Next steps for the school, the inspector said, are that leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that:

*the school improvement plan includes clear targets which they can

use to measure the effectiveness of their actions to improve the school, especially in relation to the progress of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND

*The proportions of boys achieving the higher standards in national tests increase so that they are at least in line with national averages.

*Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe near railway lines'

The full report can be found online. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/111236>



Lynda follows judges advice to win award!

FRODSHAM & District Photographic Society wishes everyone a healthy 2019 and has had a good start to the year.

At the January meeting Lynda Haney gave a talk on 'What the Judges Look For' and certainly followed her own advice as she won the first Competition with a really interesting photograph, 'The Babysitter', shown here.

It is a composite image requiring skill and patience but attainable – why not try – or come along to the club for an insight into the method.

Nicky Higgins's monochrome 'Liverpool Matchworks' was best in the Projected Digital Image section

while Liz Kenny's still life 'Blueberry Muffins' was very highly commended.

All entries are on the website for you to see.

The February meeting involved an evening when images from photoshoots in Liverpool and also at St Laurence Church were shown.

It is expected that the society will have two further exhibitions there in 2019.

On February 18th Dr Brian Law will give a Presentation on 'Landscape Photography-Theory and Practice', and doesn't everyone take such shots.

You will be made very welcome if you would like to visit – 7.30pm at Castle Park Arts Centre.



Scrambler bike problem on Marshes

SCRAMBLER and quad bikes are causing problems on Frodsham Marshes, according to police.

The problems mostly occur at weekends and there have even been reports of a van on the marshes renting out scrambler bikes, PCSO Neil Flanagan told the Town Council.

"I have no direct evidence of this happening but I have received reports from dog walkers.

"We will be keeping a watch on the marshes to see what the situation is," he said.

Other incidents of anti-social behaviour included "knock and run" offences by young children in the Ship Street area, he said.

Complaints had been received of children knocking on doors, or even "booting" doors and then running away.

Some residents had been distressed by this.

"I think I have managed to prevent some of these incidents but more complaints have been received and I am still keeping a watch on the area," he said.

British Empire Medal for librarian from Frodsham

FRODSHAM resident Ian Anstice was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to public libraries in the New Year's Honours.

The 48-year-old is Cheshire West and Chester Council's locality librarian and has worked in libraries since 1992.

In 2010 he set up the national website Public Libraries News and is currently on secondment for three days a week promoting reading in 22 North West library services.

Delighted

He said: "I am delighted to have been awarded this unexpected honour. Libraries have always been important to me and despite widely reported cuts nationally they are still going strong and doing wonderful things in their local communities."

Mr Anstice is married to Naomi, assistant head teacher at Frodsham Manor House Primary School and the couple have two daughters, aged 14 and 12.

He believes the library plays a vital role in the community.

"Before Amazon, the internet and Google, people came to the library for information. You never knew what you were going to be asked. We are often still the first port of call for all sorts of things."

Mr Anstice spends up to three hours every evening working on the Public Libraries News website, chronicling key stories on libraries from all over the country and abroad.

The site has thousands of readers from all over the world.

His work has been praised in the House of Commons and he regularly speaks at national conferences and on TV and radio.

"I now see children's eyes light up when you give them a library card. To discover the world from an early age and become a member of a library for free is unique. Reading is part of children's lives and should be free for everyone. It's sad when I see children who haven't had access to books."

"People should have access to all sorts of books regardless of what money they have."

Mr Anstice has nothing but praise for Cheshire West's libraries and now plays a pivotal role in their growth.

His work as a locality librarian involves buying children's books for libraries across the county and he promotes reader development among libraries across the region.

Awards

"We are very lucky in Cheshire West," he said. "We have won two national awards and I take visitors from as far away as Australia around to see the unique things we do."

"Libraries aren't just for books. They're often spaces that transform into what you need them to be: a classroom, a cyber café, a place to find answers, a quiet spot to be alone. It's actually kind of magical."



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Big Bees Breakfast Club annual awards is great success and now prepares to 'Go Green' for Clatterbridge

THE annual Big Bees Breakfast Club annual awards was once again a great success, recognising outstanding citizens and organisations who have contributed to the local Frodsham Community.

Hosted by former Mayor Mallie Poulton at Kash22 the event, along with a coffee morning at the parish hall raised £1149 for Christian Aid and £200 for homeless charities in Chester and Warrington.

