

BOLLINGTON *Live!*

Number Fifty Two Summer 2011

BOLLINGTON

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CONGESTION CHAOS

The Town Council and local residents are still working to improve pedestrian safety and vehicle congestion around the Co-op on Albert Road. The results of a traffic survey carried out from 7am - 8pm on Friday 20th May by the Town Council and local volunteers emphasised the scale of the problem.

The survey counted over 670 vehicles parking at the Co-op during this period and, with only six general and one disabled spaces, a high number of vehicles ended up parked on the roadway, pavement and even in the doorway. The survey also counted 849 vehicles

The solution, which will also consider what happens on Moss Brow, is likely to involve road treatments to slow traffic, signage and potentially more parking spaces. It may also include more loading and parking restrictions with more active enforcement.

Cheshire East Highways has been evaluating a number of options and it is hoped that the results will be forthcoming soon. The Co-op has also been approached to become more involved in delivering these solutions and not being seen in some quarters as just the cause of the problem. The Co-op is a well used and valued facility - but such



Photograph by David Naylor

turning into Albert Road and 845 leaving (not having stopping at the Co-op). Added to this were 199 vehicles turning into Riverbank Close and 193 leaving.

These are significant numbers and when the mix includes a proportion of heavy lorries, buses along with manoeuvring and stationary Co-op delivery vehicles, it presents a congestion and safety problem in need of a solution - especially when Albert Road is the home to two primary schools.

success carries a responsibility to minimize impact on local residents and to carry out, as far as possible, a safe operation.

In recognition of the potential hazards to children, Cheshire East Council has provided a zebra crossing, albeit recently damaged by a passing lorry. Cheshire East Council is also funding a lollipop crossing patrol person but their advert has not attracted an applicant. If there are any readers who would like to take on this role please contact the Town Clerk. **David Naylor**

Date for next copy:
Friday 30th
Sept. 2011

EDITORIAL

Summer is here and our deliverers are once again pounding the streets. Thank you to our many 'unsung heroes' for getting yet another issue of *Bollington Live!* to every household and business in Bollington. Hopefully there is a bit of something for everyone. Of course if you think we are not covering your particular area of interest, please do get in touch with your stories and ideas.

This time around we seem to have something of a 'green' theme. Our article on making more use of our town for growing produce gives food for thought - and hopefully can be a catalyst for action. We also take a look at how Bollington Carbon Revolution is progressing, as well as seeing how two of our businesses are 'going green'. An article on butterflies also emphasises the importance of caring for our environment.

Elsewhere we look at a few current events - the problems with traffic on Albert Road for one. Is there a solution? The development of the new Skate Park is much more positive as is the news of the forthcoming Walking Festival.

Our readers who look forward to historical articles will be pleased to read the latest instalment on Bollington Urban District Council. We also compare the future, present and past for St. John's Church.

Finally we hear about the exploits of some of our footballers and the sheer idiocy of a Bollington team having to play home games in Macclesfield and Macclesfield teams playing their home games in Bollington... You couldn't make it up!

Enjoy the issue.

GARDENING GALORE

"Those aren't leaks, those are drips!" It was early in 2010 when my neighbour saw me returning from my allotment with a pitiful harvest. I decided that I would have to try harder.

Fruit and veg have always been my favourite part of horticulture. I remember as a child being taken for a walk by my father past the wonderful walled kitchen garden at Savio House and then dreaming of gardening there myself. Now I am one of the lucky few who have an allotment in Bollington and I love it!

There are 55 people on a waiting list for allotments at the moment and a lot of those have been waiting for a long time! The only ones available are some privately owned ones at Lowerhouse and half-a-dozen or so provided by Bollington Town Council near to Bollington Leisure Centre.

This is obviously not good enough so perhaps Bollington's famous 'we'll sort it' attitude should be allowed to take over!

To quote the Bollington Town Plan: *"Inevitably there are commercial pressures on any land in the town but clearly the Town Council should be supported in its efforts to increase the provision of allotments..."*

The Bollington Cross Youth Project proposed to make some

Most allotment strategies quote the 1969 Thorpe Report which recommends a minimum provision equivalent to fifteen allotments per thousand population.

By this reckoning, Bollington Town Council should be looking to provide over 100 allotments - they have some way to go!

Photograph by Janet Beech



new allotments available by the Leisure Centre but, to quote a representative, *'vociferous local pressure denied this opportunity'*.

A more hopeful prospect is at Harrop Road where an area has been found with space for 8 to 10 allotments. Arrangements are being made to prepare the site but it is hoped that community action could prevail and a working party be assembled to do what is necessary.

There is a community garden at Ingersley Vale that has plenty of space but needs enthusiastic gardeners.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO HAVE LARGE COUNCIL MAINTAINED SPACES WITH FLOWERS AND ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS WHEN FRUIT TREES AND PERENNIAL VEGETABLE PLANTS ARE SO ATTRACTIVE?

Putting on 'allotment seeking glasses', what can we find? Some of our former mill-owner houses have large walled gardens that might be suitable. So Mount Hall, Limefields, the Waterhouse, and my long time favourite Savio House could be candidates. Some gardens throughout Bollington might be too difficult for their owner and a landshare agreement could be reached whereby their garden was utilised for growing produce.

Thinking further, why do we have to have large council maintained spaces with flowers and ornamental shrubs when fruit and/or nut trees, currant bushes and perennial vegetable plants are so attractive? Couldn't some of the planting areas outside the Clarence Mill be used for herbs to give, cut and come again, along with salad crops for the Café Waterside to cook with? Maybe the lovely outdoor seating area of Maggoty Johnson could be planted with tumbler tomatoes,

nasturtiums and other pretty edibles. What about the large borders outside the Library and on the Recreation Ground? Why not grow ground covering, weed-smothering alpine strawberries? So what if people sample them? Come on Horticultural Society, get an edible planting scheme that could be implemented and maintained by the younger part of the Community. I was interested in gardening from my childhood and there are lots of young people living in the town who might welcome the chance to look after some of the open spaces, with guidance. Then, if they want to pick some of the results of their labours, then they will have deserved it!

I tried so hard with my growing last year that I had a surplus of some crops. Bollington came to the rescue again. I saw an advert in the newsagents window. 'Galore', a small local company producing preserves and chutneys, was looking for anyone with lots of fruit and vegetables who would be willing to trade. I swapped rhubarb and apples and got something rather tasty in return.

'Liveseys' on High Street is willing to put any spare crops on a stand outside their shop for people to use.

What about the Bridgend Centre using one of its display carts for people to swap surplus food?

Finally, can we have a Farmers Market once a month? Perhaps situated on the Middlewood Way by Grimshaw Lane, or even on our suitably named Market Place? All it needs is volunteers to co-ordinate efforts. There are lots of people who are interested and just need a focus to get started. **Janet Beech**

Could we take a (edible) leaf out of the hugely successful "Incredible Edible" scheme undertaken by the community at Todmorden?

<http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk>

Nearer to home, the Food4Macc website might give more food for thought.

<http://www.maccinfo.com/Food4Macc/index.html>