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Magazine

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Life in Lymm

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Editor's Opinion



I'm in danger of repeating myself but there comes a point when we have to ask a simple question: how much more development can Lymm reasonably absorb before the character of our village begins to change beyond recognition?

The latest row at Warrington Borough Council, where Labour councillors rejected a Lib Dem motion calling for greater scrutiny of applications involving so-called "Grey Belt" land, has again brought the issue into sharp focus.

The decision does not mean Green Belt protection has been abandoned, but it raises legitimate questions about whether sufficient safeguards are in place as pressure to build on countryside increases. Here in Lymm, this is far from an abstract debate.

We have already seen approval for 55 homes off Reddish Crescent, while a further proposal for 60 homes has been made for Green Belt

land off Bucklow Gardens. Plans for around 200 homes on a site to the south-west of the village have also been anticipated.

Our under pressure infrastructure cannot simply be expected to absorb endless growth without consequences. A village is not just a collection of individual planning applications. It is a living community with finite resources and a countryside that cannot be replaced once it has been built upon. Of course, we need new homes. Younger people need affordable accommodation, families need somewhere to live and older residents may wish to downsize locally. Warrington must

meet its housing requirements, but brownfield land and suitable urban sites should be fully explored. Where Green Belt development is proposed, the evidence must be robust, the benefits clear and the infrastructure implications properly addressed. The rejection of one council motion will not decide Lymm's future. But residents deserve transparency, meaningful safeguards and a planning strategy that looks beyond housing numbers.

Once our countryside disappears beneath concrete and bricks, it cannot simply be brought back.

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Santa's float set to bring festive cheer to Lymm

SANTA Claus is already preparing his annual journey around Lymm and the surrounding communities, with preparations already well underway by Lymm Rotary Club.

Santa's festive float will set off on Monday, November 30, beginning a busy schedule of visits across the area throughout December.

He will spend his first three nights in Thelwall, before heading to the Booths Hill area on December 3 and 4.

From December 7 to 9, Santa will be visiting Oughtrington and Rushgreen, followed by a trip

through Statham on December 10.

After spreading some festive cheer in Statham, Santa will return to the Higher Lane area for a couple of nights before making his much-anticipated arrival in Lymm Village on December 17 and 18.

Santa's schedule will be a busy one, as he will also be making appearances at Sainsbury's in Warrington on several days over

the weekends.

He will also be taking part in the Dickenson Festival parade on December 12, giving families another opportunity to see him in festive spirit.

Lymm Rotary Club is encouraging residents to keep an eye out for Santa when he visits their neighbourhood.

"Do look out for him when he's around your area, he'll be sure to give you a big wave and a hearty greeting," said club spokesperson Linda Monk.

But Santa's annual tour is about much more than Christmas cheer. Money raised through the float is used to support local groups, organisations and residents across the community.

Last year, thanks to the generosity

of local residents who supported the float, Lymm Rotary was able to donate £7,000 to local groups that had helped make sure Santa could visit as many areas as possible.

The Rotary Club also provided 117 afternoon teas to local residents and supported local care homes with gifts for their residents.

This year, the club has continued its support for the community, providing Lymm's four primary schools with funding to purchase books for their school libraries.

With Santa preparing to hit the road once again, residents can look forward to the familiar sight and sound of his festive float making its way through the local streets — while helping to raise valuable funds for the community at the same time.



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What's On



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday November 10th, 7:30pm
Lymm Parish Hall
Check www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk for details.

