



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2021 via Zoom, Cllr Joe Pearson gave his annual report: he thanked those attending and indeed those who have regularly joined the meetings throughout the year for their valuable contribution to the work of the Council and the life of our village. He commented that the past year had been like no other and recognised all of our personal lives have been affected by the Covid Pandemic. He paid tribute to Cllr Ken Cleary, MBE, a recent Chairman and former Mayor of St Helens, and also David Bentham who was Clerk to the Council for many years and the Chairman again recorded his condolences to their families and friends.

He went on to welcome Elaine Murphy who had been co-opted onto the Parish Council at the beginning of the year and said she is already making a significant contribution to the work of the Parish Council. He went on to assure that it had been possible to conduct most of the normal business and for the first three months and that he (as Chairman) and Clerk had dealt with all essential matters until full meetings were able to take place via Zoom. Planning matters had continued to be dealt with by our Planning Committee and residents' concerns and queries, reported by phone, email and online contact forms were responded to. Extra newsletters which, along with new noticeboards, Facebook and Website had kept residents regularly updated.

Although use of the halls had been severely restricted they had continued to be open for essential cleaning, repair, maintenance and statutory inspections and they were used for flu vaccination by Garswood Surgery several times last Autumn. Garswood Dance and the sports teams have managed to continue their activities at various points over the year while some groups had not been able to meet in person. However some, like Guiding have maintained their meetings and activities online. The Chairman offered thanks to the Parish Volunteer Group, established last March, for their amazing work: delivering meals, shopping, food bank work, prescription collection, phone support for those shielding or in need of extra help in their daily lives

Thanks were also given to those local businesses that acted as foodbank collection points and continue to do so: these include Bargain Booze; The Store (Rectory Road) and the Garage on Garswood Road and Amanda's Sandwich Shop for providing so many meals for the sick and housebound in the community. Recognition and thanks were given to our schools and nurseries for their hard work throughout lockdowns to support vulnerable children and the children of key workers, whilst supporting home learning. Activities arranged or supported by the Parish Council over the last year include:

- VE Day decoration of halls and also during November
- Lamp Post poppies in November
- Support for litter picking session
- Halloween pumpkin competition
- Lights Decoration at the halls for Christmas
- Santa's visit to schools and tour of Seneley Green streets
- Funding support was given for
- Christmas Concert by Tom Loughlin
- Ward Councillor's Christmas Toy Appeal.

The Chairman thanked his colleagues at Parish Council for their support and hard work during this difficult time. Appreciation was given to residents for their overwhelming support of Foodbank, local initiatives and especially for looking after each other for the past year.

Looking forward, the Chairman reported Parish Council are planning a number of new and exciting projects and the first of these - the refurbishment of the Parish Hall is already under way."

GARSWOOD LIBRARY



The following is an announcement by St Helens Council: *Selected libraries in St Helens Borough (Parr, Chester Lane, and Eccleston plus Newton at the beginning of August) reopened to the public at the end of July as part of a phased return, with a number of measures in place to keep visitors and staff safe. Libraries that have the space to reconfigure layouts in the interest of social distancing, were identified to reopen first - with other libraries remaining closed but under continual review for the time being with decisions on opening further libraries taken as and when it is safe to do so. St Helens Archive also reopened from Monday 27 July*

Parish Council would urge all residents to take part in the St Helens Council online consultation that went live at www.sthelens.gov.uk/council/public-consultation/ on 14 June - Friday 3 September, paper copies are available in libraries. Link to strategy: <http://moderngov.sthelens.gov.uk/documents/s114417/Appendix%20A.pdf>

Since the above announcement, Parish/Ward Councillors have secured some provision and published this on our Facebook page: "We have been in contact with officers over Garswood Library, the response we received below may not be ideal but at least it's some sort of provision at the current time". "From Monday 5th July Garswood Library will open twice a week for Click and Collect and IT access, residents can either select books on line or alternatively phone to discuss with a member of library staff their requirements. The books will then be available for collection at Garswood Library on Monday between 10am -2pm and Friday between 1pm -5pm.

Using Garswood Library building means we can offer IT access for anyone who relies on our service for IT access but it must be noted that social distancing will mean only one PC will be available.

Residents will not be allowed to enter the building and browse stock and will be required to make prior arrangements to collect books or use the PC

Library Users will also be able to collect paper copies of the Strategy Consultation Survey from Garswood Library should they wish."

Keep an eye out for a **questionnaire** on our Facebook page relating to the future of the library service in our area. Those with no online access are invited to **share their views** by post to

75 Windsor Road, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7LD or dropping through the letterboxes at either Parish or Community Halls.

Parish Councillors are keen to support resident opinion on this and a good response to the questionnaire would be ideal.

We are also looking to hold a public meeting to further discuss – look out for the date on our noticeboards, website and Facebook page.



RAIL STATION

Parish Council continue in their efforts to secure confirmation from Network Rail re ongoing repairs and maintenance. We are also in regular touch with the Transport Committee of Liverpool City Region over the longstanding issue of accessibility, this is reported on at Parish Council meetings, duly Minuted and published

Don't be Alone!

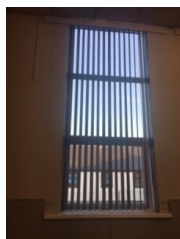
As Covid19 restrictions are lifted, please remember you are not alone. In **Seneley Green** our Councillors are available to you. Please call Cllr Sue Murphy on 07597399098 or Cllr Stuart Barton (Foodbank Vouchers) on **07932077310** if you are in need of assistance. We have a team of truly amazing volunteers who are happy to help.

