

High Lane Residents Association

February 2018 Update

HLRA February 2018 Meeting – Guest Speakers

We were pleased to welcome two guest speakers at our first open meeting of the year on 1st February 2018 at High Lane Village Hall.

First, ***Police Inspector Bob Cantrell*** leads the local policing team at Marple Police Station and, supported by our local PCSO Mark Turner, Bob spoke about how neighbourhood policing works and explained the current crime reporting/recording system advising that, despite recent incidents, High Lane still has one of the lowest crime rates across Stockport.

Much of the discussion focussed on traffic calming and the lack of enforcement within the new 20mph and 7.5T zones and generally through the village. The very clear message was that, before the police can act on these matters, there needs to be a sufficiently high volume of reporting from the public for it to be seen as a priority. Bob explained that this would then allow the police to build up a proper picture and to make an informed decision on the risk and how to address it, which may then include bringing in specialist teams and/or equipment. The only way to achieve action on this is for residents to repeatedly and diligently report incidents to GMP using the 101 phone line.

HLRA's previous request for help to set up a community speedwatch was discussed but it was reiterated that we will not see any action without increased reporting of incidents to GMP. Marple South and High Lane Ward have a mobile speed indicator device and Cllr Ingham advised that South Meadway is on the waiting list; a request Russell Avenue to be added will be made.

Our second speaker was ***Jan Kitching, Neighbourhood Watch Network Co-ordinator*** for the wider Stockport area. Jan explained that the Neighbourhood Watch concept still works around the traditional approach of neighbours in a road or group of roads "looking out for each other" but many people now prefer to set up and run their groups through social media on Facebook or WhatsApp. Groups should be registered with the police and have a co-ordinator so that information can be passed both ways. Our PCSO can help residents set up groups and Jan can be contacted for advice at stockportnwa@gmail.com Copies of the handouts that Jan provided are on the HLRA website.

Residents using social media groups were asked to take care not to overlook those in our community who do not have access to the internet or mobile phones and who rely on face-to-face contact.

Canal Towpath Repair Project

Our project to improve and repair the canal towpath through the village between Bridge 9 (Andrew Lane) and Bridge 11 (Bull's Head) is now underway. Huge thanks go to Ian Carpenter, our project manager, and to the 30+ volunteers from across the village who responded to our request to get involved, many of whom have already turned out in the cold weather to take part in the first two work days.

Work was started on 2nd February 2018 adjacent Bridge 10 and we are aiming to carry out 7-8 sessions before the end of March followed by 1 session per month. Work is being concentrated in small sections that can be started and finished in a single days work. Ian is carrying out the planning and liaison with Canal & River Trust who are providing materials and equipment free of charge in return for our volunteer contribution. The Trust have told us that these sections of the canal had been on their radar for improvement, but it was unlikely anything would have happened for another 5 years if HLRA had not taken the initiative with this project.

A6 Cycle Way

Cllr Dowse has advised that the consultation on the proposed on-carriageway cycle lane on the A6 has now been extended to 23rd February 2018 to allow more people to participate. A drop-in event is being held at High Lane Village Hall 20th February 2018 4:00pm to 7:00pm. A copy of the latest plans can be seen at <http://www.semmms.info/wp-content/uploads/A6-Cycle-Lanes-High-Lane.pdf> Comments can be made at the drop-in event or by email to semmms.relief.road@stockport.gov.uk or by phone 0161 427 2299.

HLVNF - Neighbourhood Forum

Richard Jones updated attendees at our meeting on HLVNF's progress, advising that the four topic groups have started work which will be used by the planning consultant to build an outline Neighbourhood Plan. The aim is to collect data, write outline policies and move towards a draft Plan by the Autumn with a Referendum around the end of the year.

It is important that residents, local groups and businesses have their say in the future of our village through this process. HLRA is supporting HLVNF's work wherever we can, including providing banking facilities. You can learn more about the Plan for High Lane at www.hlvnf.org and HLVNF's next Meeting is on 20th February 2018, 7:30pm Windlehurst Methodist Church.

Round-Up

SMBC Landscape Character Assessment: HLRA attended the stakeholder consultation event on 15th January 2018 along with others to keep High Lane's voice heard in connection with the Stockport Local Plan

1st High Lane Scouts: are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year and they would welcome your support as they raise funds to replace the scout hut roof. Annual Plant Sale is 5th May 2018 and a Summer Fun Day on 30th June 2018. More details to follow at www.highlanescouts.org.uk

Library car park: a big thanks to our volunteers who completed the clean-up of the car park last month.

Parking for shops on A6: HLRA's suggestion for increasing the designated legal parking bays has received a cool response from SMBC Network Management. With Cllr Blair's support we are continuing to press for this to keep our local shops sustainable.

...and finally

SEMMMS has this week issued a statement confirming that the opening of A6MARR will now be delayed until late Summer 2018, citing delays due to further bad weather, ground conditions, existing drainage problems in the A555 and the demise of contractor, Carillion. A full copy of the SEMMMS statement is at <http://www.semmms.info/a6-to-manchester-airport-relief-road-update>

Next HLRA Meeting: Thursday 5th April 2018, 8:00pm at High Lane Library, all welcome