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB

Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 6.45pm
Details: 01925 944677

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP

Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30pm
Oughtrington Community Centre, Lymm
Details: 01925 755926

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Meets at Warburtons Parish Rooms on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm
Contact 01925 919053

LOVING HEARTS & HANDS

Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church, 2nd and 4th Thursday each month, 1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

LUNCH AT THE BROW

Eagle Brow Methodist Church
2nd Friday in the month
Light lunches 12 noon till 1.30pm.
All proceeds to The Y Project Room at The Inn

GARDENING CLUB

Meet Third Wednesday of the month
Lymm Baptist Church, Higher Lane. 7.30pm
Visitors welcome. £2 includes tea and cake

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP

Lymm Village Hall
Third Monday of the month (except August and December) at 7.30pm. Visitors most welcome. Contact: 07876 176501
lymmfloralart.org.uk

LYMM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday (ex Aug), 7.30pm
Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.
See our rolling display in Lymm Library
Details: www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY

Second Monday each month
September to May
Lymm Village Hall - 8pm-9pm
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Visitors most welcome
www.lymmhistory.club

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

3rd Wednesday of the month, 8pm
The Spread Eagle Hotel
Details: 01925 756444

LYMM CONCERT BAND

Rehearsals every Thursday evening
United Reformed Church, 8pm.
Details: 01925 752934

LYMM WI

Every second Wednesday, 2-4pm at Lymm Youth and Community Centre. Visitors welcome.

LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.
cah@cstones.co.uk

PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

A small, friendly social club for retired men and women.

Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays at 2:15pm.
Details: www.LymmProbus.club

LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB

A friendly busy social club for retired men. Meets on alternate Thursday afternoons at Lymm Baptist Church.
Details: www.lymmdingleprobus.club
Club secretary 01925 759995

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Lymm Sanctuary Hub
Fridays 1.30-3.00pm
Details: 01925 754016

HEATLEY WI

Meets the second Thursday of each month at St Peters Church Hall, Sandy Ln, Lymm, 7pm
Visitors welcome. Details: 01925 752014

LYMM & THELWALL U3A

Speaker meeting 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August & December) at Thelwall Parish Hall 10.00am. Prospective members welcome.
www.u3asites.org.uk/lymm-thelwall/home
Contact: enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk

Murder at Mistletoe Hall promises festive fun and mystery



Picture by Jorube Portrait Photography

As part of their 75th Anniversary Season, the Bridgewater Players Drama Society will be putting on a heartwarming, festive murder mystery, 'Murder at Mistletoe Hall', which is another play written and directed by one of their members, Anna Fradgley.

It is 23rd December 1951 and the Blackwell family are gathering at Mistletoe Hall to celebrate Lord Blackwell's birthday on Christmas Eve. But when he is found dead in his study, with the telephone lines dead and the house cut off by a blizzard, everyone becomes a suspect. There is also an added complication, Lord Blackwell's mistress, Grace De Venables, arrives unannounced. Family secrets are revealed, old rivalries reignite and nothing is quite as it first appears.

The play combines the intrigue of Agatha Christie with the festive fun of a family Christmas. "I want the audience to feel like they are having Agatha Christie over for Christmas to play a fun game of Cluedo or charades!" said Anna. "By the end of the show, we will all be in the festive spirit!"

The play is set in 1951, which is the year the society was initially formed by six people in Lymm and this is their 75th anniversary year. Other shows planned for this anniversary season is Ken Ludwig's screw-ball comedy of mistaken identity, "Lend Me A Soprano", on 25th to 27th February and a

hilarious farce, 'Hello, Is There Any Body There?' by Ian Hornby, on 22nd to 24th April.

If you are planning to see all three shows, why not purchase a season ticket for £25.50? You will be seated in the first few rows, benefit from a lower ticket price and you will help support the society.

The show dates for 'Murder at Mistletoe Hall' are Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November. Doors open at 7.15pm with curtains up at 7.45pm, prompt. Tickets for each show can be purchased online at www.bwplayers.co.uk/tickets

Price is £9, plus booking fee online, and £10 on the door. Pre-booking is highly recommended. Performed at Thelwall Parish Hall, Bell Lane, WA4 2SX. Free parking is available. Free tea, coffee and biscuits will be served in the interval and soft drinks and alcoholic beverages are available to purchase from the bar. A raffle will be drawn in the interval. Please email for season tickets and with any disability requirements on bridgewaterplayers@gmail.com



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First "Life in Lymm" community photography competition attracts outstanding entries

LYMM Photographic Society is celebrating the success of its first ever community photography competition, Life in Lymm, which was launched to celebrate the village, its traditions and the people who make it such a special place to live.

