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Magazine

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Picture: Josh Taylor

Breach! The new exhibition

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WARRINGTON Borough Council's proposals to end free one-hour car parking on the village car parks will have a devastating impact for local traders.

Giving a 21-day consultation process was also simply not long enough to give everyone a chance to find out about the proposals or provide a response, in particular for those who do not spend time on social media or read their local news online.

With this in mind I wrote to leader of the council Hans Mundry, copying in senior council officers, asking for the consultation to be extended to give those who still rely on print media to find out what was being proposed. (see below)

At time of going to press and almost a week after making my plea I hadn't received a response.

So, if you are reading this after the deadline of February 17 – you will probably now not had chance to provide your feedback.

If the free-parking is taken away it is going to have a huge impact on village trade and with many retailers already struggling during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, this could be the straw that breaks the camel's back for some.

With the impending national insurance hike set to impact staffing costs, as well as people not having as much disposable income – the loss of free-parking could be the killer blow for some!

Come on Warrington Borough Council – you need to be working

hard to support your local business communities, not restricting their trade.

Dear Hans

I am writing to you to ask if you could extend the 21-day consultation on the proposed changes to car parking at Lymm, which has unfortunately fallen between our February/March editions of Lymm Life, giving little time for many residents (especially the elderly) to have time to respond.

Our March issue hits the streets on February 17 – just three days before consultation ends.

With Lymm Life being delivered to around 5,000 homes and businesses in the village – this will provide the best opportunity to get the message out.

I am not asking the council to spend any money (Although for proper consultation that should have been the correct approach) as this is such a big issue of Lymm, I am happy to run it for free as a news item.

Many businesses are struggling at the moment, and anything that deters people visiting the village will signal the death knell for some.

By extending the deadline for a week – it should give nearly everyone time to take part in the consultation.

Best wishes

*Gary
Editor Lymm Life magazine*

Deadline for the April issue of Lymm Life is March 4

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Breach! The new exhibition Lymm Heritage Centre never wanted to have

A new exhibition has opened at Lymm Heritage Centre detailing the events surrounding the breach of the Bridgewater Canal.

Now open, the exhibition is one Lymm Heritage Centre never wanted to have!

It follows on from the worst start to the year locally as rain battered the area through New Year's Eve and Day causing a dramatic breach of the Bridgewater Canal. Mercifully no boats were moored near the spot or they could well have been swept away.

Daylight revealed a huge gash in the embankment and thousands of tons of water in the Bollin Plain below all meaning that the canal is closed for an indefinite period.

Only three years ago Lymm Heritage Centre staged an exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the National Waterways Rally in Lymm following the last Dunham breach in 1971. Now the Centre has responded quickly to this latest catastrophe with a new exhibition – Breach! which is now open.

"It's the exhibition we never wanted to have" explained the Centre's chair Alan Williams.

"A busy canal with boats stopping over and passing through is an essential part of the character of Lymm. The boats also bring business and other day visitors who together contribute to the economic well-being of the village. The

breach is bad news for the whole canal community and bad news for Lymm".

The exhibition uses stories, images and an in-depth video to tell the whole story of the Dunham Embankment from its construction in 1766 right up to the events of the last few weeks. It looks at the possible causes of the breach and its likely implications. The Centre is open Thursday to Sunday every week from 12 till 4. At 1 Legh St Lymm WA13 0DA www.lymmh.c.co.uk

Pictures: Josh Taylor




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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
Next meeting Tuesday March 11th, 7:30pm
Lymm Parish Hall
Check www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk for details.

