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Chancery Road Hedge Saved!

Your Astley and Buckshaw Borough Councillors, Mark Perks and Alan Platt, are happy to report the hedging along Chancery Road in front of the shops and Baron's Rest has been saved.

On hearing from residents that Chorley Council had been asked to tear up the hedging Alan and Mark met with Chorley Council Open Spaces Officers to discuss options drawn up by the council. It was agreed that, instead of removing the hedging, it would be cut back in front of the Barons and the hedge along the knee rail cut down to knee height and the gaps replanted. The work has now been done and the hedges will be maintained on a regular basis.

Work will also shortly begin on the neighbourhood scheme, to make improvements to the land around the subway, put forward by Cllr Mark Perks who said, "now the council has taken measures to tackle the knotweed problem plans have been drawn up to replant the slopes and undertake landscaping which improve the visual aspect and tackle the issue of eroded soil being deposited on the footpath which blocks the drains and makes a general mess every time it rain heavy." Chorley Council has approved, and will undertake, the work starting this Winter. The scheme has also been supported by the Parish Council.



Alan and Mark by the saved hedge

Providing Activities in the Community

Five weeks of 2013 summer sports programme was run by coaches from Astley and Buckshaw Juniors FC and held at Astley Village Community Centre. Organised by Mark Perks, it attracted over 230 young people. In 2014 the scheme will celebrate its 10th year and plans are already developing.



This summer, in partnership with Music and Art for Creative Youth (MACY), a series of Discover Arts Award activities involving art/craft activities ran alongside the football and over 90 young people took part in these sessions.

Euxton Lane Layby Improvements

A request by Cllr Mark Perks, to Lancashire County Council, to resolve issues relating to the Euxton Lane layby has resulted in parking restrictions being implemented. The parking area was resurfaced, a 3 hour time limit introduced and double yellow lines introduced at both entrances.

Early monitoring suggests the scheme is working in terms of reducing hospital staff using it as overflow car park and both entrances are no longer blocked by double parking.

Astley Park Events Parking

In an attempt to help with problems for residents caused by vehicles parking on estate roads within Astley Village, Mark and Alan requested detailed traffic management plans are put in place for all events in Astley Park and at Derian House which attract large numbers of vehicles.

Mark and Alan then joined representatives from the Parish Council at a meeting with Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council Officers and the Police to discuss the problems and, as a result, a Parking Management System is being developed which includes the creation of additional parking spaces near to the Southport Road entrance to the Park.

Chorley RUFC Homes Plan

Chorley Council has approved plans to build on and develop the Chorley RUFC at the Brookfield ground on Chancery Road. It is disappointing a further 50 homes will be built on recreational ground when Buckshaw Village has a great deal of land awaiting development.

Suggestions made by Cllr Mark Perks in his submission to the planners on the layout of homes, protection of hedgerows, trees and the need for extra car parking provision were incorporated into the amended plan. However, his request that developers should make the recommended contribution of £21k towards open space and play equipment through a section 106 agreement was waived and Astley Village has now lost out on vital funding to improve facilities.

Traffic Measures outside Trinity Primary School, Buckshaw

The campaign for road safety measures to be introduced outside the village primary school has been successful with Lancashire County Council agreeing to implement a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) along Unity Place and at the junction with Village Way.

Led by Cllr Mark Perks, and supported by Cllr Alan Platt, - Mark persuaded Highway's Officers, following a number of meetings and a site visit, that parking in the area was both dangerous and placed pedestrian's, namely children, at risk. The TRO will see yellow zigzags painted on the school side along Unity Place outside the school main gates and double yellows line at the road junction with Village Way.

This work will coincide with the news that Redrow Homes has announced the road surface will be receiving its final topping from Village Way to both the Medical Centre and Community Centre.

Providing Activities in the Community

Councillors Alan Platt and Cllr Mark Perks continue to be proactive within both communities volunteering and working with organisations that provide activities and opportunities for all.



Buckshaw Youth Association has been running since 2009 and recently Alan joined the trustee's becoming the group's secretary. A variety of activities make up its Youth Offer and it operates on a Friday evening between 8:00 and 10:00pm during school term at Buckshaw Community Centre. Mark continues to volunteer as youth worker for the Group.

This year 28 young people achieved success by gaining Silver and Bronze Arts Award, AQA's and FA Level 1 coaching qualifications and the awards were presented at a ceremony at The Hub in October attended by the young people and their families.

BYA is open to young people from Buckshaw and the surrounding area. Admission is only £1.00 per session. For details contact Mark or Alan.

This year's BYA Christmas Lights switch on is on Friday 6th December at 7:00pm. All residents are welcome - come along to Main Square and join the young people.

New Pedestrian Access for Station

Following a two year campaign since Buckshaw Parkway Station was built, Redrow are nearing completion of the footpath that will link Central Avenue to the station car park.

A big thank you to Redrow Homes for providing this important link for pedestrians and keeping to the assurances they made to Cllr Mark Perks.

Lest We Forget

October/November is a busy time for Alan - he is now into his 11th year as Poppy Appeal Coordinator for one of the Chorley Districts and has sole responsibility for the ordering and delivering of the poppies and collection boxes to the collection points and picking up and arranging the banking of the collections afterwards.



It's a very busy period of time but Alan is more than happy to give his time to this worthy cause.

HGV Parking in Residential areas

Residents in Buckshaw have been reporting an increase in the number of HGV's parking up in residential areas, around Tesco's and along Buckshaw Avenue. This prompted Cllr's Alan Platt and Mark Perks to ask Chorley Council to write to all the Distribution Centre's on the village seeking information on their onsite provision and to look at encouraging visiting HGV's to have access to their sites.

Businesses who responded have given their support and feedback being received from residents indicates there has been a marked improvement.

Euxton Lane Landscaping Changes bring Seal of Approval

Years of campaigning by Mark Perks, supported by Alan Platt, for landscaping improvements to be undertaken along Euxton Lane have finally paid off. The breakthrough came after the college bought the land from BAe Systems and work started almost immediately.

Following this news a meeting was arranged between Cllr Mark Perks, Officers of Lancashire County Council and Runshaw



Mark and Alan and the new landscaping

College to discuss ideas and ways of transforming the eyesore.

Network Rail undertook to tarmac and improve the front car park. Runshaw College, with advice from LCC, completed works to its land fronting Euxton Lane, laying soil and seeding to provide a lawned frontage, erecting edge fencing and building a footpath and disabled access route to the bus stop.

Chorley Council and LCC drew up plans and undertook work to tidy the Central Ave/railway bridge embankment. Cllr Platt said, " public feedback has all been positive, everyone involved has done a really good job and the area looks so much better."