



Gawsworth Gazette

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Commons debate on Peak Cluster

Macclesfield MP Tim Roca raised the community's concerns about Peak Cluster in the House of Commons during a debate on 15th June.

The adjournment debate, led by Aphra Brandreth MP (Chester South and Eddisbury) saw Minister for Energy Michael Shanks MP responding on behalf of the Government.

During the debate, the Minister outlined that carbon capture "will decarbonise industry and power in a way that drives economic growth and supports jobs, as well as our climate goals." Minister Shanks outlined that carbon capture is "a very tried-and-tested technology that has been deployed across industry and power generation at scale for a long time."

Tim Roca raised the importance of effective consultation noting

that his constituents "have questions that we should accept in good faith—questions about the route, about public safety, and about the environmental impact."

Minister Shanks responded stating that consultation must be a "listening exercise, and a shaping of things on the basis of what we here back" process. The Minister went on to state that the Government was yet to make a decision on whether it supported the project, stating it would "be completed once the proposal is submitted and will be completed in the way that these processes always are—in a quasi-judicial way, by the Secretary of State."

Speaking on social media, Tim Roca highlighted that the project is not being led by the government and that Peak Cluster Ltd will need to demonstrate they have listened



to communities before proposals progress in the planning system.

"I have further meetings with Peak Cluster coming up and there are still a number of questions that I want answered. Before reaching a final view on the proposals, I want to be fully across the detail and ensure that the concerns being raised by my constituents have been properly addressed" said Tim.

Hub frontage works near completion

Work on the Hub's outdoor frontage is continuing and is looking absolutely fantastic. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the project may well be complete.

The area will now feature a beautiful new resin surface,

new tables and chairs, attractive fencing, a dog-friendly station (which is already proving to be very popular), and a colourful plant display where visitors can browse and purchase plants.

The Hub hopes this welcoming outdoor space will provide the

perfect place to relax and enjoy a coffee and cake while visiting the Hub.

If you haven't seen the improvements yet, do take a stroll around and have a look - we're delighted with how it's coming together!

Wild but beautiful or ugly?

After At the June meeting the state of ginnels and verges was raised for debate with Parish Councillors.

Are the plants lining our footpaths unwelcome weeds which should be cleared away or beautiful wildflowers that brighten our day as we walk along? Footpath and verge maintenance is the responsibility of Cheshire East Council but the Parish Council can step in to lend a hand if needed. Several residents also do a bit of nettle pulling if they threaten to sting bare legs. Should verges be neatly and regularly trimmed or can they be allowed to grow for the benefit of wildlife?

Cheshire East's policy is to make sure there is good visibility at bends and junctions, to keep road signs clear, and to give room for people to pass on pavements. Where weeds are clearly impairing visibility, drainage or restricting passage they will remove them by mechanical means. In 30 mph and 40 mph areas they cut the grass approximately every 4 weeks

during the growing season. Outside 40 mph areas grass verges are considered as refuges for plants, birds and insects and they only cut once a year at the height of the growing season and usually just a single 1.2 metre strip back from the edge of the road or footway.

And what did Parish Councillors think about our ginnels? Well, they liked the rural ambiance created by wildflower edges as long as they didn't obstruct users. Where growth from gardens was intruding onto the paths or ginnels and causing an obstruction then it is the owner's responsibility to cut this back to enable free passage, after checking that no nesting birds will be disturbed.

Nancy's Wood is a community semi-natural woodland for the enjoyment of residents. The plan is to increase diversity and in recent years several additional native trees, plants and bulbs have been planted. Have you noticed the lovely marsh marigolds in Spring? The most recent additions are silver



birch in the picnic area and a few years ago hedging was planted around the perimeter. Sections will look overgrown and although this is consistent with a natural woodland we are attempting to control the nettles and bracken in favour of native woodland plants. We have planted anemone, snowdrops, sweet woodruff, digitalis, yellow archangel, red campion etc. So we are favouring a natural, wild look. You can read the Nancy's Wood management plan on the Gawsworth Life website.

And the survey says...

The Gawsworth Community Survey closed in early June and the results are now being analysed. Here's the quick headlines.

There were 231 responses submitted, which corresponds to around 17% of the adult population or 31% of households.

57% of the respondents were from the village, 16% from the

Penningtons Lane area and 23% from the wider rural part of the parish. Almost half of respondents were aged 66+, whilst only 4% were 18-35.

68% of respondents do not think dogs should be allowed in the park, and 86% believe there should continue to be an active cemetery in the parish. 64% support the introduction of 20mph speed limits.

94% of respondents were aware of Peak Cluster, with 81% expressing opposition to the proposals.

On the Gawsworth Gazette, 92% were aware of the magazine, 62% read it every month with 48% reading in print, 36% by email and 16% reading it online.

More detailed analysis of the survey responses is taking place. Reports on the different sections will be presented to the next parish council meetings.