The competition was created to encourage an interest in photography across the community and was open to photographers of all ages, whatever their level of experience and whatever camera they chose to use, from smartphones to professional cameras.

Organisers invited entrants to capture their own interpretation of life in the village, whether through local events, cherished traditions, landscapes, wildlife, architecture or everyday moments that reflect the unique character of Lymm.

To encourage younger photographers to take part, the competition featured two age categories: Under 21 and 21 and Over.

The Society has been delighted by the response, receiving an impressive number of entries and many outstanding images demonstrating both the photographic talent within the community and the affection local people have for the village.

Prizes for the competition have been generously donated by local

businesses, whose support has helped make the event possible.

The difficult task of judging the entries fell to Gary Skentelbery of Lymm Life and Andrew Collier of Andrew Collier Photography, who were faced with selecting winners from a strong and varied field of photographs.

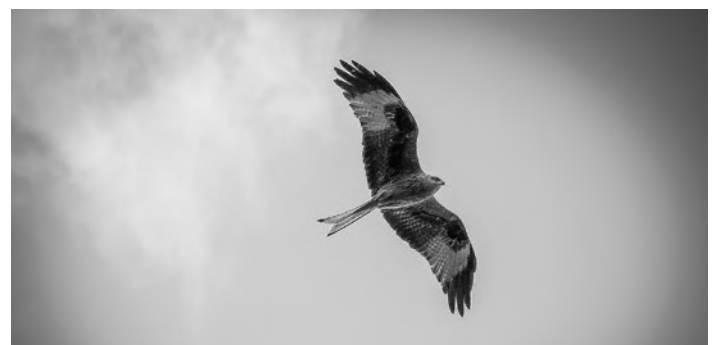
The winning entry in the Over 21s was Andrew Moores with his stunning image of Lymm Dam, with Chris Sheppard coming runner-up with his heron photo and Paula Thomason third with her winter scene.

Birds proved popular in the Under 21s with Sam Morris claiming first and second and Alex Chandler coming third.

A spokesperson for the Society said: "The aim of Life in Lymm was to celebrate our wonderful village while encouraging people of all ages to enjoy photography. We wanted to show that photography is for everyone, regardless of experience or equipment, and the response has exceeded our expectations."

The quality of the entries has been exceptional and the judges have had a very difficult task selecting the winners. We are hugely grateful to them and to the local businesses who have supported the competition. We hope this will become an annual event and continue to inspire people to pick up a camera and share their view of life in Lymm."

Lymm Photographic Society welcomes new members and visitors of all abilities, from complete beginners to experienced photographers, at its regular meetings throughout the year at the Spread Eagle pub.





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Everyone at the farm would like to congratulate Gary and the team on 25 years of Lymm Life!

Type 2 diabetes: Why you need to know your numbers before your body tells you

By Dr Naveed Ijaz, Chief Clinical Officer and Consultant in Family Medicine, MyGP Clinic

Type 2 diabetes is a lot like high blood pressure. It creeps up quietly, does real damage while you are not looking and by the time you feel something is wrong, it has often been doing harm for years. The difference is that we can catch it early and catching it early changes everything.

Around two million people in the UK have type 2 diabetes. A million more have pre-diabetes and do not know it. Pre-diabetes is not a diagnosis that sounds like much. It sounds like you are fine, just not quite fine enough. In reality, it is an opportunity. It is the moment where a small amount of attention now stops a serious disease later.

What does type 2 diabetes actually do?

Your pancreas (a little organ which sits to the back of your abdomen) makes insulin. Insulin is the key that lets glucose into your cells to give you energy. In type 2 diabetes, that key stops working properly. Glucose builds up in your blood and starts damaging blood vessels and nerves. That damage is why diabetes causes heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, blindness and amputations. Those are not rare complications either. They are why diabetes is one of the leading causes of death and disability in this country.

The good news is simple. If you catch it when it is still pre-diabetes, you can often reverse it entirely.

What should I be watching for?

