

# CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

October 2020



## A Bridge too Far?

As part of a major bridge repair and refurbishment programme, Lancashire County Council has been successful in obtaining over £9 million of funding from the Department of Transport to upgrade the bridges on and over the A601(M) in Carnforth. Well, that's most bridges but not all of them and that's a cause of concern for many residents in the north of Carnforth.

The A601(M) is the dual carriageway that links Junction 35 on the M6 to the A6 at Pine Lake. The road was built in the 1960s as part of the then Lancaster Bypass and for some years, until the M6 was extended into Cumbria, it marked the northerly end of the motorway.

There are several bridges along this 1.3 mile stretch of road all of which are 60 years old and in need of refurbishment. As our local highway authority, Lancashire County Council is seeking to have the road de-classified as a motorway (the reason for the M in A601(M)) to become an "ordinary" dual carriageway but until recently it lacked the necessary funding to carry out the bridge upgrading.

The money provided by the Department of Transport will now enable this major programme of work to take place but oddly the County Council is not intending to repair one of the bridges; in fact, it intends to remove it completely and replace it with a junction on the dual carriageway. The bridge in question is North Road bridge that currently carries North Road from Netherbeck over the A601(M) towards Borwick.

One reason being given for the removal of the bridge is that the cost of replacing it with a new bridge, said to be £1.5M, is uneconomic and the cheaper alternative is to remove it and replace it with an "at grade" junction. This would probably involve installing traffic lights or building a new roundabout on the dual carriageway. It's open to question if this proposal would deliver a cheaper option than replacing the bridge with a new structure but we should consider other aspects of this proposal before concentrating solely on cost.

If the whole of the A601(M) is declassified it will cease to be considered a motorway and all road users would technically have access to it, including cyclists, increasing road safety issues. The building of a new junction at the point where North Road currently crosses the dual carriageway would technically allow traffic coming from the motorway direct access to North Road, increasing the likelihood of creating a new rat run into and out of Carnforth.

As the residents along North Road and on the Whelmar estate already know, traffic flows along North Road up and down Carnforth Brow to its junction with Kellet Road are already a cause for concern and the imposition of a 20mph speed limit for most of the length of the road has done little to allay those concerns.

To be fair, the County Council has said that it will aim not to increase the volume of traffic using North Road if the bridge is removed. However, unless access from the dual carriageway is restricted by creating a one-way only system from North Road, it's difficult to see how this aim could be achieved.

Perhaps a consideration that should be of equal concern to all of the residents of Carnforth in the event that a junction is installed is what might happen to the land to the north of the A601(M), along the stretch of North Road running towards Borwick. This is currently part of the green belt but if ready access is provided not only to the dual carriageway but directly to the M6, how long will it be before we see pressure building on Lancaster City Council (the planning authority) to open up this land for industrial development? The County Council is not hiding the fact that one of the alleged "benefits" of this proposal would be to open up land on either side of the dual carriageway for development.

Should this bother us or should we welcome new development in Carnforth even if it is at the very edge of the town and in the green belt? Carnforth Town Council wholeheartedly supports inward investment and the economic development of our town but not at any cost. We have several brown field sites closer to the centre of the community that could and should be developed first.

Whether you favour the creation of a new junction on the A601(M) or not, Lancashire County Council has promised to undertake a period of public consultation on its proposals so that you can have your say. The consultation is likely to start within the next two months and we will provide more details when they become available on our website and social media pages.

**Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**

## **CARNFORTH COMES TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS...AGAIN!**

The Town Mayor, Kath Bromilow, joined Councillor Steve Watson and representatives from Carnforth Rotary, Carnforth Community Choir, Keer Sands Residential Home, Crag Bank Park Group and Andrew Kitchen to celebrate the installation of a defibrillator that could save someone's life.

Andrew Kitchen has led this project from the beginning and with the help of local community groups and our generous residents and businesses the defibrillator is now in position at Crag Bank Village Hall. Many thanks to Andrew and everyone who contributed.







**Local Volunteers Clean Up!** At the end of July, twenty intrepid volunteers turned out to pick litter and clear weeds around the centre of town.

Keeping within the Covid19 guidance, we had a Town Mayor, Town and City Councillors, Carnforth Rotarians, community group representatives, residents, students...and a Town Clerk, all 'doing their bit'.

Splitting up into groups we covered the War Memorial and the whole of Market Street, collecting over twenty bags of litter and weeds.

