

Clerk's Report to Haigh Parish Council 21 January 2019

Facebook Page

The Facebook page has been set up.

LALC December Newsletter

The newsletter from LALC is enclosed.

Neighbourhood Plans

Wigan Council officers will be attending the meeting in March to give a presentation on Neighbourhood Plans.

Sennicar Lane

Penny McGinty (Assistant Director, Contracts and Assets) sent the update below on 20 December about the position with regard to Sennicar Lane:

"We have been in dialogue with the residents' representatives for some time. We aim to be of help where we can, so long as it does not entail recourse of public funds where the Council has no statutory duty or legal obligation to do so – we have neither the funding nor the wish to set a precedent and create expectations we cannot possibly meet.

On the section of the lane we own, we are only obliged as land owners to maintain the road surface to the standard we require for our own purposes. This we already do. As a good will gesture we have undertaken to review options for works that will prove more durable and in that way alleviate some of the issues raised by the residents. We have also cut down vegetation on the junction of Sennicar Ln and School Ln to improve visibility – another issue raised by residents.

Regarding the nature of the lane, our view is that Sennicar Lane is both a footpath (maintainable at public expense as a footpath) and an unadopted highway, ie a highway which is not maintainable at public expense. The Council's maintenance burden applies to the lane as a footpath: it should not be conflated with the parallel status of the lane as a highway, with the historic vehicle access rights this entails (including motorised vehicles) and which are already subject to a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO). The TRO is the basis for any mitigating action residents and land owners may wish to take – further signs, appeal to the Police for enforcement, reinstatement of the gate. We believe that the standard of maintenance as a footpath is already being met."

Appointment of Internal Auditor

Heelis & Lodge have accepted the appointment.

K.M.P.: 21.01.19