The classic symptoms are increased thirst, frequent urination, tiredness, blurred vision and unexplained weight changes. However, most people with type 2 diabetes do not notice any of that. They feel fine. They wake up one morning and their GP tells them they have had it for five years and their blood sugar has been running so high it has already started damaging their eyes or their kidneys.

That is why screening matters more than symptoms.

Who should be screened?

Being overweight, especially around the middle, is the biggest risk factor. Family history is another big one. Your age goes up the list as you get older. Interestingly, I am seeing more and more younger type 2 diabetics as well as slimmer individuals who lack muscle mass. I mention this because the more muscle you have, the better equipped you are at preventing diabetes. A simple blood test picks it up. We look for your fasting glucose, your HbA1c which is your average blood sugar over the last three months. We also

sometimes look at fasting insulin and a few other markers of what we call "insulin resistance".

The thresholds are straightforward. A fasting glucose above 7 or an HbA1c above 48 and you have diabetes. Fasting glucose between 5.6 and 6.9 or HbA1c between 41 and 48 is pre-diabetes.

Pre-diabetes is where you act in most settings although I would personally argue that you should take notice when your HbA1c is above 37.

This is not fatalistic. People do not drift inevitably from pre-diabetes to diabetes. They do not if they actually do something about it.

Weight loss of around 5 to 10 per cent of your body weight shifts those numbers remarkably. Regular physical activity and building muscle does the same thing. Better sleep, less stress, cutting down on sugary foods and processed carbohydrates, drinking more water instead of sugary drinks. None of it is rocket science. None of it is even that hard.

The reason I mention it is that when someone with pre-diabetes genuinely engages with it, I have seen their blood sugar normalise completely. They did not need medication. They did not develop diabetes. They stopped a disease in its tracks.

That is what screening for pre-



diabetes actually means. It means finding people at that exact moment when lifestyle change can genuinely transform their health.

What next?

If you have not been tested in the last year and you are over 40, overweight or have a family history of diabetes, ask your GP or your pharmacist. Better still, come in for a structured health check with us at myGP clinic. We test your fasting glucose and HbA1c. We check your cholesterol and your blood pressure at the same time. We explain the numbers properly and we build a plan that actually works. We would much rather find pre-diabetes on a blood test than diabetes after it has already caused harm.

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Missing cat Dill finally home after incredible journey and nearly three years missing

A cat found almost 100 miles from home at Lymm has finally been reunited with her delighted owners – two years and nine months after she disappeared.

Dill, the tabby and white cat who unexpectedly turned up in a Lymm garden, is finally back home in York after an incredible journey which kept her owners wondering what had happened to her for almost three years.

Owners Susan and Ian Buchanan collected Dill exactly two years and nine months after she was reported missing on December 28, 2023.

The emotional reunion brought a remarkable mystery to a happy

ending, with Dill now safely back where she belongs.

Dill had appeared in the garden of Sarah Andrew, near Grammar School Road in Lymm.

Friendly, healthy and seemingly quite content living among the vegetable patch, Sarah initially assumed she must belong to somebody nearby.

But after Dill stayed for three days and nights, Sarah began to wonder whether her unexpected

visitor might have travelled much further than she first imagined.

That was when volunteer Al Priest, from Lymm Pet Scanners, offered to visit and check Dill for a microchip.

The scan revealed the extraordinary truth.

Dill was registered to owners in York – and had been missing for almost three years.

For Susan and Ian, the phone call was news they had long since stopped believing they would ever receive.

"It was really like a miracle when we heard Dill was with Sarah," said Susan and Ian.

"After nearly three years we had tried to accept we would never see Dill again. Having a local group to check her chip has been amazing. We will have her home again with her sister."

Sarah, who had cared for Dill while efforts were made to track down her owners, was also there to witness the long-awaited reunion.

She said both Susan and Ian were understandably emotional and amazed that their missing cat had been found alive and well so far from home.

But Dill's adventure wasn't quite over. She still had one final journey to make – the drive from Lymm back to York.

Thankfully, she coped well with the trip and soon began settling back into her old home.

