

Hilton Focus Team

Happy New Year!

Writing this in early December with snow on the ground, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

November was a busy month, with both myself and Jayne, taking an active role in a couple of Planning meetings. We helped ensure that a few proposed applications were refused in particular; 1) Two houses in Sapperton (Church Broughton) that were going to be built in an area that is known to flood and 2) the proposal to demolish the Mandarin and build a 2 storey "glass box" in its place. Despite Officer recommendations to Approve. We will await the next set of proposals with interest and an open mind.

I was informed recently that South Derbyshire District Council Environmental enforcement had been able to issue 3 fixed penalty notices on Hilton residents for "not picking up" after their dogs had fouled. I welcome this along with recent increases in fines announced. There really is no excuse in Hilton in particular, with its free Dog Poo bag dispensers and lots of bins all over the Village that are emptied regularly (yes, you can put dog waste in the normal bins).

Jayne and I were recently very moved by an interaction we had with one local resident who was experiencing financial difficulties and contacted us to seek assistance from the Council. The Council Officers we then contacted, were excellent and within a day, she had called Jayne again, in floods of tears of joy and relief, as the system worked as it should and provided the support needed.

At a time when local politics can sometimes "get in the way", we were pleased to take part in a process initiated by our Conservative Ward member Cllr Sundip Meghani, along with colleagues from the Hilton Parish Council. Following an initial meeting with St. Modwen's (who own most of the land either side of the Mease), we took part in a 2 hour walk in the cold, with their contractor aimed at dealing with a large amount of tree and shrub maintenance issues. I am hopeful that by the time this goes to print this work will have been started. The works are extensive and cover the whole length of the Mease from The Quirky Shed all the way around to the Derby Road roundabout. They should see the removal of branches encroaching on people homes and gardens, with some height reductions, clearance of low branches over footpaths, the removal of dead trees and "brash" from previous attempts to deal with the issue. I hope the County Council Highways will join in the assistance by allowing expediting the necessary footpath closures etc. that will be required for some of the works. All the works will be carried out by St. Modwen's and not at the expense of local Tax payers, so I very much hope they are able to "get on with it"!

If you need assistance with local issues that you think your District Council can help with, then your local Lib Dem team can be contacted via email at

[Grahame.Andrew@southderbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Grahame.Andrew@southderbyshire.gov.uk) or [Jayne.Davies@southderbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jayne.Davies@southderbyshire.gov.uk)