St Helens Council are also on hand and St Helens Together 01744 676767 is a single point of contact for people needing help or wanting to volunteer. They also have a website page dedicated to giving an array of information for local residents to access <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/sthelenstogether>

Take a look at the Parish Hall!

We are now almost at the end of the long road to getting our Parish Hall updated – we listened to local residents who are keen to retain the building and we look forward to the return of our usual groups following the lifting of restrictions and also to increased use (for information relating to hire, please contact the Clerk – details on the back page)

We have completely refurbished the kitchen and wc areas; new panelling to the walls in the main hall and decoration throughout. The main hall floor will have been sanded and varnished by the time this newsletter goes to print; we have new flooring to kitchen, entrance hall, rear corridor and wc area – the new look is completed by new blinds to the windows. The photos below don't do it justice so we will be having an Open Day – please keep an eye out on our noticeboards, on our website and Facebook page for details.



New Member of Staff

We are pleased to welcome local resident, **Andrew Boyle** to the Sports Attendant post and wish him every success in his new role. Thanks are extended to **Diane Shirley** who left us a couple of months ago to take up a new job – we also wish her every success and thank her for her hard work and commitment to the Parish over the last six years.

A DAY OF FAMILY FUN!

12:00 PM SATURDAY

7TH AUGUST

Cllr Sue Murphy, Mayor of St Helens and local Ward and Parish Councillor has organised a Family Fun Day and hosting this at Garswood United Football Club: come along and enjoy stalls, fair rides and seven live bands to entertain everyone.

Donations will be collected at the gate in aid of the Mayor's two charities for this year – Alder Hey Hospital and Friends of Helen Marie-

Friends of Seneley Green

FOSG are ticking over and nicely and have applied for funding through St Helens as part of the biodiversity plan to encourage pollinators in our area.

They are also holding a stall at the Mayor's Fair and tying this in with supporting Holy Trinity Church. The group have a couple of new volunteers but due to work commitments as few have been lost, however they are still pulling together and hoping to raise funds to pay for activities for young people in the area.

Road Safety

Parish Council are aware of the issues relating to speeding vehicles on Booths Brow/Leyland Green Road and is liaising with local residents over this. Whilst there are still problems with speeding motorists, a local firm was reminded of the 20mph limit and this has led to a reduction in speed of their vehicles.

Blooming Lovely!

Volunteer residents responded brilliantly to a shout out on our Facebook page for help in planting up the planters/barrier baskets in our area and made a lovely job of replenishing with new flowers, plants and compost – supplied by **Parish Council** in conjunction with **Rectory Nurseries** who made a significant contribution – our thanks to them too!

Dog Fouling Problems Continue as always, this issue includes a plea for **ALL** dog owners to clear up after their pets and deposit in dog bins supplied or take with them to dispose of at home. For more detail: <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/business/animal-health-welfare/dog-welfare-enforcement-service/>

Your Parish Councillors:

Brenda Ashcroft	01942 721289
Susan Murphy	01942 802048
Elaine Murphy	07840 395387
Stuart Barton, Vice Chairman	07932077310
Joe Pearson, Chairman	01942 743021
Peter Peers	07939 004421
Bernard Pilkington	01942 728466
Jim Stevenson	01942 726695

Clerk/RFO Carole Bolton
Tel 01744 892167
Email seneleygreenpc@gmail.com

Catch up with us at
seneleygreenparishcouncil.org.uk
.... or find us on Facebook



If there is anything you wish to comment, compliment or complain about in relation to the Parish of Seneley Green then please contact the Parish Clerk

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2021/22

All meetings will be held at either Parish Hall or Community Hall, beginning at 7pm (venue will be on published Agendas)

No meeting in August; 9th September; 14th October, 11th November; 9th December; 13th January; 10th February, 10th March; 7th April (also Annual Parish Meeting); 12th May (also Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

What's On at the Halls and Playing Fields

It will be lovely to welcome back our hall and playing field hirers and hopefully everything's going to be getting back to normal after the summer break so look out for information on our noticeboards, in local shops, on our Facebook page and website and in our next newsletter. Amongst the groups expected to be up and running in September include: Garswood Dance, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Trinity Girls Brass Band, Coffee and Chat, T'ai Chi, Garswood & Seneley Junior Football Club, Town Green U16's Football team, Garswood Stags ARL (current playing 2021 season)

Merseyside Police

The St Helens Community Police Team cover our area, and under normal pre-COVID19 conditions the attended Parish Council meetings and offered regular public sessions at the local police station at Main Street, Billinge but obviously these are currently suspended – further information including crime rates (for the Ward of Billinge & Seneley Green) can be found on <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/a/your-area/merseyside/st-helens/billinge-seneley-green>
(See side panel for reporting information)

Contact details for our MP **Conor McGinn Constituency**

Office: 6th Floor Century House, Hardshaw Steet, St Helens WA10 1QU
Tel: 01744 21336 **Parliamentary Office:** House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA **Tel:** 0207 219 4367 **Website:** ConorMcGinn.co.uk

REPORT ONLINE
www.merseyside.police.uk

REPORT ON TWITTER
[@MerPolCC](https://twitter.com/MerPolCC)

REPORT ON FACEBOOK
Merseyside Police CC

CALL US ON 101
Please note our 101 lines can be extremely busy at times and there could be a wait.

CALL 999
In an emergency always call 999

Contact Details for St Helens Council: type St Helens into your App Store search box and download the app for free - alternatively Tel 01744 676789 or email contatcentre@sthelens.gov.uk

St Helens Council – ‘Tell us Once’ Service: St Helens Council offer a ‘Tell us Once’ for the newly bereaved to help inform all those who need to know. Telephone 01744 676789 or call in at the Contact Centre at Wesley House to make an appointment which can be carried out either at the same time as registering the death or at some other time convenient to you.