And, perhaps unsurprisingly after her incredible adventure, one of the first things to help Dill feel at

home again was a good meal.

For now, Dill is being kept separately from her sister Thyme, giving her time to become accustomed to her surroundings again before the two cats are properly reintroduced.

Quite how Dill travelled from York to Lymm remains a mystery.

What is known is that she was almost 100 miles from her registered home when she wandered into Sarah's garden – healthy, friendly and apparently quite comfortable in her temporary surroundings.

Her incredible story is also a reminder of the importance of having pets microchipped – and making sure the contact details registered against the chip remain up to date.

Without that tiny microchip, Dill could easily have been assumed to be a local cat or stray, leaving Susan and Ian with no way of knowing what had become of her.

Instead, the combination of an observant resident, a dedicated volunteer and a tiny piece of technology solved a mystery that had lasted almost three years.

After 1,005 days apart, Dill is finally home.

And after an incredible journey, she can now begin the next chapter of her life – back with the family who never stopped hoping they might see her again.

Lymm Pet Scanners was set up with funding from Lymm & District Round Table.



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Over 200 gather in Lymm for vibrant Ukrainian Culture and Wellbeing Day

More than 200 guests, including local residents from Lymm, Warrington, and across Cheshire, alongside Ukrainian families, came together recently at Maple Lodge for the Pokrova Party: Ukrainian Culture & Wellbeing Day.

Organised by the community interest company International Centre Ukrainian House UK CIC, the event aimed to celebrate cultural heritage, foster local integration, and express gratitude to British host families and the local community.

The family-friendly celebration featured traditional Ukrainian culinary treats, live musical performances, interactive Cossack games, and creative workshops where children and adults crafted traditional beadwork, macramé, and friendship bracelets.

The initiative also carried a strong civic and health message. With the support of representatives from NHS Blood and Transplant, the event hosted an awareness stand for the civic campaign "Blood Solidarity – Drop of Life", providing practical information on joining the UK blood donor register. The initiative saw immediate community engagement, with local attendees registering on the day to become lifesavers.

Supported by a seed grant from the Warrington Charities Trust, core local delivery was

made possible for the community. Simultaneously, attendees rallied behind a humanitarian appeal, making voluntary donations that raised over £3,000 towards an evacuation medical vehicle for Ukraine.

Anatolii Shalaiev, Director of Communications at Ukrainian House UK CIC, said: "We were overwhelmed by the warmth and solidarity shown by the Lymm and Warrington community. Seeing British neighbours, host families, and Ukrainian guests creating crafts together, sharing food, and supporting one another is true integration in action. We are deeply grateful to Warrington Charities Trust, our volunteers, and everyone who joined us at Maple Lodge."

The organisers extend their sincere appreciation to the Trustees of Warrington Charities Trust, Maple Lodge Scout & Guide Centre, NHS Blood and Transplant, and all community volunteers who contributed to the day's success.



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Strong interest as 167 home Lymm Green Belt development moves forward



PROPERTY developer Miller Homes says it has seen a strong turnout from prospective buyers and local residents as it officially launched its new Cobblestone Wood development in Lymm.

The housebuilder held a pre-launch event at Lymm Lawn Tennis Club recently, giving potential buyers an early opportunity to view plans for the 167-home development off Warrington Road.

Visitors were able to meet the Miller Homes sales team, look at the proposed house types and plots and register an early-bird reservation for their preferred property.

Prices for the development start from £350,000.

Cobblestone Wood is planned to provide a mix of one-to-five-bedroom properties aimed at first-time buyers, professionals, families and those looking for larger homes.

The development is expected to include a range of associated infrastructure and community contributions, with Miller Homes pledging approximately £2.5 million towards local education, healthcare and sports facilities.

The scheme will also include improvements to the Trans Pennine Trail along the southern boundary of the site.

Clare Horbury, Sales Director at Miller Homes North West, said the company was pleased with the response at the pre-launch.

"It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout for our Cobblestone Wood pre-launch and to welcome so many people who were keen to find out more about the development.