Jointly arranged between *Carnforth Town Council and Carnforth Rotary*, this was a great opportunity to spend a couple of hours to help keep our town looking neat and tidy, whilst having fun (even in the rain) and gaining a great sense of satisfaction and pride.

You may remember in the last edition of the Carnforth Express we told you about an exciting project we are developing in Crag Bank to improve the facilities on a park we have in the area. We have an active Facebook Group and over the past few months neighbours have been very supportive as the team look at ways to raise funds to deliver on the plans we have been pulling together.



After receiving a letter from an 8-year-old asking if members of the Group would help with a tidy up event, Councillor Watson, Chair of the Crag Bank Park Group, 'rallied the troops' and organised a Community Litter Pick & Clean up event that took place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. On a lovely sunny morning, the event was supported by twenty-one Crag Bank residents, including five children who enthusiastically chipped in to help make the place they live look a little tidier.

Neighbours were supported on the event by Town Councillor, Liz Jones; Outdoor Maintenance Officer Terry Allum and Bob Bailey Town Clerk, as well as Mel Guilding from Lancaster City Council.



After a combined total of 50 hours of effort from the team over 60 bags were filled with litter and weeds that were stripped from kerbs and pathways across the Crag Bank area.

We know that many more people wanted to assist but were unable to on the day, so another event on Crag Bank Park is being planned in the coming



weeks to look at clearing pathways and preparing the area up for Winter.

2021 will be an exciting year for the Park Group as we will hopefully be receiving grants to deliver the new play equipment and other improvements to the park that our neighbours asked for.

To keep in touch with the latest developments, you can follow us on Facebook by searching for Crag Bank Park Group.

We are grateful to Carnforth Rotary Club and Lancaster City Council for providing equipment and PPE for both clean up events and to the City Council's Street Cleansing team for collecting the many bags of weeds and litter that we collected! **Councillor Steve Watson**

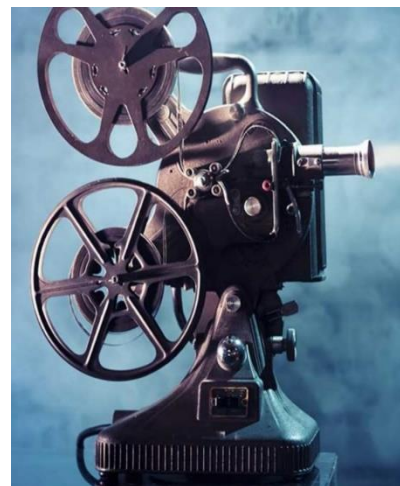


**Au Revoir, Ken!** The ceremony at the War Memorial to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on 15 August was to have been former Mayor of Carnforth, Ken Bond's last public appearance. Unfortunately, the ceremony was cancelled due to the Covid 19 restrictions and the meticulously prepared oration Ken had intended to give has had to be consigned to the archives.

Now Ken who was Mayor of Carnforth on four occasions, and his wife, Janice are moving to be closer to their family in Glasgow. Carnforth Town Council would like to express its heartfelt thanks to Ken for his many years of selfless service to the community and to wish Ken and xxx our very best wishes for the future North of the Border.

**Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**

**Film Nights at the Civic Hall:** Several people have asked when we intend to resume our very popular programme of Saturday Film Nights at the Civic Hall. Regrettably, although we are aiming to reopen the Civic Hall in November for use by several local groups and organisations, current Covid19 restrictions mean that it will not be economically viable to screen a film and serve hot food to a paying audience for the moment. The situation is under regular review and we will announce any positive change immediately on the Town Council website and social media pages. Thanks for your patience and watch this space!



**Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**



**Remembrance Sunday Parade:** Over the last few years it has been wonderful to see so many Carnforth residents turning out for the Remembrance Sunday Parade – honouring the fallen and remembering the sacrifice of so many Carnforth citizens.

While government Covid-19 guidance is changing on a week by week basis, during these difficult times it would be inappropriate for the Town Council organise an event that would result in a large gathering of people. In practice it would be impossible to attend such an event and still comply with government rules on social distancing.

It is with great regret therefore, that we want to give early notice that the normal Remembrance Sunday parade and Service will not take place this year. A wreath will be laid in the Memorial Gardens by the Town Mayor, Kath Bromilow. The names of the fallen will be read as normal and a private prayer offered but we must discourage you from attending and ask that you observe the event at home in prayer and remembrance. Representatives of the local community are welcome to privately lay a wreath at the War Memorial at other times of the day. **Councillor Chris Smith**



Carnforth support group has been set up with the aim of supporting our local community amid the COVID-19 outbreak. We focus on providing much needed practical resource, groups and support to anyone who requires help during these challenging times.

