



Newsletter

Spring 2017

Parish Council to Take Ownership of Barrowford Memorial Park



As a result of large cuts to central Government funding to local Authorities, discussions have been under way between Pendle and local Parish & Town Councils as to how to keep up the current level of maintenance within Pendle's Parks.

Given the level of savings needed by Pendle over the next three or four years, the Parks maintenance budget will disappear. The budget for 2017-18 is to be cut by 25% saving Pendle around £90,000. Parish and Town Councils have been told that if they do not contribute to this and future shortfalls the level of works within their parks will be cut proportionately.

Barrowford Parish Council was faced with the prospect of either voluntarily contributing an increasing amount until it is solely responsible for all maintenance costs, or requesting that the Park be transferred to the Parish. The Parish Council chose the second option. Pendle Borough Council has now agreed to the Council's request to transfer the freehold of the Park back to the people of Barrowford. The

transfer will include the Bowling Green facilities, the Play Areas and the land and buildings leased to the Pendle Heritage Centre.

Negotiations on a phased transfer of the operating responsibilities and logistics required are now in progress. As part of this agreement the Parish Council will pay a contribution to the Borough Council towards the maintenance costs this year initially. This will ensure that the standard of maintenance is not allowed to deteriorate further.

Subject to the legal agreements the completion date for the transfer of the freehold is anticipated to be in 2018-19.

Contents

2. Editorial, Housing White Paper
3. Consultations on the Local Plan
4. Call for Sites Consultation
5. Neighbourhood Plan Update
Barrowford in Bloom, Friends of Holmefield House
6. Barrowford Defibrillator, New Kitchen Cricket Club
7. Road Side Benches, Work at Broadway, Friends of the Park
8. Dickie Nook Bus Shelter, Other Shelters, Tree work at Hill Top
9. Council Budget & Precept, Tree Work at Holmefield House
10. Car Park at Holmefield House,
11. Council Vacancy, Luncheon Club, Blast from the Past, 50 Years since the Barrowford Flood

Editorial

The Parish Newsletter has adopted a smaller format to help keep the publishing costs down. This first edition in reduced format has seen the need for the first 12 page edition.

Most of the additional pages are brought about by significant changes to, and consultations on, Housing and Planning Policy at Government, Local Authority and Parish Council Level.

Planning policy by and large is difficult to follow. To simplify the ongoing consultations we have used text from Pendle Borough Council's Framework issue 39 which updates residents on the Local Plan Replacement, and added the Parish Council's thoughts.

These policies are important to local residents as they will shape the future of Pendle until 2030. The Parish Council is also drafting a Neighbourhood Plan which will be going out to Public Consultation later in the year.

Planning policy affects everyone, so please try to read the Local Plan Consultation articles. If you wish to see the full documents these are available to view at Holmefield House. Don't forget to respond to Pendle if there are areas of the consultation you disagree with.

Housing White Paper

The government's long-awaited Housing White Paper was published for consultation on 8th February 2017. It is aimed at reforming the current system, rather than overturning it. The key objectives are:

- Promoting high density development on brownfield sites close to transport hubs, and on surplus public sector land.
- Maintaining and protecting the Green Belt, except in "exceptional circumstances".
- Introducing a standard approach for calculating housing need.
- Tightening-up the process for making Local Plans, which should be based on meeting identified housing need, albeit potentially against a single, nationally recognised methodology.
- Dropping the requirement for Starter homes on all reasonably sized

developments.

Much of the news lies in the "sticks and carrots" that the White Paper contains in its detail, aimed at both developers and local authorities, including:

- Expansion of existing local authority compulsory purchase powers to force developers to complete development.
- Reduction of the time period for developers to implement planning consent from three to two years.
- Local authorities being able to take into account a developer's track record when considering new proposals.
- Raising planning application fees by 20% from July 2017, provided that the additional income is invested in planning departments, (with further rises possible) plus the potential to introduce fees for planning appeals.
- Government intervention where local authorities are unwilling or unable to adopt Local Plan policies in a timely manner.
- Automatically invoking the NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development, in areas where housing delivery falls below specified levels.

Parish Council Thoughts:

Land-banking by developers is a real problem, preventing many developments from progressing. Continued easy renewal of expired permission, and the current system of start-by date as opposed to completion date, have led to little incentive to progress these sites. Developers who decide after several renewals that permission will not be renewed undertake just enough site preparation for them to be deemed as started, with planning automatically renewed, leading to the need for additional sites to be found and approved.