Following on from the successful awards event Big Bees Breakfast is now starting a campaign to raise £3000 to "Go Green" for The New Clatterbridge Hospital teenager Wing.

A number of events are taking place (check out the Frodsham Life Facebook page) including a Coffee

Morning at the Parish Hall, Church Street, Frodsham on Thursday, February 28 from 9.30am - 12 Noon.

Funds will be raised For The Mayor of Frodsham Charities, Clatterbridge Hospital and The Air Ambulance.

Admission including Coffee/Tea and Biscuits £1.

There will also be a raffle, Tombola, Cake and Produce Stall.

If you can donate call 01928 731817.



Pictures show some of the award winners.

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Neighbourhood plan at 'crucial stage'

FRODSHAM'S Neighbourhood Plan – the document which will guide planning in the town for the next decade – is at a crucial stage, the Town Council was told.

Peter Vickery, chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, said the draft plan had been completed and was now being edited – a difficult task for the volunteer group.

When completed, the plan would be a statutory document that would guide Cheshire West and Chester planners for the next 10 years.

It had been hoped that the document would be completed by May and ready to go out for a referendum of Frodsham residents.

But this was unlikely to happen. "We can't get a decent document out by early May," he said.

When completed, the plan would go to Cheshire West and Chester Council who would arrange the

community referendum.

Mr Vickery stressed the importance of getting the finished plan right.

Some other neighbourhood plans they had heard of had contained errors and this had caused problems.

The members of the steering group were all volunteers, he said. They had put a lot of time into the project.

The plan was a factual document and they had to get the facts right or it could be "pulled to pieces."

Cllr Lord Frank Pennington warned

that people should not be given false hopes that the neighbourhood plan would protect Frodsham from developers. They would find their way round things as they had done previously when a similar plan was drawn up in the days of Vale Royal Council.

Mr Vickery agreed that developers did seem to have the ability to get round obstacles but the plan would help to stop some unwelcome developments.

Lib Dems name their General Election candidate

THE Liberal Democrats in Weaver Vale have named their Parliamentary candidate for the next General Election – whenever it is held.

They are also claiming a big increase in membership in Frodsham – where they admit they have not been very active for some years.

Daniela Parker, who lives with her husband and daughter at Northwich, has been chosen as prospective Parliamentary candidate.

Former candidate Paul Roberts who is standing at Farndon in the Cheshire West and Chester Council elections in May said: "I am delighted that Daniela – who lives in the constituency – has been appointed as the Weaver Vale PPC. I'm sure she will make a real impact and get a much improved Lib Dem result at the next General Election, whenever it happens".

Mrs Parker said: "I am thrilled to have been selected as the PPC for Weaver Vale. I am committed to working with all the members of the local community and demonstrating that our party's policies can deliver a real improvement in people's lives. Whether that is campaigning against fracking in our constituency to a fair funding model for our NHS I believe we offer a much-needed alternative to Labour and the Tories who are being dictated to by the extremists in their parties.

"I am delighted to already have been able to start putting together my campaign team, and in the New Year we will start planning our campaign strategy with my goal to become the Liberal Democrat MP for Weaver Vale".

Mrs Parker works in the charitable sector with victims and witnesses of crime. She read Psychology at the University of Wales and went on to work for 12 years with substance misusing offenders in custody and supporting them in their recovery.

She is active in her local community and has worked with her neighbours to improve the appearance of their urban village and campaign for safer roads as well as objecting to more housing developments in the area.

Mrs Parker is passionate about a number of issues including healthcare and in particular improving the provision of mental health services, as well as the criminal justice system, including both the rehabilitation of offenders and the experience of victims and witnesses. As the daughter of an Italian father and a British mother she classes herself as pro European, and has been campaigning for an "Exit-from-Brexit".

Liberal Democrat spokesman Richard Dawson said: "We have a growing membership and supporter base in Frodsham, especially since the Referendum. Frodsham is a growing and vibrant part of the constituency and we will be holding some Saturday events soon."



Family-run mortgage brokers sign up two new staff

IT was only in October that Alder Rose Mortgage Services officially opened in High Street, Frodsham – but already they have signed up two new members of staff.

Leanne Ibbotson and Cheryl McCabe have added another 30 years combined finance experience to the already established team.

Alder Rose is a family-run mortgage broker business, originally working out of offices in Manchester.

But now they have brought the business back home to Frodsham, offering a wide range of services from residential mortgage advice to commercial finance – top quality independent advice which is completely impartial.