David Steps Down

After many years of dedicated service to the Gawsworth Community Shop, David Smetham is stepping down from his role on the Board of Directors, although he will continue as a valued volunteer.

Originally from Bedfordshire, David trained as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and built a successful career in the nuclear industry. His work took him overseas to Belgium for four years, an experience he describes as both rewarding and memorable. Following his return to the UK and a period working in London, he moved north to work on the Sizewell Nuclear Power Station project, operating out of Knutsford.

David and his wife Lesley settled in Gawsworth in 1985 and have now called the village home for more than 40 years.

Reflecting on the move, David recalls reading an article describing Cheshire as "the South in the North" and says they felt fortunate to become part of such a welcoming community. After retiring from engineering,

David was looking for a new challenge. Encouraged by Lesley, who was already involved with the community, and fellow volunteer Louise, he joined the Board and soon became an active volunteer in the shop itself.

Since then, David has become a familiar face within the organisation, serving as Operations Director for several years. The role has involved regular visits to the Community Hub and close collaboration with volunteers and staff to help ensure the smooth running of the shop and its growing activities.

Speaking about his time with the organisation, David highlighted the strong sense of community as one of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering.

"The shop is such a fantastic family," he said. "It's a pleasure to work in. The companionship is probably the biggest benefit. You can contribute as much time as you want, take on different challenges, and enjoy being part of a team."

David believes volunteering offers retirees and newcomers alike an opportunity to stay active, connected and engaged with their community while making a meaningful contribution.

Although stepping down from the Board marks what David jokingly calls his "second retirement", he will continue volunteering and sharing his considerable experience with the organisation.

Everyone at the Gawsworth Community Hub would like to thank David for his outstanding contribution over the years and wish him all the very best in this next chapter. Thankfully, his expertise, support and friendly presence will remain a valued part of the Community Shop family for years to come.

Following on from this wonderful example of volunteering, please contact Sara on shop@gawsworthhub.co.uk if you are interested in volunteering at the Hub.

The Hub is particularly looking for people to help on the café side at the moment but any help is always very welcome.

You receive full training and lots of support.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be on Church Lane from 3:45 to 4:10 on 2nd and 23rd July.



New Councillor Code of Conduct

At the June meeting, councillors discussed and agreed changes to an updated Code of Conduct for Gawsworth Parish Council.

Every council must have its own code which all councillors must buy in to. After changes to a national model and to the Cheshire East Councillor Code, Gawsworth Councillors wanted further enhancements to the Parish Council Code to promote high standards of conduct and underpin public confidence in the authority.

Topics that were expanded include the commitment to openness and transparency and clarity on how any concerns that the public have can be raised.

All council codes are based on the so called 'Nolan Principles' which set out seven 'Principle of Public Life' which are over and above the legal requirements. The full code is on the Gawsworth Life website.

Upcoming Events at Gawsworth Hub

There are plenty of events coming up over the summer and they would love to see you!

Janet's Cake Sale
9th July 1330-1600

Janet's popular Cake & Bake Sale in aid of the Stroke Association. Come along for some delicious homemade treats and help support this important charity.

Deaf and Sensory Roadshow
16th July 1000-1530

The Hub is hosting a Deaf and Sensory Roadshow. The Deaf & Sensory Support Network (DSN) provides a wide range of support and services for people with sensory loss across the North West of England and North

Wales.

If you have hearing loss, wear a hearing aid, or simply struggle to hear, this is an excellent opportunity to find out what support is available. Visitors can access free advice, equipment demonstrations, specialist support and information about the services DSN provides.

Whittling Workshop - Make Your Own Butter Spreader
17th August

Why not try something a little different this summer? Anna Barker will be running a whittling workshop where you'll learn how to make your own wooden butter spreader. For more information, please visit

Shop Opening Hours

Monday	08:00 - 13:30
Tuesday	08:00 - 13:30
Wednesday	08:00 - 13:30
Thursday	08:00 - 16:00
Friday	08:00 - 16:00
Saturday	08:00 - 13:00
Sunday	08:00 - 10:30

www.annabarkercraft.co.uk

Cake Sale
4th September 1330-1600

Another afternoon Cake Sale, this time supporting Motor Neurone Disease and the West Warriors. Every cake purchased helps support a fantastic cause, so do come along and show your support.

You can see the latest from Gawsworth Hub at www.facebook.com/shopgawsworth

GAWSWORTH YOGA



A friendly local class that's been part of the Gawsworth community for over 10 years - welcoming and suitable for everyone.

Build strength, improve flexibility, and experience breathing & relaxation practices to support wellbeing and reduce stress.

Venue: Scout Hut, Church Lane, Gawsworth, SK11 9QY

When: Tuesdays 6.45-7.45pm

Cost: £9 per class when booked as a monthly block (paid in advance), or £10 to drop in

If you'd like to feel better in body and mind, why not come along and give it a try.

To book or find out more, please email:
loisbuxton@outlook.com

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