Increasing the Local Authorities' right to Compulsory Purchase is fine in principle, but few have the resources to undertake such actions.

Six Week Consultation on Key Sections of the Pendle Local Plan Under Way

On 24th February Pendle Borough Council started Public Consultation on three strands of Part 2 of the Local Plan. These three strands are:

Scoping Report and Site Assessment Methodology

This looks at how the total amount of new development set out in the Core Strategy has been divided up between the towns and villages of Pendle.

It also sets out the criteria Council officers will use to assess the sites that have been put forward for consideration and includes a list of potential Development Management policies.

SA Scoping Report & Toolkit

Shows how the Council will demonstrate that the Pendle Local Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

Parish Council Thoughts

The first report gives the breakdown of figures for housing within each town or village, after offsetting actual approvals and unused housing brought back into use. The original figure for Barrowford was 287, offset to 230 houses. But the Strategic Housing Site of 500 houses is not taken into consideration as part of Barrowford's overall requirement, giving a combined total of 787 additional houses for Barrowford, higher than any other town within the M65 Corridor.

The report also contains typical house sales prices within the M65 corridor which show that house prices are significantly higher within Barrowford. But it fails to address affordable housing for the young people of the Barrowford - by not including any!

Green Belt Assessment

Considers how effectively land in the Green Belt serves each of the five purposes set out in paragraph 80 of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). It also looks at parcels of land immediately adjacent to the existing Green Belt in Pendle and considers the extent to which they also meet the purposes of Green Belt.

Over 70 separate parcels of land were identified and assessed by the consultants. Ten were considered to no longer contribute to the overall function of the Green Belt, whilst four were thought to be suitable for possible inclusion.

However, the Council cannot simply add or remove parcels from the Green Belt on the basis of this assessment. The NPPF requires the Council to demonstrate that "exceptional circumstances" exist in the evidence it publishes in support of the Local Plan.

Parish Council Thoughts

The assessment highlights two areas in Carr Hall that, it suggests, do not meet the 5 tests for green belt. The first is the buffer zone between Carr Hall Road and the current Lomeshaye Industrial Estate; the second is protected land between the proposed Trough Laithe Strategic Housing Site and the rear of properties along the eastern side of Carr Hall Road above the bye-pass.

The first stops the sprawl of the industrial site whilst the second protects the setting and amenity of the Higher Carr Hall Conservation area. If both these areas have their current status removed they would then become significant potential future housing sites.

Consultation Period

Representations can be submitted in writing by letter or email until:

5.00pm on Friday 7th April 2017

Six Week Consultation on Call for Sites

From Pendle's Framework 39 newsletter:

"We are now asking local communities, landowners, developers and other interested parties to suggest sites they think may be suitable for new housing, employment or other types of development.

"At this stage we are simply asking for suggestions for potential sites and there is no guarantee that any proposal will make it into the Local Plan. Before coming to any decisions, we will carefully consider any views that are expressed, alongside the economic, social and environmental impacts of any development proposals. Even if a site is considered suitable for allocation it will be subject to further consultation with the public.

"Residents are also invited to tell us about any areas of land, which they feel shouldn't be developed because of the valuable contribution they make to their community and/or the natural and historic environment.

"The **Core Strategy**, adopted in December 2015, indicates that 5,662 new homes need to be provided in Pendle between 2011 and 2030.

"Any new homes built, or long-term empty homes reoccupied, since the start of the plan period in 2011 are taken off this figure. So are the 500 homes to be built on the strategic housing site at Trough Laithe Farm between Nelson and Barrowford. As a result we need to allocate land for approximately 2,500 new homes.

"Similarly, of the 68 hectares required for employment, just over 4 hectares need to be allocated.

"That means almost 90 hectares of land needs to be found for new growth and development in Pendle; equivalent to roughly 108 full-sized football pitches.

"Around 250 sites have already been put forward for consideration. These have come from a wide variety of sources: previous Call for Sites, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and the Employment Land Review (ELR).

"Site suggestions should be submitted on the **Site Nomination Form** available on our website or at Council offices and public libraries throughout Pendle.

"Planning officers will assess each site against a wide range of criteria. Sites should ideally have good links to local services and facilities – such as schools, shops, doctors' surgeries – and job opportunities. They should also be capable of being connected to utilities – water, power and communications – and have little or no adverse impact on wildlife or the natural and historic environment.

