

29 February 2024 Parish Councilors meeting with CEO Cheshire West		Anderton with Marbury Attendees Helen Brewin Chair Parish Council Catharine Walmsley Vice Chair Parish Council June Thomas Parish Councilor Helen Grant Clerk	
Council Services	General questions put forwards by Anderton with Marbury	Specific Questions	Service Response
Communication/Consultation/ Helplines/ Website	Why are residents not advised of work which is being carried out in their area	Residents find painted markings outside their homes which appear to indicate work is about to be carried out but nothing to suggest what work/how long/what disruption	<p>Good communication with residents is an important priority. If the works are major works, then the affected properties should be notified by letter drop, and Advanced Scheme Notice Boards should be displayed around two of weeks in advance.</p> <p>Where works require a permit i.e. closures, or diversions, then details of all these works can be found on <u>one.network website</u>.</p>
Flooding/ Roads/ Pavements/ Gullies/Verges	The section of road known as Marbury Hollows is a dangerous area for pedestrians and cyclists alike many suggestions are muted including a bridge.	A cyclist was injured in collision with a van only recently, does it always take a fatality before more is done?	The Head of Highways attended a Ward walkabout with Ward Members previously and this was discussed. They were informed that a feasibility study/ options appraisal would be required, however, there was no current funding available for this work. Ward Members agreed to go away and review what external funding may be available to undertake this piece of work.
High Streets	Why is not more done to bring more shops to the high street?	We have a new shopping area but combined rent & rates seem to be the stumbling block to encourage shops.	Supporting a vibrant high street is a priority. It requires a range of interventions to attract new visitors, increase footfall and dwell time, make businesses feel supported, improve the environment and raise the profile of the town.

		<p>Surely some income is better than none?</p>	<p>The Northwich Development Framework, approved by Cabinet in October 2023, sets out how this can be achieved.</p> <p>The bullets below set out some of the interventions that the Council and its partners are doing or have done to support town centre businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northwich is lucky to have a number of partners who run events in the town including the Northwich BID, Northwich Town Council and Northwich Rotary, with the Pina Colada Festival, Christmas Extravaganza and Northwich River Festival becoming annual events. The Council has also directly supported the Now Northwich arts festival with a UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.• The Northwich Townscape Heritage Project saw capital invested in the frontages of 14 historic buildings which uplifted the appearance of the historic streets of Witton Street and High Street Northwich Townscape Heritage Project (northwich-th.co.uk). Following the interventions, the 'Heritage at Risk Register' now describes the Northwich Conservation Area as 'Improving significantly'.• The town centre benefits from a Business Improvement District (Northwich BID) and the Council is providing administrative support to Groundwork to develop its BID 3 proposals.• There is work undertaken to ensure that a skilled workforce is available to support local businesses through the Council's Work Zones. The Work Zones can offer tailored support such as the Sector Work and Placement Scheme (SWAPS), an intervention that links
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			<p>updated every 4-6 weeks - Commercial sites & premises - Let's Talk Business Cheshire West (letstalkbizcw.co.uk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy for Weaver Square is to introduce a modern and affordable town centre living offer into the heart of the town centre. It is believed that these plans will support the future viability of the town centre by bringing additional footfall and spend, whilst at the same time consolidating the retail offer to support the traditional shopping area of Witton Street and High Street and the modern retail and leisure development at Barons Quay. It is hoped that the new community will support existing businesses, help to attract new investment, and give a welcomed boost the evening economy. • At the same time, efforts continue to be made to lease units in Barons Quay through the Council's agents Barker Proudlove. There are currently three units under offer and progressing through legals, and conversations continue to take place with a range of retail, leisure and other operators about the remaining vacant units. The council carefully consider interest in Barons Quay to ensure that the lettings are right for the town and the offer we have created in Barons Quay for the people of Northwich, encouraging families to spend time in the town centre is a key aim.
Parks & Recreation	Access by foot is currently curtailed between Marbury and Anderton by the failure of Hopyards Bridge this has been over a year	Similar concern on the chutes down from Barnton. Do the council hope by procrastination the	Below is a response that was sent following an MP enquiry: "Hopyards Footbridge is not within the Councils ownership, however Officers have been working with the owners of the bridge, Forestry England, to review options for its replacement. Forestry England closed the bridge due to safety concerns. Conversations have been had with Forestry England, the Parish

	now why is no action being taken	problems will go away?	Council and local groups, but the proposed costs equating to approximately £36,000 cannot be secured at this time. At this current time, The Council is not looking to finance an asset that is not within the Councils ownership, however we are able to support groups in sourcing external funding to replace the bridge and have offered this support.”
Public Rights of Way	When farmers make public rights of way impassible who can residents turn to?		<p>Currently the best place to report issues and obstruction is on the PRoW page of the website.</p> <p>The council are currently undertaking some changes to the website which will make reporting issues easier.</p> <p>There is another body of work which relates to internal systems which will assist in the locations of the issue and effective tracking of the problem.</p>
Planning	Why does it take so long to make any decisions on planning, there should be a quicker turnabout on decisions	Local PC's are asked to advise on planning applications, using their knowledge of the area why are PC's not used to greater advantage.	<p>Planning</p> <p>The time taken to deal with a planning application can vary significantly due to a variety of factors. This can be as a result of complex policy or technical issues, amount of correspondence received, technically valid but poorly detailed applications and a variety of other factors. The planning service has made significant inroads with regards to the backlog and have been active in seeking ways to reduce it and improve the planning service. It is hoped, through a combination of factors that this issue will be resolved this year. The planning team have faced the same issues most local planning authorities face and competing over the same resources to address these challenges. The team has secured specialist advice and has sought to improve the offer to staff in order to effectively recruit and retain. The team has been</p>

			<p>awarded government funding to help address this issue and through the use of additional fees/monies has been able to recruit 5 additional planning officers and team leader. It is hoped that the combination of these measures will address this matter and there is a clear plan in place.</p> <p>The input of Parish Council's is an important part of the consultation undertaken on each application. It is however ultimately for the council to make the decision in line with the relevant policy and guidance. Officers of the planning team should always be addressing the matters raised by the Parish Council in their reports for applications.</p>
Waste/Tips/Bins/ Fly -tipping	Summer months and holiday season sees the public bins around our area frequently overflowing, can the council not factor this into planning to empty the bins on a more frequent basis following these times?		Public Bins are emptied on a frequency basis, from weekly to daily depending on the location and usage. The Service is about to look at frequency and usage of all the 3000 public bins across the service to make sure it matches current demand.