We recognise that whilst Covid-19 may affect everyone, there are some people who are at greater risk than others. Our team of volunteers would like to help you.

We can assist with:

- Shopping;
- Dog walking;
- Food bank drop off;
- Collection of prescriptions;
- Latest information on Central Government and local government advice;
- Employer and employee legal advice, or;
- Just someone to speak to if you are feeling lonely.

#### Our Promise to you

Your safety is of paramount importance to us. If you are in any doubt whether someone is being genuine or claims to be a member of this group and you would like to be reassured, please contact any of the persons named below.

**'Our community will pull together and look out for each other providing support and friendship during the challenges ahead'. Cllr Kath Bromilow Town Mayor**

To access support or find out more please contact:

Liam Law: 07786724739

Andrea Wren: 07799108360

Gillian Rigg: 07901623125

Elizabeth Jones: 07738134262

Bob Bailey: 07846 256 006; email: [Covid19support@arnforthtowncouncil.org](mailto:Covid19support@arnforthtowncouncil.org)

Or visit: [www.arnforthtowncouncil.org](http://www.arnforthtowncouncil.org) or [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Disclaimer: Carnforth's official COVID-19 support group is run by volunteers and not medical professionals. We're all community members and groups wanting to support the most vulnerable with errands, local information and emotional support. If you require medical attention or up-to-date information on Coronavirus, visit the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

**Care in the Community:** Carnforth Integrated Care Community (ICC) which includes third sector groups, local councils and GPs, has rallied to help support some of the most vulnerable people in Carnforth and neighbouring villages during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

During the height of the pandemic, residents Liam Law and Andrea Wren set up the 'Carnforth and surrounding areas COVID-19 isolation support group' on Facebook and along with the support of Carnforth Town Council, Carnforth Free Methodist and a group of volunteers, have supported residents by doing their shopping, collecting prescriptions, walking their dogs and offering advice and support.

The volunteers have also referred people most in need to the Salvation Army. The charity has recorded more than 500 records of assistance including helping people with foodbank parcels in conjunction with Morecambe Bay Foodbank.



The Salvation Army has assisted people who are homeless or rehoused and families trapped by self-isolation. Volunteers at the charity have driven people to various hospital and GP appointments in conjunction with the support group.

Volunteer Liam Law said: *"We started the group to help those most in need during what has been such an uncertain time. By having the service, it has given everyone a sense of continuity and really built up trust in our community. We've had fantastic support from so many people including Gay Tonks, Salvation Army, Town Cllrs Malcolm Watkins and Liz Jones and Bob Bailey, Carnforth Town Clerk"*

Volunteer Andrea Wren added: *"We have helped people in Carnforth, Holme, Silverdale, Warton and Bolton Le Sands. Everyone we have met has been really lovely and very grateful - it's brought out the good in people."*

Carnforth ICC has worked closely with partners such as Carnforth Town Council and Lancaster City Council wellbeing partnership and the rural communities' group to look at how it can support the community holistically. Monthly multi-disciplinary team meetings have helped to identify those residents who may need more support such as those with dementia or mental health conditions. Lancaster Integrated Care Community has also produced a community support bulletin for Lancaster, Carnforth and Bay ICCs which is updated and distributed to the community regularly and includes information about foodbanks, third sector organisations and community support.



GP leads have refocused their ICC management time to care for patients. Link Workers for Carnforth and Milnthorpe Primary Care Network have been instrumental in securing transport for patients to Park View surgery in Milnthorpe for routine appointments and to Ash Tree Surgery in Bolton-Le-Sands for weekly blood tests.

