

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR CHOLLERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 22/5/2024

**1) The closure of several roads** within the parish is planned. The C218 through Gunnerton will be closed from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May for B4RN to install broadband ducting, the A68 will be closed between Five Lane Ends and Barrasford quarry from 8am to 4pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May for lockchip treatment following surface dressing and the A68 will be closed at Colt Crag reservoir from 7am to 6pm between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June for carriageway resurfacing. The carriageway repairs on the C222 between Five Lane Ends and Well House haven't been programmed yet.

Parish councils can sign up to alerts by emailing [roadclosures@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:roadclosures@northumberland.gov.uk). I post about every road closure on my Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CllrMorphet>), so you could also follow me and share my posts.

**2) I asked for the traffic speed data for Old Church Cottages** and it turns out that the average speed there is only 23.6mph. I ran the resident's request for an extension of the speed limit past Highways Programme, and they confirmed that there was no justification for **extending the 30mph speed limit**.

**3) I requested a repeat traffic speed survey in Gunnerton** and identified a suitable location that's far enough away from junctions and sharp corners (in the vicinity of the church). I've been told that it'll be conducted within the next two months.

**4) I spoke to the climate change officer who deals with EV charge points** and he confirmed that the funding for new chargers has dried up. Apparently the On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) has come to an end and an application for Local Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding was unsuccessful. A repeat submission to the LEVI fund will be made soon, and I'll let you know if it's successful.

**5) My species-rich grassland projects** have been short-listed for a Love Northumberland award in the Best Countryside Project category! The award ceremony is at Alnwick Garden on the afternoon of June 13<sup>th</sup> (from 1.15 to 4pm). Four people are allowed to represent the two projects and there's currently space for most likely one but possibly two Chollerton parish councillors. Would anyone like to join me?

**6) Richard McKenzie in Highways Programme** told me that it isn't essential that the vegetation is cleared off **the Barrasford to Barrasford quarry footpath** before resurfacing is requested through the LTP programme for 2025/26, because if the request is accepted the vegetation would be removed before it was resurfaced. The Highways Inspector's suggestion (that we get the vegetation removed so that he can inspect it properly) was a good one, and we could still do that – but the danger's that the footpath would remain scraped but not resurfaced for some time.

**7) I asked for an update on the "twenty when lights flash" sign** on the northern approach to Barrasford, but haven't received one yet.

**8) I also asked for an update on the lights at Barrasford quarry**, but haven't received one yet.

**9)** Northumbrian Water were unable to provide me with an update on **the flooding on Chollerton Lonnen**, because the person in charge of the work is away until June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last thing I heard was that they were finalising a contractor to replace the valve.

**10)** Susan Ogle (NCC's Director of Housing) responded to my request for an update on **the reinstatement of local Homefinder adverts** with an apology for not having any progress to report and a promise to keep pushing Karbon on it. She also told me that if we wanted to push Karbon on it ourselves the person to contact is John Meldrum. I have his email address if you need it.

**11)** I checked **the mound affecting line of sight** at Brunton crossroads, but wasn't convinced that the problem's serious enough to warrant requesting any earthworks. If the grass gets too long it can be flagged up via FixMyStreet.

**12)** **The Local Bus Board** has finally had its first meeting. I'd been led to believe that they'd be deciding how they wanted parish councils and county councillors to engage with them so that we could start pushing them for better bus services, but apparently they didn't get that far! I expect they will at their next meeting, and I'll let you know what they decide.

**13)** **The new Climate Change Action Plan** will be going to Cabinet in draft form on 11<sup>th</sup> June. I haven't managed to get my hands on a copy yet, and I'm just hoping that it's as good as Nick Johnston (**the climate change team leader**) said it is. Nick left soon after finishing the draft action plan, and they're going to interview for his replacement tomorrow.

**14)** And finally, the County Council has just launched a **dedicated climate change website** in beta (draft) form. It can be accessed here: <https://www.northumberlandnetzero.uk/>. I would welcome any feedback and can pass it on to the climate change team.