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB
Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm
Details: 07708 172015

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP
Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30pm
Oughtrington Community Centre, Lymm
Details: 01925 755926

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM
Meets at Warburtons Parish Rooms on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm
Contact 01925 919053

LOVING HEARTS & HANDS
Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church, 2nd and 4th Thursday each month.
1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

LUNCH AT THE BROW
Eagle Brow Methodist Church
2nd Friday in the month
Light lunches 12 noon till 1.30pm.
All proceeds to The Y Project Room at The Inn

GARDENING CLUB
Meet Third Wednesday of the month
Lymm Baptist Church, Higher Lane. 7.30pm
Visitors welcome. £2 includes tea and cake

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP
Lymm Village Hall
Third Monday of the month (except August and December) at 7.30pm. Visitors most welcome. Contact: 07876 176501
lymmfloralart.org.uk

LYMM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday (ex Aug), 7.30pm
Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.
See our rolling display in Lymm Library
Details: www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE
3rd Wednesday of the month, 8pm
The Spread Eagle Hotel
Details: 01925 756444

LYMM CONCERT BAND
Rehearsals every Thursday evening
United Reformed Church, 8pm.
Details: 01925 752934

LYMM WI
Every second Wednesday, 2-4pm at Lymm Youth and Community Centre. Visitors welcome.

LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR
Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.
cath@cstones.co.uk

PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM
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Details: www.LymmProbus.club

LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB
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Details: www.lymmdingleprobus.club
Club secretary 01925 759995

FRIENDS OF LYMM LIBRARY CRAFT GROUP
Lymm Sanctuary Hub
Fridays 1.30-3.00pm
Details: 01925 754016

HEATLEY WI
Meets the second Thursday of each month at Oughtrington Junior School, 7pm
Visitors welcome. Details: 01925 752014

LYMM & THELWALL U3A
Speaker meeting 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August & December) at Thelwall Parish Hall 10.00am. Prospective members welcome.
www.u3asites.org.uk/lymm-thelwall/home
Contact: enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday March 11th, 7:30pm
See parish council website for details.

More than 4,000 people sign petition opposing parking charges



MORE than 4,000 people have signed a petition urging Warrington Borough Council to overturn its controversial introduction of new parking charges in Stockton Heath and Lymm.

The car parking charges are to be implemented at council car parks at The Forge, Stockton Heath, and at car parks in Lymm to generate income for the cash-strapped authority.

Warrington Borough Council needs to plug a £30m gap in its finances.

The petition was started last month by Sally Sharma, a resident, business owner and councillor who is "deeply concerned about the proposed removal of free parking periods at Lymm and Stockton Heath car parks."

She adds that the change "would have a detrimental effect on our community, potentially causing local businesses that we cherish to close."

She pointed out that nine years ago, when parking was first suggested, "our community rallied together with over 3,000 people voicing their objection to the council."

The resistance was heard and the council made changes that protected local businesses.

She added: "Parking charges can deter consumers from visiting local businesses, those that contribute to our unique community fabric."

Other areas of the town with council car parks have free parking, she added. "And we must ask why we have the only car parks that will be charged?"

The council appears to have relaxed its original plan of removing

nearly all free parking, by continuing with the 15-minute free period at The Forge car park in Stockton Heath.

Under the plans, one hour free parking in Lymm is to be scrapped along with free parking in Stockton Heath after 3pm.

The measures will come into effect later this year following a consultation.

The car parks affected are The Forge, and Pepper Street, Henry Street and Davies Way in Lymm.

Under the proposals, it will cost 70 pence to park for an hour in Lymm.

Stockton Heath, meanwhile, will see standard parking charges extended til 5pm and a lower evening rate introduced.

Between 5pm and 10pm Monday to Saturday at the Forge, parking will be free for one hour with no return within two hours.

For more than an hour the evening rate is £1.40, with all-day return permitted.

Cllr Hans Mundry, leader of the council, speaking last month said: "While we are proposing to remove free parking periods in Stockton Heath and Lymm as part of our work to make savings across the board, we are committed to keeping the new charges to the absolute minimum."

He said the proposals reflected the "difficult choices necessary" to achieve savings and protect frontline services.

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Students brave storms on first steps for Duke of Edinburgh awards

LYMM High School students from Years 9, 10 and 12 who have signed up for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold awards braved the January storms to take their first expedition steps for later this year.

The students threw themselves into activities, gaining a great deal of knowledge and understanding about map reading, packing a ruck-sack, first aid and using a Trangia stove.

