

Councillor's report April 2022

Land to the rear of Doxey School

This is a large plot of land which apparently used to belong to the school but was transferred to the Borough Council. It has become a major fly tipping area and I have been trying to establish what the Council's plans are for the area. I was informed this week that the Council will be installing gates to stop the fly tipping and will clear up the area and are thinking of planting trees.

Planning application for polyhouses in Derrington

Though not in my ward, I contacted the Council when told that work on this project in Derrington has started. Hundreds of steel posts have been installed and I am told that the heating system has been created. This is a massive project which will permanently alter the landscape of the area, as well as the hydrology and biodiversity. It seems that the planning application has yet to come to Committee but the landowner has started the work anyway. The Council agreed to send an email telling them to stop but they continued and I understand they sent an officer out to talk to the landowner. The work has continued. I am told that the application will be considered by the Planning Committee in the near future. In the past week, I am told that a trench has been dug on the site so that water would drain onto the Greenway which is at a lower level.

Universal Sports Club

There is a sign on the Club door saying it was closed and an AGM would be held. I have since been contacted by some of the Club members who say that no one was consulted about the closure. They are keen to see the Club running again and there is now a date for a Special General Meeting where a vote will be taken on the future of the Club.

Stafford Gateway

The area from the station through to the old Universal cricket pitch is Stafford Gateway Project – a large tract of land adjacent to the railway – for which plans are being developed by the Borough Council through consultants they have appointed. I recently had a walk through the area with a planning officer and the Cabinet member for Planning. It seems that plans have not been finalised but it is likely that the land to the West of Doxey Road, where the St Gobain factory was, may well be designated for housing whereas the land on the opposite side may well be industrial. The only assurance I could get about the former cricket pitch was that it was likely it would be designated open space.

Political control of the Council

Following the defection of two Conservative members of the Council to the Independent group the Conservatives no longer have a majority on the Council. It may be that Council meetings will be more interesting.

Community Panel – Climate Change

The Council has now set up this group of volunteers and set out a draft work plan. The focus seems to be very much on doing work in the community – perhaps because the Council itself hasn't allocated any funds for any work on climate change, something the Cabinet was meant to be considering as a result of an earlier motion in October, but which has never been discussed – too busy discussing the budget to discuss whether they should be allocating funds to address the climate emergency.

Next litter pick and walking surgery

This will take place on Saturday 30th April, on Doxey (Road) and The Drive, meeting at the shops on Doxey at 10.30am

Tony