"These factors and others such as the potential impact on flooding will help to determine whether a particular site is well placed to meet the borough's future development needs.

"Only those sites considered to represent '**sustainable development**' and located in an area where a need for new development has been established will be allocated in the Local Plan.

"Residents and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed site allocations when the draft plan is made available for public consultation in late 2017 / early 2018; before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination."

Consultation Period

Representations can be submitted in writing by letter or email until:

5.00pm on Friday 7th April 2017

Barrowford Neighbourhood Plan

A wide variety of comments - some long and detailed, some short and specific, all welcome - were received last summer in the consultation on our 'Emerging Policies' first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. A meeting of the Steering Group was held in the early autumn to discuss our responses to them and to decide on changes to incorporate in the text.

A number of major additions were felt necessary, including an expanded Vision Statement, a fuller list of local green spaces, and pictures of the Parish's defining vistas (over and above those already identified in the four Conservation Area Appraisals that cover the village).

At that stage it was hoped to be able to proceed in November to the six-week formal consultation on the revised draft, but given the above work, and the likelihood that a consultation in the weeks running up to Christmas would get a poor

response, the Steering Group decided to postpone it to the New Year. Little did we know that Pendle Council's Planning Department would be announcing three consultations also starting in the spring! (See pages 2-5)

Following a further meeting in January, looking in particular at infrastructure issues, it was agreed to aim to have the formal consultation document ready to put to the Parish Council's main meeting in March and to begin the public consultation shortly afterwards.

The document will then be available, on the Parish Council website (www.barrowford.net) as well as in hard-copy format at Holmefield House. Other locations throughout the village are being arranged; look for the notice incorporating the front cover (below left).

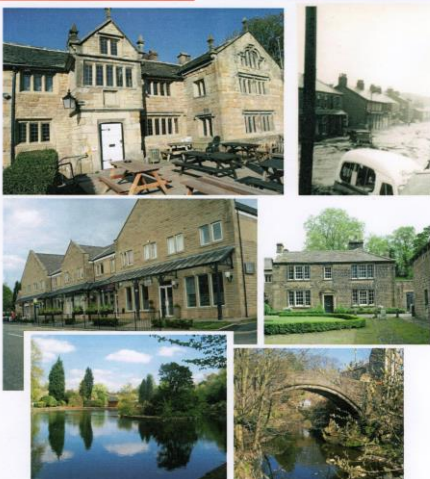
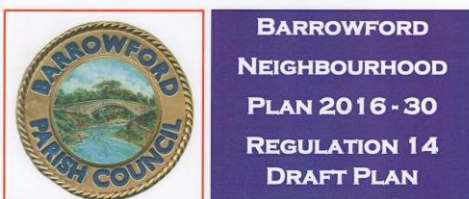
Barrowford in Bloom Environmental Volunteers

This group meets every first Monday and third Saturday of the month. We maintain and tidy various sites through Barrowford and plant up the barrels along Gisburn Road from which spring bulbs are now appearing. We also litter pick throughout the village and in the Park. Please see our website for more information:

Friends of Holmefield House.

We are pleased to say that room bookings are steady with many varied groups using our great facilities. Anyone interested in booking a room should contact the Parish Council, tel 696346. Thanks to this income and the income from our fundraising events we have been able to contribute significantly towards the costs of an AED at Holmefield House.

From April we will be running Craft Fairs on the 2nd Sunday in the month from 11.00am to 3.00pm. We will also be doing "Coffee and Cakes" along with a car boot sale so come along, meet your friends, have a browse at the goods on sale and enjoy a coffee and cake. For more details please ring Linda Crossley, Tel 760199.



Barrowford Lifestyle Festival Funds Public Defibrillator for the Village

Barrowford Lifestyle Festival has donated £2000 to the Parish Council for the provision of an external defibrillator (AED) to be sited in the centre of the village on the exterior of the Fleece conveniences. The Parish Council hopes that the AED will be in place within a few days of delivery.

Community Public Access Defibrillators play a vital role in saving lives and give the public access to life-saving equipment which anyone can use. The Parish Council has undertaken to cover the operating costs and arrange for insurance and monitoring and is also looking into equipping Holmefield House with a second external unit.