Students should now ensure they've set their aims and activities on eDofE for their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections, and crucially pressed 'submit' so that the school

can approve them before they start.

This is important because there is a very large, but set, list of activities they can choose from. Students need to have what they've chosen checked so their efforts don't go to waste.

If students have any problems with eDofE, they should see Mr Greenwood in the Head of Year office.



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New technology helps Lymm Poppy Appeal raise £22,600

THE annual Lymm Poppy Appeal co-ordinated by a team of volunteers helped raise £22,600 as technology changed the way people donated money.

During the two-week Remembrance period during 2024 the community in Lymm and High Legh raised a phenomenal amount of money for the Royal British Legion. The final total might even be more once all QR payments and electronic payments have been included.

One of the organisers Linda Monk, who along with her fellow volunteers June Gittins and Neville, have announced they are standing down this year, said: "Probably one of the biggest changes over the 9 years that June and myself have seen whilst being involved in our local Poppy Appeal is how technology has changed the way people are able to donate. Today it's not just cash which is donated, people also give using our dedicated card machines, via internet banking and also using QR codes. What hasn't changed, however, is that ever since the formation of the RBL Remembrance has been part of the fabric of society reminding us all of our shared history and today, as ever, it continues to unite people across all backgrounds, communities and generations.

"We're often asked where does the money raised from the Appeal go. We're delighted to be able to tell you that all donations received during the Poppy Appeal help the RBL provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving members of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents through any hardships, injuries, illness and bereavement they may incur. Every poppy sold helps the RBL to make a significant difference. Sadly, with conflicts still raging around the world, the work of the Legion is as relevant and vital today as it was in the aftermath of the First World War when the Charity was founded. Today The Royal British Legion is still there every step of the way for those ex-service personnel and their families who are struggling to cope with life in whatever way."

Linda added: "The Poppy is and has been for very many years an enduring symbol of Remembrance, Respect and Hope for a peaceful future. The origin of why the Poppy became that symbol dates back to the First World War when a Canadian doctor who was also a soldier was

moved to write his poem 'In Flanders Field'. He had witnessed the death of one of his close friends on the field of combat at Ypres. His inspiration for the poem came from seeing how the simple red poppy grew in abundance in what were only a short while previously battle-scarred fields where many thousands had lost their lives.

"On a personal note, 2024 was the 9th Poppy Appeal that June and I have organised in our district. We were very grateful to Neville Davies when he came on board a few years later. Over those nine years, we've been humbled by the generosity of our community, by your kindness, by the way you've come forward to volunteer and to support not just us but the work of the RBL. Along the way we've also met many veterans at various RBL Poppy Appeal meetings and also when they've made themselves known to us at our manned outlets, most especially at the Lymm Services – always referred to us as The Truck Stop. So many of the drivers are ex-service personnel. We've heard stories not of where, when or in what capacity they served, but rather stories about life for them or one of their comrades when they came home, often 'damaged' in some way by what they'd seen and having been pushed to their personal limits of endurance. We heard how for many of them they came home to somewhere which no longer felt warm and secure and in many instances to a family that couldn't understand the night terrors, the flashbacks, the panic attacks all of which they might be suffering from. It's a very humbling experience to hear those stories, their experiences were something that we couldn't begin to imagine.

"That's why it is so important that people of all ages understand the importance of remembering those who have made sacrifices defending the freedoms we enjoy today and also recognise the importance and relevance of the support that the Royal British Legion gives on the financial, the welfare front and the medical front, whether that aid is physical or mental. We need to remember those who have given and continue to give so much.

"We would like to thank all of those who have helped to raise an amazing amount of money over the last few years, including our wonderful team of volunteers, our schools, churches, shops, restaurants, pubs and hotels. We'd also like to thank the staff at High Legh Garden Centre, at our two local Sainsbury stores and the management at The Truck Stop and Lymm Truck Wash as well as Tim and Janet at Abbey Leys, Lymm Parish Council and Paul and Ian at Cheshire Mix 56 for all their help and support.

