

Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council
Chairman's Report
2017-18

My thanks go to my fellow councillors for their continued support in the activity of the parish council. Councillor Barker has undertaken a number of duties connected with planning issues both here and with Barton Parish Council in connection with their neighbourhood plan. My thanks also go to our parish clerk who always ensures that all matters are carefully logged and publicised including on our website.

One of the biggest changes has been the retirement of our Parish lengthsman Tony Cragg after 18 years of looking after our Parish and Claughton, with the help of his dog. Our new lengthsman is Margaret Noblett who is already making her mark on keeping both areas in good order.

The Brock station site has had the addition of some raised beds that produced vegetable last summer to join the fruit from the trees in the orchard for the community to share. The banks of the river Brock at the site were checked by the river Wyre Trust and are in good order. The picnic benches had a metal plate added to the surface so that portable barbecue units could be used with greater safety.

Slowing the traffic through the village has been helped by the reduction in the speed limit to 30 miles per hour and Barton is attempting to continue that speed limit along more of the A6. We are still pursuing the option of a proper controlled crossing with within Bilsborrow village but so far the funding has not been available to the local authority. We shall keep on at the authorities until we do get a crossing somewhere in the centre of the village.

Problems with flooding have continued to be an issue in some parts of the parish for example outside John Cross School on Church Lane where the water can be several inches deep after even moderate rain. The drains have been cleaned but the west side of the A6 is still causing difficulty with mud and water collecting badly at the edge of the road and on the pavement. This is another issue which we will actively pursue until it is resolved.

Visitors to our area often comment on the colourful floral displays at the sides of the road and along the canal bank where daffodils in the spring are a wonderful sight. The effort made in summer with beds of flowers has earned the village awards in Britain In Bloom. Our thanks go to the team of volunteers who help to keep those flowers watered and cared for.

The housing development in the Barton area to the west of the A6 is within our Parish and despite our best endeavours the development has spread into adjacent fields. This has resulted in a potential payment by the developers to Wyre Council which may help to fund a games area within the site of John Cross School.

It has been a privilege to be chairman of Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council for this year. I have attended meetings of other local Parish Councils and the Lancashire conference

of Parish Councils from the whole of the County which has helped me to keep up with current trends in Parish Council activities elsewhere.

Jen Olivine