The broad-ranging service offered covers everyone and everything from first-time buyers, re-mortgages, buy-to-let properties, commercial finance, insurances and even clients who have been credit impaired previously.

The two new members of staff hugely strengthen the team.

Leanne Ibbotson's role in the

business is vital, as she is one of the case managers, dealing with everything from clients applications right through to completion.

In Cheryl McCabe, the team has gained an extremely experienced and knowledgeable mortgage and protection advisor.

She has worked in the mortgage industry for more than 20 years and specialises in residential mortgages and insurances.

What makes Alder Rose different in the mortgage industry? Well, they are a complete market broker - which means they have access to a wide range of lenders so that they have a better chance of suiting applicants varying needs.

And you can be sure Alder Rose will always try and find a way to help clients in whatever way they can.



Students win praise from professional engineers

YEAR 12 engineering students from Helsby High School made a big impression on professional engineers and technicians at an "Engineering Your Future" event.

The day was split into five workshop sessions designed to be practical and interactive and provide an insight into life as a professional engineer or technician.

They provided a clear understanding of areas such as mechanical, civil, electrical/electronic, chemical and nuclear engineering.

Students could also look at a variety of "stalls" set up by a range of companies offering apprenticeships such as Jaguar Land Rover and Heat Trace.

They learned about the different areas and aspects of engineering from the companies and organisations involved, along with information on routes into engineering and an opportunity to speak with engineers in a more informal setting.

The final workshop was delivered by a broad group of Engineers, from CAL International, a concept to production engineering company, based in Merseyside and Poland.

The students were given engineering drawings of an existing product and were asked to list specific materials that would be suitable for each part of the product - a pulley for a small mast on an unmanned submarine - along with full justifications of their choices.

The young engineers won high praise from the professionals.



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Mayor learns about Showman's Guild

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Frodsham, Cllr Lord Frank Pennington and his wife, Stroke Club President Mrs Jean Johnson and Former Mayor of Frodsham Mallie Poulton recently attend The Showman's Guild Lunch at Blackpool.

It provided the Mayor a chance to find out more about the Guild and its Charitable work and also to be a part of one of the largest gatherings of Mayors and Civics with over 40 in attendance.

Celebrations at Stroke Club



FRODSHAM and district Stroke Club celebrated its fourth Christmas with a party at Frodsham Community Centre.

The club was found in April 2015 in memory of the late Alan Johnson, a Frodsham firefighter.

Members, including people recovering from stroke and their families, friends and carers, were welcomed by chairman Ken Shaw before being entertained by the multi-talented Martin Barry.

They tucked into a hot-pot supper and danced to Martin's singing. In keeping with its aim of supporting the community, the club made a donation to Weaver Vale Primary School's Special Needs Unit.

Run by a committee of volunteers, the club meets once a month and provides fun for members by way of trips to places of interest and special programmes like on the annual Founder's Day & Big Bingo evenings.

Dennis Taylor, stroke survivor, said; 'It was a wonderful evening. The Committee worked hard to arrange the food and entertainment. The atmosphere was really Christmassy.'

For information about the F&D Stroke Club, contact Ken via email on jpkpasha@googlemail.com.

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Netball courts officially opened at high school

STUDENTS of Helsby High School were finally able to play netball outside after five new courts were officially opened with the help of funding from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund.

The courts were opened by representatives of the benefit fund, headteacher John Dowler, governors, staff and students.

Year 11 students produced a short video showing the refurbishment of the courts.

After the ceremony, 79 students stayed after school to play netball.

Netball at Helsby High School is very strong and popular, with 50-plus students often staying for after school sessions.

The lack of outside courts has not put the students off attending but has affected the quality of provision for this sport so the completion of these courts has proved a well-timed and exciting addition to the school's facilities.

In addition, the school is now able to offer tennis to students in the summer.

The facilities are also available for community use and enquiries should be made to the school on 01928 723551 or at finance@helsbyhigh.org.uk



Play area to be protected for ever!

FRODSHAM's Park Lane Play Area is to be protected from developers for ever!

Members of the Town Council

have agreed to make a Deed of Dedication with the National Playing Fields Association in perpetuity to prevent the use of the

site for any other purpose than as a public playing field and recreation area.

The decision brings to an end

the long-running controversy which followed the council's 2014 decision to sell the land for housing.

Hundreds of local people protested and a campaign group - The Friends of John Williamson - was set up to oppose the sale.