Although defibrillators can be used in emergency by any member of the public, it is recommended that a number of people are given familiarisation in the operation and monitoring of the equipment. We will therefore be arranging for a series of short awareness sessions at Holmefield House and interested people should contact the Clerk to the Council on 01282 696349.



New Kitchen for Barrowford Cricket Club

Following on from last year's renovation works at the Bullholme Oval, which made the building water tight and secure and brought the changing facilities into a usable condition, work has started on the kitchen. This has been made possible by the work carried out by Michael Waddington and culminated in the generous donation of the needed kitchen units, worktops and sink by Howden Joinery Supplies of North Valley Business Park Nelson. Pendle Power Fest made a generous donation of £300 towards the cost of the oven and hob, whilst the Barrowford and Western Parishes Area Committee awarded a grant of £400 towards installation costs.

Barrowford Parish Council agreed to project manage and contributed £100 towards the paint and tiles. Jonny

Ormerod, Club Secretary, said he wished to thank all the people concerned for the great improvement in the facilities, which have allowed the teams to continue.

Cllr. Linda Crossley who has been helping raise funds through grant applications and sponsorship said "The Cricket Club needs local sponsorship to help fund the match day expenses including match balls, and around £8000 to reconnect the mains electricity supply and complete the immediate works needed. The Cricket Club still needs new members who may not necessarily wish to play but who could help organise and run the club. If you feel you could help please contact either

Jonny Ormerod or Linda Crossley on 760199.

Parish Council News Round Up

Refurbishing Road Side Benches



Refurbished Bench at Broadway

After Pendle Borough Council's transfer of responsibility for roadside benches to the Parish Council, an assessment was carried out. Most benches were identified as needing either major refurbishment or minor repairs.

Parish Council staff have recently been refurbishing the worst benches with work to date being completed on seven. This programme will be continued in future until all benches are brought up to an equal standard.

Lifestyle Festival Arranges for Work on Land at Broadway

Barrowford Lifestyle Festival recently arranged and funded essential pruning to the trees, bushes and shrubs on Broadway as part of their group's commitment to using surplus funds raised at the Festival for the benefit of the local community.

Cllr. Oliver, Chairman of the Council expressed the Council's thanks to the Lifestyle Festival and said: "The work has much improved the overall appearance of the area." Michelle Berkin from the Lifestyle Festival said: "We are always willing to help fund improvements in Barrowford."

Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park

The group's latest work day was spent clearing brambles and other self-seeded trees and bushes on the woodland path and the viewing area overlooking the waterfall.

The offcuts from these sites will be used to create barriers at the bottom of the steep banking to stop erosion spilling onto the path below.

Future work plans include resurfacing the path around the lake and introducing a Kingfisher sculpture on the footpath alongside the lake.

Information on future work sessions is displayed on the notice board at the Gisburn Road entrance to the park.

Replacement Dickie Nook Bus Shelter



Structural Damage to the Shelter



Replacement Shelter Installed

Pendle Borough Council resolved in 2016 to discontinue both new provision of bus shelters and maintenance of existing ones throughout Pendle.

Following negotiations to protect them, the Parish Council agreed to take on the responsibility provided certain essential works were carried out.

Just prior to the transfer of bus shelters the Dickie Nook shelter was hit by a motor vehicle, exacerbating an already existing structural problem. Engineers from Pendle decided that the shelter was in a dangerous condition and demolished the it. Borough Officers said that Pendle would not replace the damaged shelter and it would be taken from the transfer list.

The Parish Council felt that as this was

one of the more exposed sites it could not be left without a shelter, but neither council had the resources to renew it.

Barrowford had recently taken possession of a surplus shelter from another Council and rather than not have a shelter at Dickie Nook this one was installed. A grant from the Barrowford & Western Parishes area Committee paid for the installation, with the Parish Council replacing the old noticeboard. Contrary to popular belief the old shelter was not built of stone but of imitation concrete blocks and as such had no material value and were removed by Pendle Borough Council.

Other Barrowford Bus Shelters

The Parish Council has taken over responsibility for all the bus shelters within Barrowford except the one at the junction of Gisburn Road and Rushton Street. A maintenance programme is being drawn up, which should see regular cleaning, inspection and repainting as necessary.

Tree Felling at Hill Top

The Parish Council has had to remove a large Ash tree which was growing out of a retaining wall and two Horse Chestnut trees, which were becoming too large for the site.

Barrowford in Bloom are currently using the area as a community herb bed. Discussions will take place over future planting which could include larger herbs and edible plants.

