

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAYORAL YEAR 2015-2016

SEFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sefton Parish Council has again worked tirelessly to improve the environment in the two conservation areas. The parking of HGVs and commercial vehicles, a perennial problem, has been brought to the notice of the MBC through the mediation of Councillor John Sayers who attended an ordinary meeting in November 2015. To our chagrin it would appear that the MBC is quite dismissive of this situation which is causing profound annoyance to the residents none the least Saint Helens' Parish Church since the situation causes disruption to weddings and funerals. The PC has the backing of the PCC and the local brewery in eradicating this blight.

The new A5758 continues to have a negative impact upon the rural community. After months of disruption during the construction Lunt Road, Brickwall Lane and Sefton Lane have deteriorated drastically due to the augmentation of vehicular traffic since the opening of the new road. It is doubtful whether the MBC will be in agreement but it is the considered opinion of the Parish Council and residents that traffic in the villages has increased manifestly – worse of all the increment in HGVs through the parish. The Parish was promised that a traffic audit – comparing the model prognosis - would be taking place this year - as yet there has been no feedback.

Fly tipping in Lunt Village has taken much of our time and resources, the situation exacerbated due to the closure of both Back Lane and Longdale Lane. A site visit was attended by SMBC officers together with Sefton MBC and PCC councillors who expressed the anger of local residents who felt a lack of empowerment. Additionally, the

proposed new turning heads were a cause of public concern which the PC noted and registered with the MBC following a debate and vote - attended by councillor Sayers - to gauge local opinion through the elected members. The minutes of the meeting were served upon Sefton MBC officers.

The PC has forged stronger community links with both the PCC of Saint Helen's Church and the Punchbowl – the PC has reverted to holding its meetings at the latter due to a paucity of adequate venues within the Parish, the PC being staunchly apolitical and adenominational. This locally has been met with great enthusiasm and places the PC at the very heart of village life. It has proved an excellent public relations exercise not only raising the profile of the PC but drawing a major stakeholder and employer in this borough such as Vintage Inns into taking note of local current issues, encouraging their participation in grass roots debate and seeking their support in ameliorating the environment.

During 2015-2016 the PC forged stronger ties with yet another significant local stakeholder – One Vision Housing who, in the spring and summer of 2015 sponsored the floral displays within the parish. We continue to work alongside them in our mission for conservation.

It has been a successful year – hard work has paid dividends. Unfortunately, the PC often feels the MBC as a body is not in tune with the idiosyncratic issues of this parish – to be candid as a former constituent body of a rural district council, now subsumed into a metropolitan borough, there are times – few though they might be - it is genuinely felt that this unequal yoking is blatantly evidenced by an unsympathetic attitude emanating from the MBC.

The year was crowned most splendidly in April of this year when our longest serving councillor – William Rushton was by royal prerogative conferred with the honorary title of Freeman of the Parish of Sefton in the presence of Mrs. Rushton and his family during a

civic dinner held in his honour at the Punchbowl. Not only did Freeman Councillor Rushton receive an illuminated scroll but congratulatory telegrams from civic leaders and friends alike.

The telegrams not only pay tribute to Freeman Councillor Rushton but also to the strong relationship that this PC has with the MBC – a relationship of which I am proud. As the embers of the mayoral year 2015-2016 die and we look forward to greater conciliation and co-operation in our mission to conserve this rural heritage area for the posterity of future generations let me turn and thank with a sincere heart all those who have contributed in no small part in assisting Sefton PC this year, assistance for which we are unspeakably grateful:

From Sefton Parish Council:

Deputy Chairman Councillor Mr. Barry Draper,

Councillor Mrs. Carol Jones,

Councillor Mrs. Ann McKeating,

Councillor Freeman William Rushton,

Councillor Mr. Charles White,

Councillor Mrs. Julie Williams,

Learned Clerk Johnny Duffy Esq,

From Sefton MBC:

CEO Mrs Margaret Carney,

The Worshipful Mayor of Sefton Councillor Mr. Stephen Kermode,

Councillor Tony Carr,

Councillor Lynne Prescott,

Councillor John Sayers,

Mr. Brian Armstrong,
Mr. Gary Berwick,
Mr. Stephen Birch,
Ms. Dorothy Bradwell,
Mr. Daniel Byron,
Mr. John Carlsen,
Mr. Peter Cawley,
Mr. Dave Cookson,
Mr. John Eaude,
Mr. Peter Evans,
Ms. Sharon Garner,
Mr. Brian Goodwin,
Mr. Colin Goring,
Mr. Andrew Green,
Mr. John Guest,
Mr. Olaf Hansen,
Mr. Stephen Howe,
Mr. Mark Hunter,
Mr. Steve Johnston,
Ms. Emma Kennedy,
Mr. Alan Lunt,
Mr. Mark Magee,

Mr. Neil Middlehurst,
Mr. Gerry McConkey,
Mr. Johnny Mouldsdale,
Ms. Helen Neal,
Mr. Shaun Pimblett,
Ms. Tracey Robinson,
Ms. Anne Quirk,
Mr. Alex Spencer,
Mr. Ron Stafford,
Mr. Dave Wells,
Ms. Carole White,
Mr. Alan Wright,

Also, the staff on the switchboard at Sefton MBC who are wonderful ambassadors for the MBC and the gallant band who work hard in cutting our grass, cleaning the villages and taking away our refuse.

KUDOS!

Chairman Councillor Mrs. Maria Duffy

Chairman Sefton Parish Council 2015-2016

