

## Rowton Parish Council – Chair’s Annual Report 2021/22

At the start of the 2021/22 year, meetings were still held over Zoom because of the Pandemic. However, for the July Meeting it was agreed that the Councillors would attend in person but that suitable precautions would be taken to avoid any undue infection risk. Masks were worn when standing and moving around but removed when seated. Additionally, 2m metre distancing was observed, although this did result in it being difficult to hear what was being said.

I want to thank all the Parish Councillors and the Public who attended the meetings for their forbearance in these difficult circumstances.

Despite the Pandemic, which still rumbles on in the background, it has been a busy year for the Parish Council. Some of the key issues are highlighted below.

### Planning

As always planning was an important issue.

The first contentious issue was discussed at the May 2021 Annual Parish meeting. It was to do with the Land at Woodbank which had access to the A41. This land was actually part of Christleton but the member of the public present, whose house is adjacent to the land, was concerned about the effect that the work was having on her residence. This has been followed up with CWaC who are dealing with the issue in conjunction with Christleton with support from Rowton Parish Council.

A good news story was that the work on the Pedestrian Crossing at the end of Long Rowton Lane across the A41 started in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> May. The crossing is now being used regularly.

There were 2 other planning applications that were of some concern to residents and the Parish Council.

Land adjacent to the Drift. The request is to erect a two-storey block of four affordable one-bedroom apartments. – Objection has been submitted on the basis of concerns about the exit to the property being too close to the A41 and flooding/drainage issues. Decision awaited.

Rowton Moor Nurseries, Promised Land Lane – Objection was based on the Land having never been used for Commercial purposes and therefore a change of status away from Green Belt. There is a long history around this property which was emphasised in the objection. Permission has been refused.

### Flooding in and around Moor Lane.

This was by far the most serious issue dealt with by the Parish Council over the last period. The flooding involved raw sewage in front and back gardens as well as on the pavement.

The continued raising of the issue by the Parish Council and residents and the continuing support from Cllr Stuart Parker, has resulted in the Sewer being cleared. However, the issue is still active as the flooding is exacerbated by the kerb being too

low which results in water flooding the pavement and residents flushing wet wipes down the drain.

This issue is still active.

### Japanese Knotweed – Clay Pitts Lane

The presence of Knotweed was reported to Street Scene in May 2021 and also the owner of the adjoining field had also been informed.

The Assistant Manager at Street Scene confirmed that the site is being checked and monitored and treated for long term eradication. The adjoining field has been treated by the land owner.

### Fibre Broadband

The Parish Council has continued to take advice on the introduction of Fibre Broadband in the CWaC area to ensure that Rowton does not get left behind.

### Litter Picking Equipment

A successful bid was made to the Police Community Fund to support the purchase of litter picking equipment. This has been purchased and will be made available to volunteers to help keep the village tidy.

### New Parish Councillor – Melanie Fildes

I am delighted to report that Melanie Fildes agreed to become co-opted on to the Parish Council January 2022.

### Parish Precept for 2022/23

The reserves going forward for 2022/23 are in a much healthier state. It was decided to reduce the Band D charge to £25.00 which is a 15.8% reduction on the previous year.

### Carols on the Green

For the first time for 2-years it was possible to hold Carols on the Green. The occasion was very well attended and proved to be a very enjoyable event. I would like to thank Michael Smythe for leading the singing with such expertise.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to our Clerk, Christine, without whose hard work and expertise the Parish Council would not be able to function.

Cllr Howard Hopwood  
Chair - 2021/22