

2022 has been a very busy year for the Parish Council that included the recent Remembrance Day parade, the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and, sadly, the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen. These all demonstrate how much time officers and councillors spend on organising safe, often large scale, public events.

Events such as Carols from The Cross have become victims of their own success - attracting very large crowds that must be managed safely. The requirements applicable to such events are now much tighter than in the past. They must be run according to an Event Management Plan that needs signing off by Warrington Borough Council and the Emergency Services. Volunteers helping at such events need to be properly trained and briefed.

Carols from The Cross will take place on the usual date of Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December, with a new look and time. The stage is being moved to the Lower Dam, giving more people a better view and to enable a large crowd to be accommodated safely in the village centre. This also gives the Lymm Radio presenters, singers and musicians a safe space to perform from. A sound system is being hired in to enable more people at the event to hear the presenters and the band. The roads will be closed from 5.30pm and Lymm Radio will start the festive warm up from the stage at 6pm with a live outside broadcast, preparing the crowds for the carols starting at the usual time of 7pm. As is the new tradition, Lymm Radio will be broadcasting the event live across the airwaves, so those who cannot attend in person can still enjoy it from work or home.

At the time of writing, the tree brackets and electric sockets for the festive decoration of the village are in the process of being checked for safety. Once completed, the Parish Council will arrange for the appropriate trees and lights to be installed in time for the Dickensian Festival.

The first Christmas Advent Trail will be launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. Collect a calendar from a local business or print from the Parish Council's website and start filling in your sheet. Once complete, exchange it for a prize. Check the website for more details.

Next year, the Parish Council will be responding to any modifications that will be recommended by the Inspector for Warrington's Local Plan. Developers felt that Lymm was not taking its fair share of development and those disappointed in the site allocations challenged some of the sites that have been chosen. The Parish Council has agreed to continue funding for the professional support we are getting to ensure that the Local Plan does as little harm to the village and its green belt as possible.

Once the new Local Plan is approved, those writing Lymm's Neighbourhood Plan will be able to make the finishing touches before it goes out for consultation.

The village hall roof, parts of which are now beyond easy repair, and needs replacing next year and a planning application to approve the work will be submitted shortly. Also, a planning application is required to allow the Parish Council to reduce the size of the two London Plane trees near The Cross in the village centre as well as upgrade the central noticeboard. An arboriculturist's report stated these trees are healthy and should last for some time but need trimming down to reduce their size and impact.

The public toilet at Lymm Dam has reopened following vandalism.

The planter at the Lower Dam has been approved for repair and weather permitting, will be repaired in time for the festivities.

We look forward to the holiday season that will include the traditional Lymm Dickensian Christmas Festival on the 10<sup>th</sup> December and Carols from the Cross on Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December. We look forward to seeing you all.

Cllr Bob Barr  
Chair  
Lymm Parish Council