They pointed out that the land had been purchased by the former Frodsham Parish Council for £50 in 1939 for "recreational purposes."

Eventually the Town Council took the land off the market and last year new play equipment was installed.

More than 100 people attended an outdoor "party" in the play area to celebrate the exciting new life that was now ahead for the site.

*The campaign group took its name from founder member John Williamson who died tragically shortly after the campaign started.



Pupils get chance to see democracy in action!

LOCAL MP Mike Amesbury hosted pupils from a Frodsham school on their visit to Parliament recently.

The Weaver Vale MP was joined by children from St. Luke's Catholic Primary School who were given a tour of Westminster and had the chance to see a Commons debate up close.

Headteacher Eileen Murtagh said: "Our visit to the Houses of Parliament was an opportunity for us to experience democracy in action. One of the highlights on the tour, was sitting in the viewing gallery of the House of Commons; observing MPs sharing their views on behalf of their constituents."

"Following our tour we returned to the Education Centre. In the

workshop we saw how the country is divided into 650 constituencies, and each one is represented by an MP.

We were really fortunate to be joined our local MP, Mike Amesbury. We would like to thank Mr Amesbury for his time in answering the pupils' questions and informing us about how he represents the views of his constituents."

Mike said: "It was great to meet the pupils and staff from a school in my constituency."

"Whenever I meet pupils and take part in these Q&A sessions, I'm always really impressed by how much they know and want to know about politics and the society around them. It's wonderful to see."



Frodsham WI join national climate change campaign

FRODSHAM WI is taking part in a national campaign to raise awareness of climate change in the community.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes is taking part in the Climate Coalition's "Show the Love" campaign – and in Frodsham that will mean "bombing" parts of the town with individually made green hearts in the run up to Valentine's Day.

Frodsham WI joint president Vivien Shaw said: "We want people to take these lovely hearts home with them to start a conversation about how climate change could affect the Frodsham community."

"We are delighted to already have the backing of Frodsham's MP Mike Amesbury. So keep your eyes open round Frodsham. Take one of these lovely hearts home and think what your family can do to halt

climate change."

Over the years, the WI nationally has a proud history of taking action to protect the environment.

They have cleaned up beaches, stood up for the honeybee and campaigned for wide areas of special beauty.

In recent times, their concern for the natural environment has seen members rally against climate change.

Action-packed days and nights in Berlin



A party of 37 Year 11 students from Helsby High School spent three action-packed days and nights in Berlin.

They toured much of the city, taking in the historic and cultural sights including the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Cathedral, the Holocaust Memorial and the Reichstag.

The tour also included the spectacular Olympic Stadium – home of Hertha Berlin Football Club – which

was built for the 1936 Olympics with the first electronic timers and giant TV screens.

Throughout the trip, the party used public transport – buses, trams, U-Bahn and S-Bahn.

Staff who accompanied the students were full of praise for their behaviour throughout the tour.

Reader's Letters

The goods shed

Roger Williams, Frodsham

IN your editorial of the January issue you again address the issue of the goods shed and again appear to support the argument against demolition.

Your article quotes the figure of 73 per cent of Frodsham's population voting against demolition. This cannot be correct and I believe you should publish a correction. There has never been a properly managed referendum of Frodsham's population. You may be quoting figures from the response to a very poorly advertised opportunity to express an opinion on a web site? You have to remember that not everyone is a slave to social media. For your figures to be correct approximately 7300 people would have had to vote against demolition. I doubt this is correct.

I believe what we have here is the loud voice of the militant minority. If you propose to demolish anything you will get a number of vociferous objectors. By contrast those in favour, or those who have no strong view, feel less compelled to voice their opinion. My perception from views I have heard expressed is that those who wish to see the goods shed retained are very much in the minority.

The goods shed has no architectural merit and if a use for it was found it would aggravate the current parking problems. The town does not need additional performance space or for that matter offices or retail. To create more could serve to reduce the viability of what currently exists.

Please let us not let sentimentality for an unattractive relic stand in the way of a more sensible solution. If you want a alternative picture then demolish the shed, relocate the recycle compound and create a decent car park with interspersed tree planting, thus satisfying form and function. Sadly I have doubts as to whether CW&C would fund trees?

Editor's comment: We have repeatedly stated that we remain neutral on the issue of the Goods Shed. But we have expressed concern about the way the issue has been dealt with by Cheshire West and Chester who declined the opportunity to advertise the survey in Frodsham Life.

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