Emma Paul, Carnforth ICC Development Lead, said: *"Between May-August, Jayne Crowther, Carnforth ICC Care Coordinator, has made 160 referrals/signposts for people living in the local communities to services such as Age UK Lancashire, Citizen's Advice, Fire Service for Home Fire Safety checks, Carer's Support and Community Therapy."*

*Carnforth ICC has also reinstated the monthly steering group meetings which bring together a wide range of health and social care representatives, town and city council and a wide range of community and voluntary groups and organisations. These meetings allow all attendees to give a brief update and reduce reduplication in offers of support and identify innovative ways of working and building solid partnerships between organisations to ensure that our local communities receive the best joined-up care."*

**Local businesses - New Covid19 control measures:** You will be aware of the recent growth in confirmed Covid19 cases nationally and locally. The Government has responded by introducing new control measures for businesses. To help businesses understand the new controls, Lancaster City Council has produced summary guidance available on the Town Council's website <https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Covid19-measures-update-for-businesses-updated-24.09.20-2.pdf> Not all the changes may apply to your business, but please read the entire update to be sure. The situation is frequently changing – you can keep up to date by regularly checking the Government's website [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and the Lancaster City Council and Carnforth Town Council websites and social media pages. **Bob Bailey, Town Clerk**

**Let's stop the spread of Coronavirus:** From 24<sup>th</sup> September any business or local authority that has a physical location and is open to the public, must display an NHS QR Code at the entrance. This is to support the Government and the NHS with its track and trace scheme. You can register and get a code here: <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster> and by downloading the NHS Covid19 app on your Smartphone.

Carnforth Town Council now has a QR code at the entrance to the Council offices which must be scanned before entry. Alternatively, anyone wishing to gain access to the office will be required to record their contact details in a register. (Individuals rights in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will be fully complied with).

Plans are being made to re-open Carnforth Civic Hall in November where similar arrangements to gain entrance will be in place, along with all the necessary precautions to keep our staff and customers safe. **Bob Bailey, Town Clerk**



### **Grants available to support local charities and community groups:**

Local charities and community groups can now apply for funds to help them support communities living in the Lancaster district.

Lancaster City Council and Lancaster District CVS are inviting local charities and community groups needing help to deliver projects and activities which will benefit local people to apply for funding from the Lancaster Community Fund.

The fund is made up of several charity funds donated to Lancaster City Council to support those living in disadvantaged areas of the community. Organisations can apply for grants of up to £1,000 and applications from new start up groups and small grassroots groups are particularly welcomed.

Examples of projects that the Lancaster Community Fund is looking to support include:

- Activities for young people and equipment;
- Improvements to outdoor public spaces such as community clean ups;
- Training for volunteers;
- Community sports activities;
- Projects to reduce social isolation for vulnerable groups;
- Social enterprise activities;
- Money advice projects

Applications will be assessed on a quarterly basis by a panel consisting of city council, health and voluntary sector representatives, and two elected members of Lancaster City Council.

To check if you are eligible to apply for a grant and for full details, visit [www.lancastercvcs.org.uk/funding](http://www.lancastercvcs.org.uk/funding) Anyone needing further details or assistance can email [funding@lancastercvcs.org.uk](mailto:funding@lancastercvcs.org.uk) or telephone 01524 555900.

## Consultation launches on Local Plan climate change measures



Lancaster City Council has launched the first stage of a review into the measures contained in its new Local Plan to tackle climate change.

An eight-week 'scoping' consultation has been launched to give people the opportunity to have their say on which policies of the plan they think should be revised to make sure it effectively addresses the council's declaration of a climate emergency.

The Local Plan's policies are important factors in making sure development takes account of climate change concerns as the policies are used in making decisions on all planning applications.

The intention is not to conduct a full review of the just completed Local Plan but to have a further look at its policies to see if they can be improved to achieve more on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The declaration of a climate emergency commits the council to several actions, many of which are already underway.

These include the convening of a People's Jury to help identify how the council's own activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, installation of electric vehicle charging points in its car parks, and purchase of new vehicles and technology to reduce carbon emissions.

For more information on the Local Plan review visit [Lancaster.gov.uk/local-plan-review](https://Lancaster.gov.uk/local-plan-review)

**The deadline for responses is November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**We are changing!** Over the coming weeks you will see big changes to our website as we make essential improvements to comply with accessibility regulations but also to make it more vibrant and interesting, containing lots of useful information about the activities of the Town Council, our local community and the wider district.

Our latest innovation is the use of a QR code to help you to access the Carnforth Town Council website, quickly and easily. Simply scan the QR code on this page using the camera function on your Smartphone and you will be connected instantly!

We know that not everyone has access to modern technology and so, with thanks to Councillor Smith and his family and



Councillor Watson, we are also making better use of our noticeboards situated at the War Memorial Gardens, Highfield Estate, North Road and Crag Bank.

**Why not take a look!**

Don't forget that you can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#) – Just search for Carnforth Town Council



**Bob Bailey, Town Clerk**