Chairman’s Annual Report 2018/2019

Mr. Peter Black has presented submissions to WBC on behalf of Croft and Culcheth Parish Councils. The submissions support our attempt to prevent the urbanisation of the villages through wholesale building by developers responding to the local draft plan prepared by the Borough Council.

The proposed route of HS2 continues to cause concern and the Parish Council, together with CADRAG, has taken every opportunity to voice its objections.

Wigan Council enforced a weight restriction on Winwick Lane despite objections from Croft PC.

The Parish Council has been notified of a proposed motorway service station on the M62 at junction 11.We have strenuously opposed both this threat to the village and

the ongoing threat presented by the proposed Parkside development.

After closing the public toilets due to repeated vandalism several uses for the building have been considered and relative costs assessed. On reflection, it was decided to demolish the block and arrangements are being made to carry this out.

CYAC decided after much discussion that it could not continue to run the centre under the new conditions set out by the Borough Council. Control of the building was, therefore, handed back to the Borough Council and the Parish Council has looked at various ways of meeting the increased costs. Consequently, the office used by the Parish Clerk in Taylor Industrial Estate has now been moved to CYAC. This will provide the centre with much needed income and the Parish Council with an office more readily accessible to villagers.

It was agreed to cease producing the Village Newsletter in favour of a bi-annual report in Culcheth Life and regular updates from our local groups on the village website. Also, in an effort to reduce excessive use of printing paper, councillors decided to receive planning applications electronically.

The Parish Council agreed to donate £300 per annum to the Warrington Food Bank.

Two unresolved items that continue to cause concern are the totally inadequate bus service through the village and the continuing struggle to resolve the parking problems on Roundthorn.

And now, some of the more positive happenings this past year:

Two speed signs have been erected at the approach to both of the village’s primary schools. This action resulted in a very welcome reduction of traffic speed during school hours.

We have also been informed that after a long struggle a proper crossing is to be installed outside Croft Primary School.

A Parish Plan was completed by a team of dedicated volunteers led by Roger Lamming; a booklet containing the results was published and distributed to all households. The plan was very favourably received and the parish council are working towards the implementation of some of the results.

Our thanks are extended to Roger Lamming and his team.

The annual Croft Carnival was held on a beautiful day which, unfortunately, coincided with the England football team’s semi-final match of the World Cup. Nevertheless, it was a thoroughly enjoyable event in which I was delighted to take part. The importance of the carnival to Crofters is underlined by the many who return each year from all over the country to attend.

The annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony was also very well attended. We were all treated to some fine singing from the choirs of both village schools.

Because of the antisocial behaviour of one motorist it has been decided to erect collapsible bollards at the entrance to the car park before Christmas 2019 to prevent movement of traffic during future events.

Finally, I would like to proffer my gratitude to Mike and Siobhan for their efficient and cheerful running of the Parish Office; they really are invaluable.