"There was a real level of interest in the homes and plots available, and it was great for our team to meet prospective buyers and answer their questions about what we are creating in Lymm."

She added that homes were now available for early-bird reservation ahead of their general release.

However, the launch comes against the background of a long-running debate over development

on land around Lymm and concerns about the loss of Green Belt and open countryside.

The Cobblestone Wood site has previously attracted objections from residents and campaigners concerned about the cumulative impact of housing development around the town, including pressure on roads, schools, healthcare and other local infrastructure.

There have also been wider concerns about the principle of releasing Green Belt land for housing and whether development is taking place at a scale that Lymm can adequately accommodate.

Supporters of the development, meanwhile, point to the need for new housing and the financial contributions and infrastructure improvements that can accompany major schemes.

The latest pre-launch event therefore represents another significant stage in a development which has been closely watched locally.

With 167 homes planned, the scheme is set to make a substantial addition to Lymm's housing stock.

Miller Homes says its development sales managers are currently based at Ridgeway Residential Estate Agents in Lymm from Thursday to Monday, between 10.30am and 5.30pm, where prospective buyers can find out more about the homes and early-bird reservations.

A dedicated sales centre and show home at Cobblestone Wood are expected to open in 2027.

Miller Homes has described the development as a new neighbourhood for Lymm, while its progress is likely to continue to fuel debate over the future of Green Belt land and the scale of new housing being delivered around the town.

Chambers Fletcher Solicitors Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Chatbot Lawyers – Can You Trust Them?

Artificial intelligence is increasingly becoming the first port of call for people with legal questions. If you are separating, divorcing or facing any family law problem, it can be tempting to ask an AI chatbot where you stand. Within seconds, you may receive a confident answer about your home, finances or arrangements for your children. It's easy to see the attraction. But how much confidence should you place in the reply?

The obvious concern is accuracy. AI can get the law wrong and produce "hallucinations": false or invented information presented as fact. These might include a court case that never existed or an inaccurate reference to a court rule or practice direction. An answer can sound authoritative even when it's wrong.

But there is a less obvious danger: content and context. The answer you receive depends on the question you ask and the information you provide.

When describing your circumstances, you naturally include what you think matters. But what matters to you and what is legally relevant may not be the same thing. Equally, something you consider insignificant may be legally relevant and make a substantial difference to the advice.

Leave out a crucial detail and you may receive an answer that is accurate for the situation you have described, but misleading when applied to your actual circumstances.

Details, background and context matter. A chatbot's answer may sound tailored to you while resting on an incomplete picture.

An experienced family lawyer will ask questions before offering advice, identifying missing information, examining documents and recognising issues you may not have realised were relevant.

AI can be useful, provided you know how to use it and check its output. Its apparent certainty can be dangerous. It may reinforce your preferred interpretation, encouraging unrealistic expectations or decisions based on a mistaken understanding.

Before making decisions about your financial future, home or children, take advice from an experienced family lawyer. There is no substitute for advice that takes account of your particular circumstances.

For expert family law advice from a human being, please get in touch.

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Labour accused of rejecting safeguards on Green Belt development

A political row has erupted over the future of Warrington's Green Belt, with Liberal Democrat councillors warning that the new "Grey Belt" planning rules could open the door to piecemeal development across the borough.

The Lib Dems had a motion calling for greater scrutiny and control over Grey Belt planning applications was rejected by Labour councillors at a recent meeting of full council.

They say the issue is particularly significant in areas such as Lymm, where a series of developments and proposals have already fuelled concerns about the cumulative impact of housebuilding on the village and its infrastructure.

Cllr Laura Booth said the need for new homes should not mean abandoning the principle of protecting open countryside.

"We all recognise that Warrington needs homes but this does not mean abandoning the principle that some land is worth protecting."

She said Green Belt was created because of the need to prevent urban sprawl and protect the character of towns and villages.

Changes to national planning policy mean that Grey Belt can apply to land within the Green Belt which does not strongly contribute to Green Belt purposes.