"But, now it's time for June, Neville and myself to step down and to let another team come forward to

hopefully build on what we have done. We came to Lymm and High Legh's Poppy Appeal following on from some inspirational people including Ray Massey, Margaret and Len Woodward and Albert Priestner. We hope we've done them proud over the last few years. We know that all of you in our community have most certainly done that, and we know that working together we've contributed in a significant way to support the Armed Forces community past and present. If you'd be interested in becoming involved with the Poppy Appeal in the future here in Lymm please do contact lindamonk48@btinternet.com



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Concerns over anti-social behaviour at The Cross

RESIDENTS living in Lymm are complaining about anti-social behaviour and the state of The Cross after young people left a mess on a Friday night into the early hours of Saturday morning.

It follows Facebook comments about the area – which has been a focal point for young people who are too young to drink but want to hang out with their friends.

According to some reports, there were balloons discarded which potentially suggests nitrous oxide (or laughing gas) was being inhaled by the group.

Some comments were concerned that parents were allowing their children to stay out in the village centre until the early hours.

Lymm Liberal Democrat Cllr Graham Gowland said the discarded balloons weren't necessarily used to inhale laughing gas as there has been a crackdown on nitrous oxide use for non-food products.

He said numerous endeavours have been made to help provide activities for young people on weekend evenings.

For older residents, being confronted by "40 kids at the Cross may feel intimidating, but it is not necessarily the case", he said.

"Occasionally they may be told off and answer back – but there has only been one or two isolated incidents."

He explained that while a number of events and activities take place in Lymm on weekday

evenings such as Scouts, cadets and after-school clubs, the weekend options are more limited for people under 18.

And he said efforts are being made to "identify the gaps in engagement" involving young people.

He shared Cheshire Constabulary's crime reports for the village between Christmas into mid-January 2025.

The last – and only – report of anti-social behaviour in this timescale was on Saturday, January 11 when at the Cross there was reports a "large group of youths hanging around being loud" was received.

The log noted that the Cross had regularly been checked because of reports of anti-social behaviour.

Government statistics nationally show that in the last year, just 0.9% of people aged 16 to 59 had used nitrous oxide – a downward trend from the previous year, when it was 1.3%.

There was no statistically significant change in the use of nitrous oxide in those aged 16 to 24 (3.3%) compared to the previous year, but levels were lower, compared with year-end March 2014 when it was 7.6%.

Cllr Gowland said efforts had

been made to try and organise events at alternative venues, such as the Sanctuary Cafe, but young people didn't know where this was.

The Methodist Church Hall and Scouts Hut had also been suggested but were not suitable for activities for the age group.

Lymm Youth Club runs in the village, offering table tennis on a Friday night, but it tends to attract people who are in an older age group.

And outreach work has been carried out by Warrington Youth Zone, he added.



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Lymm Parish Council agrees 9.5% increase to precept to maintain local services

LYMM Parish Council has agreed its budget for 2025-26 which involves a 9.5% increase in the parish precept to maintain local services.

Like all parish and town councils, Lymm sets its budget in the autumn for the following financial year. The amount required is called the precept and is collected by Warrington Borough Council as part of its council tax collection.

For 2025/26, the Parish Council has set a 9.5% increase on the previous year, to £361,307. In 2024/25, the precept was agreed at £328,022. The amount each household pays depends on the band in which their house is classified. The current annual rates for 2024-25 are Band A = £39.18, Band B = £45.71, Band C = £52.23, Band D = £58.76, Band E = £71.82, Band F = £84.88, Band G = £97.94 and Band H = £117.53.

With this increased budget, the Parish Council will continue to provide a range of services to the village. This includes wildflower beds and floral baskets, allotments, a village hall used for community events and classes, events such as the Remembrance Day Parade and Carols from The Cross. There is a grant fund for local organisations and an environment team that continues to maintain clear footpaths, pavements, verges and shared areas.