Parish Council Budget for 2017-18

At the January Meeting the Parish Council set its budget and precept required for 2017-18. This year's budget has had to take on board devolved services from Pendle which include the Park and maintenance of other areas transferred last year, increased insurance needs, statutory pension rights, legal fees and possible increased staffing levels to cover the additional duties.

Several other larger Councils have doubled or tripled their precept over the last two years to build up a reserve to meet projected future needs. This has not been Barrowford's way and after long consideration the Parish Council set an increase in precept level at just under £11 for a Band A property per year. This is the lowest level that the Council will need to enable it to maintain existing and additional services including the park.

Additional capital works such as the car park at Holmeffield House and new machinery will be met through capital receipts from the sale of 55 Gisburn Road. (Capital receipts can only legally be used for capital projects and cannot be used to subsidise revenue funding.)

Barrowford Parish Council also applies for grants and matched funding whenever possible, to help enable some projects to be carried out without the full burden falling on the precept payers.

The precept set for this year has risen from £103,048 to £138,100 with the expenditure rising from £119,205 to £225,307 using the reserves to make up the difference. The increases for 2017-18 are shown below:

Precept Band	Annual Increase
A	£10.98
B	£12.81
C	£14.64
D	£16.47
E	£20.13
F	£23.79
G	£27.45
H	£32.94

These equate to just over 21p per week for Band A to just over 63p per week for band H. Future increases will always reflect the minimum amount needed to maintain and protect services within Barrowford.

Removal of Two Conifers at Holmeffield House



Following a letter from Pendle's Tree Officer regarding complaints from properties in Grove Street about two conifers on Holmeffield House land, the Council accepted that in recent years the trees had grown to such a size that they impacted adversely on the two adjacent properties.

The only two options available were either reducing the height and diameter significantly, which would have left disfigured trees with large amounts of brown dead undergrowth visible, or complete removal.

After talks with the Tree Officer, the Council decided that in this case felling would be the best option, and that the work would have to be carried out urgently before the start of the official bird nesting season. Visual checks for nests during this period are impossible on large conifers.

Car Parking at Holmefield House



10.30am Wednesday 22nd February, Car Park Full with visitors to the Royal British Legion, No users in Holmefield House

Increased community use at Holmefield House and the Royal British Legion Office have highlighted the inadequacies of the current parking arrangements. The lack of on street parking around the area has led to problems when either two activities are carried out simultaneously or a large activity or function is taking place. The Council considers that the activities at Holmefield House should not adversely impact on local residential parking.

To improve the current situation the Council has engaged a local architect to draw up plans for enlarging the current car park. The aim is to increase the parking capacity from the current six to around 23. The scheme is being designed to exceed industry minimum standards allowing slightly larger parking bays with wider access roads to enable easier parking for users of Holmefield House.

The architect's brief included leaving maximum separation between the car park and Lucy Street to enable a green area to be preserved and it is intended that this will be planted with fruit trees and soft fruit

bushes, besides the raised vegetable beds. Unfortunately several trees will need to be felled to carry out the scheme, but the mixture of fruit trees and bushes, along with other planting, will provide a sustainable wildlife habitat as well as providing fresh produce to the luncheon club.

The scheme will include widening of both entrances and will incorporate a one way system with access from Gisburn Road and egress onto Lucy Street. The final scheme designs were decided at the March GP Meeting and a planning application is to be submitted. The scheme will be funded by a contribution of £6000 from the Barrowford & Western Parishes Area Committee with the balance being found from the sale of the former council offices.

Work on site will start when planning permission is approved. It is hoped the car park and landscaping will be completed later this year, with the fruit trees and bushes being planted in the dormant season.

Parish Council Vacancy

At the February meeting of the Council the Chairman, Councillor Oliver, reported that a vacancy had arisen in Central Ward. The Council voted that a letter of thanks be sent to former Councillor Mr. Eric Jackson for his past services to the Parish Council.

Notices have been posted regarding electors' rights to call an election. If no election is called the position will be filled by co-option, with the casual vacancy being advertised on both the Central Ward notice board and on the main notice board at Holmefield House.

Holmefield House Luncheon Club

If you would like the opportunity to meet new people whilst enjoying a two course luncheon, Holmefield House Luncheon Club is held weekly on a Tuesday. The cost is £5 for a two course lunch and is currently attended by around 18 people, but the facilities could cater for 24.