But the Lib Dems argue that the definition is too open to interpretation and could increasingly be used by developers as a justification for building on land which communities have traditionally regarded as

protected countryside.

Cllr Booth said development should be "properly planned, properly assessed and properly justified", with new homes located where the necessary infrastructure can support them. She also called for developers to be held to account where affordable housing is used as part of the justification for planning approval. If the argument in favour of approval is that genuinely affordable houses will be delivered, then developers should be held to account with legally binding contracts if these homes are not delivered on time," she said.

Cllr Luke Stuttard said Warrington was now experiencing what he described as a "climate of speculative piecemeal development". He warned that Grey Belt must not become an automatic justification for development. "We believe the current definition of Grey Belt is too loose and subjective," he said.

The Liberal Democrats want the forthcoming Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment to clearly identify which areas of the borough's Green Belt are being assessed as Grey Belt. They are also calling for the Government to reconsider the definition in order to strengthen safeguards.



And they point to developments around Lymm as evidence of why they believe tighter controls are required.

The party highlights the approval of 55 homes on land off Reddish Crescent, which it says was not allocated for development in the Local Plan.

A further proposal has been made for 60 homes on Green Belt land off Bucklow Gardens, while a proposal for 200 homes on a 31-acre site to the south west of Lymm is also expected from developer Richborough.

The Liberal Democrats argue that the individual applications need to be considered alongside their cumulative impact on roads, schools, health services, drainage and other local infrastructure. They claim that allowing development to proceed on the basis that individual parcels of land can be classified as Grey Belt risks undermining the wider purpose of Green Belt protection. The party insists it is not opposed to housebuilding.

Instead, it says new homes must be sustainable and delivered alongside the infrastructure needed to support

growing communities.

Cllr Stuttard said: "Developers are exploiting loose subjective definitions as a justification to build."

He claimed this could overwhelm infrastructure, erode village character and leave residents feeling that they have lost their voice in decisions affecting their communities.

The Lib Dems want greater scrutiny of the environmental, highway, infrastructure and cumulative impacts of Grey Belt proposals.

They also criticised the Labour Group for opposing their council motion. "We are very disappointed that the Labour Group was whipped to oppose our reasonable proposals," said Cllr Stuttard. The dispute highlights one of the biggest challenges facing Warrington as it attempts to meet housing requirements while protecting what remains of the borough's open countryside. With the Strategic Housing Land Assessment expected to provide a clearer picture of how land is being categorised, the battle over what constitutes Green Belt, Grey Belt – and ultimately development land looks set to intensify.

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Obituary

Chris Wright

Lifelong Lymm resident Chris Wright, who devoted much of his life to supporting the local community, has died at the age of 83.

John Christopher Wright, known to everyone as Chris, passed away peacefully at home in Lymm on Thursday, September 17, surrounded by his family.

Chris lived in Lymm all his life and was a familiar and much-loved figure in the local community, giving his time and support to a variety of local causes and organisations over the years.

He helped with May Queen floats and supported charity plant sales at local schools and scout groups, while also serving as chairman of the local branch of the National Farmers' Union (NFU).

Chris was also part of the local growers' group which exhibited at RHS Tatton Park, sharing his passion for horticulture with others.

Many local residents will fondly remember A Wright and Sons at Tanyard Farm, where Chris and his family grew bedding plants and chrysanthemums, as well as producing Christmas wreaths.

The family business was a well-known part of the local community before retiring around 15 years ago.

Away from his work and community commitments, Chris enjoyed an active social life and loved travelling with his wife Jean.

The couple celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in January 2025, marking 60 years of

marriage.

Chris was a devoted husband to Jean, a loving father to Julie, Martin and Simon, and a proud grandad and great-grandad.

His funeral took place at Altrincham Crematorium in Dunham Massey on Monday, October 5, followed by refreshments at Statham Lodge Hotel, where family and friends came together to share memories and celebrate his life.

Donations in Chris's memory were made to Parkinson's UK.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to John Burrows and Sons, with flowers provided by Karl Welsh Floral Design.



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