Chair of the Council, Councillor Ann Johnstone comments: "The

Parish Council is very conscious of the rising cost of living and considers this when reviewing precept levels every year. We felt that it was important to have a sufficient budget to continue to be effective, proactive and visionary, despite the increased costs for household and their families. The increase is only a few pence each week for a household."

Borough and Parish Councillor Ian Marks adds: "There are eighteen parish or town councils in Warrington and several of them have higher precepts than we do. All our budget is for the benefit of the local community whereas we have to fight to get our fair share of the council tax we pay to Warrington Borough Council."

Residents can contact one of their Parish Councillors at any time or attend a Council meeting to address the Council during the Public Open Forum held at the start of every meeting. This may be a question, concern or just showing support for what the Council is doing.

All the contact details and meetings dates can be found on the Parish Council website – www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

You can also contact the Clerk on clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07741 877870.



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Lymm student awarded prestigious Kaleb Cooper Agriculture Bursary

An agriculture student from Lymm, who may have struggled to get into the sector as she is not from an agricultural background, has had a helping hand from none other than The Cotswolds' most famous farmer Kaleb Cooper (as seen on Prime Video's Clarkson's Farm)!

Rose Geggie has been chosen as one of two recipients of the 2024/2025 Kaleb Cooper Agriculture Bursary for students at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) where she is in her first year studying for a BSc in Agriculture.

Rose recently met the man himself when Kaleb visited the RAU's Cirencester campus to congratulate her - and the other winner fellow RAU first year student Rupert Jones from Bournemouth - on their success.

And, while he was in town, Kaleb joined Rose and Rupert, and fellow RAU students, to take part in a charity Tractor Pull for the University's Students' Union's annual charity fundraising RAG (Raising and Giving) Week.

Kaleb said: "Today has been brilliant! It's the second year of my agricultural bursary with the RAU and I'm so proud that once again we've been able to award it to two very deserving young people - that's double what we were aiming for when we started out.

"I am so passionate about supporting the new generation through into the best industry in the world. Especially as I know, from my own experience, that it's not an obvious or easy route for someone who doesn't come from a farming family."

The RAU Kaleb Cooper Agriculture Bursary, which was launched in 2023, currently offers two bursaries annually - one funded by Kaleb himself and one funded by the Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust which has an existing relationship with the RAU - which are open to all the University's undergraduate agriculture students.

The bursary provides Rose and Rupert each with a £3,000

payment as well as the opportunity to apply for a work placement with either Kaleb himself or one of his industry partners.

Rose, 20, joined the RAU last September to study for a BSc in Agriculture.

She said: "When I applied for the bursary, I didn't dare dream that I would be chosen but, with the chance to meet Kaleb and potentially get some work experience with him, I felt it was definitely worth a shot.

"I come from a non-farming background and, when I got my place at the RAU, my mum had just been through treatment for cancer but she has always been a huge support for my agricultural dream and she insisted I go to university and take all the opportunities that came.

"I was in Tesco buying some potatoes when I got the call letting me know that I had been awarded the bursary and I was ecstatic! I just burst out in hysterics - one of the other customers came over to check that I was ok!

"This is an enormous opportunity which will shape my career for many years to come. I don't yet know which direction my career is headed - maybe I will manage a farm, or perhaps even be lucky enough to run my own farm one day, - but, whatever happens, if I'm a farmer, I'll be the happiest person in the world."

Self-made agricultural entrepreneur and farm contractor Kaleb, has been working in and around farms since he was a schoolboy and is a passionate supporter of UK agriculture and opportunities for young people to enter the sector.

He said: "Agriculture can offer

such a varied and rewarding career and today's another chance to spread the word about it. If you're hard-working, curious and want to learn skills for life, I can't encourage you enough to look into agricultural studies and take that first step."

Professor Peter McCaffery, Vice-Chancellor at the RAU, said: "We are delighted that Kaleb has renewed his support this year for RAU students through this bursary. "Kaleb is a passionate

advocate of farming, as we have seen in Clarkson's Farm, and he has significantly raised public awareness of farming and agriculture at a very challenging time for the sector.