Anyone interested in attending the Luncheon Club should either ring Iain Lord on 696349 or email barrowfordpc@barrowford.org.uk and arrangements to suit you will be made to attend your first Luncheon Club.

Double Blast from the Past



50th Anniversary of the Barrowford Flood

August will see the 50th Anniversary of the Barrowford Floods. To mark the occasion the Parish Council would like to stage a small exhibition at Holmefield House based on pictures of the flood captured by the villagers. The Council are looking for any photos of the flood that you have which can be reproduced and

enlarged to exhibit.

If you have any pictures that we can use please call Iain Lord on 696349 and he will arrange a convenient time to borrow and scan your pictures and these will form the base for a permanent archive at Holmefield House.

Parish Notice Board

Parish Councillors

Carr Hall Ward:

Chairman Cllr. Robert Oliver Tel: 699271

Vice Chairman Cllr. Royce Windley Tel: 614475

Cllr. Jeff Gibson Tel: 606984

Newbridge Ward:

Cllr. Andrew Stringer Tel: 798031

Cllr. Tony Titchiner Tel: 601725

Cllr. Allan Vickerman Tel: 692338

Central Ward:

Cllr. Pat Thompson Tel: 611811

Chairman of the General Purposes

Committee: Cllr. Sue Nike Tel: 692122

Cllr. Brenda Norcross Tel: 692623

Vacancy

Higherford:

Cllr. Mick Waddington Tel: 07947897080

Cllr. Ken Turner Tel: 931805

Council Office Opening Times

The Council Office is open to the public on:

Tuesday: 1pm until 3pm, Thursday: 10am until

12 noon, Saturday: 10am until 12 noon. If you

wish to contact the Council clerk outside these

hours Email: barrowfordpc@barrowford.org.uk or

Tel: 696349, or write to Mr. I. Lord, Holmefield

House, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, Lancashire,

BB9 8ND.

Activities at

Holmefield House

Yoga Group	Monday 10.30am
Yoga Classes	Monday 6.45pm
Luncheon Club	Tuesday 12noon
Knit & Natter	Tuesday 1.30pm
Dancercise	Tuesday 1.30pm
Yoga Group	Thursday 10.30am
Pendle Crafters	Thursday 1.30pm
Basement DJ	Saturday 12.30pm -
Academy	2.30pm

Check notice board for dates.

If you would like to run an activity or community group at Holmefield House Please Ring Iain Lord on 696349

This Newsletter was Published and Printed by Barrowford Parish Council, Holmefield House, Gisburn Road,

Parish Council Meetings

Full Council

15th March 2017

19th April 2017

24th May AGM

21st June 2017

19th July 2017

16th August 2017

GP Meeting

1st March 2017

5th April 2017

3rd May 2017

7th June 2017

5th July 2017

August No Meeting

All Parish Council Meetings start at 7pm and are held at Holmefield House. A copy of the Agenda is posted on the Notice Boards five days prior to the meeting. If you wish to speak on any agenda item please contact the Clerk on 696349 before 12 noon on the day of the meeting. Or if you wish to raise an item not on the agenda there is a 15 minute public question time at the start of all Full Council Meetings when these items can be raised.

Pendle Councillors

Barrowford:

Cllr. Linda Crossley Tel: 760199

Cllr. Christian Wakeford Tel: 07876844257

Cllr. K. Turner Tel: 931805

Blacko & Higherford:

Cllr. Noel McEvoy Tel: 544365

Lancashire County Councillors

Cllr. Christian Wakeford (Barrowford)

Tel: 07876844257

Cllr. Paul White (Higherford)

Tel: 07866684531

Lancashire County Council Help Direct

Tel: 0303 333 1010

Your Local Policing Team

Community Beat Manager PC Mark Dibb

PCSO Kathryn Anderson Tel: 07970 335768

Email: 7767@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Team Contact Number: 01282 472441

Email: Pendle.NPT@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

MP Surgery at Holmefield House

On the third Saturday of each month Andrew Stephenson MP holds a surgery at Holmefield House. Members of the public need to first ring 01282 614748 to make an appointment .

Barrowford & Western Parishes Area Committee

Chairman Cllr. Linda Crossley

There is a 15 minute Public Question Time at the start of the meeting where non-agenda items can be raised.

Meeting Dates

9th March 2017

11th May 2017

30th March 2017