"Our bursary winners are new entrants to farming and it's fantastic that this support will help them to realise their career dreams and aspirations and follow in Kaleb's path. We are very grateful and excited to be working with him."



Kaleb Cooper with bursary recipients Rose Geggie and Rupert Jones, and RAU Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter McCaffery, at the RAU Students' Union RAG Week Tractor Pull. Pictures © Paul Nicholls





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Rotary club donates over £7,000 to local good causes

The Rotary Club of Lymm held their annual Presentation Night at Thelwall British Legion Club and handed over donations of more than £7,000 to local good causes.

This year, 25 local organisations walked with Rotary's Santa Float. Over 14 nights in December the float travelled some 40 miles bringing joy and pleasure to young and old alike in Thelwall and Lymm.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of all in the community a total of £7,101 was raised.

This year a tracker was used on the float so that residents could determine Santa's progress around the district and find out when he would be calling to see them.

Rotary would like to thank those organisations' representatives who walked with the float as well all

the float drivers for their support – without them Santa's Float would not happen.

Amongst those organisations attending this year's presentation evening were Geoff Hawley representing Lymm Cancer Research who received a cheque for £215, Steve Robinson from Warrington East District Explorers who accepted a cheque for £344. Kath Davies received a cheque for £86 for Oliver Abel's Wish and Jacqui Robinson from Cherry Tree School Association was given a cheque for £473.



Cyber Security Award

LYMM High School is celebrating its recognition as a Bronze Cyber First school.

The application for Cyber First recognition involved a rigorous process, which was spearheaded by Mrs Binks, Head of Computer Science and IT.

Mrs Binks needed collaboration from lots of different departments across the school to demonstrate the ways Lymm promote, report

and embed cyber safety into their lessons, Life Programme and the wider community.

The award means the school has shown evidence of aspirational goals to deliver good cyber security education. The school will hold this award for 18 months at which point they can apply to Silver or re-apply for the Bronze award.

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Rowers wow with positive performances



Out of 27 schools competing from Warrington and Northwich, Lymm High School's Krzysztof Kraska achieved first place out of all the boys gaining a gold medal.

A similar number of schools from Merseyside competed in the afternoon and Krzysztof was 3rd overall out of both competitions, which is an amazing accomplishment.

Krzysztof was asked what the win meant to him. He said, "I feel really proud. I didn't think I could be that good at something. It's been so good learning a new skill. I realise now it is all about your mentality, whatever you are doing and you just never know what you can achieve if you stay positive."

Lymm had further success in the Year 8 relays. They achieved 2nd place in both the boys and girls relays making Lymm the only school in the whole competition to win medals in both the boys and girls categories. An amazing achievement!

Miss Hayes and Miss McMullen are so proud of the crew. "They have been respectful, driven and committed throughout and they totally deserved it!", said Miss Hayes.



Drivers caught exceeding speed limits on Burford Lane

A speed enforcement operation conducted in early February on Burford Lane in Lymm resulted in nine vehicles being caught exceeding speed limits.

The highest recorded speed was 45mph, well over the posted limit for the area.

Authorities have emphasised the importance of adhering to speed limits to ensure the safety of

pedestrians and other road users, particularly in residential areas like Lymm. The operation is part of ongoing efforts to curb dangerous driving behaviors and maintain road safety.

Police urge all drivers to remain vigilant and respect speed limits to help prevent accidents and ensure the well-being of the community.



Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce top tips

Going through a divorce can be challenging so here are a few top tips to bear in mind:

- 1. Seek legal advice early:** Taking legal advice early enables you to learn about your rights and how the process works. Early advice might also enable you to take steps to protect your interests, make important informed decisions early and perhaps avoid costly mistakes.
- 2. Organise your finances:** Gather your financial documents early, such as property values, mortgage details, payslips, bank statements, tax returns, pension values etc. Sooner or later it will be necessary to exchange disclosure with the other side and making an early start on preparing this can help speed things up and streamline the process.
- 3. Be prepared to compromise:** Keep your expectations realistic. It's important to understand that you will almost certainly need to compromise in some way. Rarely does one party have everything all their own way. Rarely, if ever, does one party exit a marriage entirely on their own terms. Be willing to make concessions where necessary and compromise within reason. It's not a weakness to be sensible and realistic.
- 4. Consider the children:** Divorce can have a profound impact on children in many ways. Thought will obviously need to be given to who the children will live with, where they will live, contact arrangements, schooling and so on, but also careful consideration needs to be had for their emotional and psychological wellbeing and appreciate that some children may struggle with coming to terms with the fact that their family is breaking up.
- 5. Pick your battles:** Fighting over absolutely everything can prolong the process, escalate tensions and add unnecessary expense. It makes sense to identify, prioritise and focus on which issues are worth fighting for and if necessary be willing to let go on smaller disagreements that might not be worth the stress, conflict and expense of arguing over.

For advice and assistance regarding divorce and related matters please get in touch - we have a lot of experience advising, guiding and supporting clients in this area of law.

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Consultation starts on proposals to end free car parking

CONSULTATION has started on the controversial proposals to end free car parking on the Lymm and Stockton Heath village car parks.

The proposals by Warrington Borough Council have caused a storm of protest. A 21-day consultation period started in relation to the car parks in Stockton Heath and Lymm losing the free parking periods put in place in 2016. The council appears to have relaxed its original plan of removing nearly all free parking, by continuing with the 15-minute free period at The Forge car park in Stockton Heath.

One of the local Councillors working on the issue, Graham Gowland from Lymm South, said:

"We've been working with officers to identify the ways we can deliver the increase in income they are looking for, without impacting the shops that depend so much on the passing trade that the free hour's parking facilitates. A large proportion of people using the carparks use them for less than an hour, but that's an illustration of how vital that free period is".

He says the proposals could raise parking revenue by £53K, but local campaigners fear that it could put local businesses at risk.

Parish Councillor Sally Sharma,

the author of a petition on the issue that is currently sitting above 3,500 signatures said: "It's good to hear there's some dialogue with our Borough Councillors and the relevant officers, but we've yet to hear any proposals to address the key issues, the loss of the parking period for short visits to the village".

At the current time, district car parks in the south of the town have parking charges, while the majority of council district car parks north of the ship canal are free. A view often expressed by people signing the petition (Who come from all over the Borough) is that charging should be equitable – 6 out of 8 district car parks in Labour-held wards don't charge, while 5 out of

5 carparks in wards held by other parties charge.

Cllr Gowland added: "The council is after an additional £53K in parking revenue, and if this was split across the 13 district car parks equally, it would just require an additional £4K contribution from each car park – giving each car park a free hour, and adding 10p to the hourly rate after that would raise more than this amount, but removing two villages community parking will simply kill businesses".

Responses to the parking consultation should be emailed to TROrepresentations@warrington.gov.uk by the 20th February 2025 and all objections must specify the grounds on which they are made.

Students become Mahjong Masters as High School celebrate Year of the Snake

STUDENTS at Lymm High School have become Mahjong Masters as youngsters celebrate the Lunar Chinese New Year - The Year of the Snake!

Lymm High's Mahjong Club is a fantastic opportunity for students to engage in a fun and strategic game from China that encourages critical thinking, teamwork and cultural exploration.

Each week, under the expert tutelage of Mr Pickford, students gather to learn the rules, improve their skills and enjoy friendly

competition.

Mahjong, a traditional Chinese game, combines elements of skill, strategy and luck, making it a perfect blend of fun and challenge. Many students who attend Mahjong Club have learned Mahjong from scratch and are now becoming masters.

Meanwhile, students have been enjoying a wealth of activities to celebrate the Year of the Snake, which began on Wednesday 29th January. Various workshops took place, including Chinese

calligraphy and paper folding.

Winnie from the Manchester Chinese Centre came and delivered a calligraphy workshop. Students were shown which strokes

were required to form the Chinese characters.

"It was very relaxing and mindful", said Mrs Tasker. "The students did an incredible job."





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