

## Move market

I was surprised to see in last week's *Guardian* that Labour and Conservative councillors are blaming each other (and Brexit) for the failure to let the shops in Barons Quay

The failure is neither theirs nor Brexit and the blame should go on those who recommended the go ahead of a 1990s type shopping centre into a town that already had too much retail floor space

They should focus now on what needs to be done to get it let and the one thing they could do to rapidly improve its chances would be to relocate the market from Weaver Square next to Asda

If they decide to do this then I strongly advise that they bring in a markets' expert to do it rather like Manchester City Council did for the Arndale Centre and Gorton Markets. Manchester turned these two very dreary markets into vibrant centres which brought in new life, business and shoppers

If the same could be done in Northwich not only would we have a fantastic new market hall but the resulting increased footfall into Barons Quay would help let the remaining shops.

I have been in the business of letting retail space for over 50 years and I know that everything lets in the end but it will take hard work and some clever thinking to do it.

John G Fifield, FRICS  
Chairman, Fifield Glyn Ltd

## No pessimism

NORTHWICH residents deserve more from councillors Sam Naylor and Paul Donnelly with their negative attitudes and talking 'down' our town. What evidence is there to say that the lack of tenants is down to Brexit? None

What is Labour controlled CWAC offering to prospective tenants from the retail and restaurant sectors? Give us a clue

How does introducing car parking charges - without an economic impact assessment - at a crucial stage of development, encourage new business, help established businesses and improve footfall?

Why is this council not taking action? That's a good word 'action', definitely lacking along with 'imagination' - in rectifying the dangerous wall, stopping the opening of the 'cut' from Witton Street into Barons Quay - a barrier to investment and visitor footfall.

What about Labour's indecision and resulting shambles with the planning application for bringing TK Max to town? Now sailing down the river

What's their answer to the vibrancy of Stockton Heath in Warrington and Knutsford in Cheshire East, they are not bemoaning their fate, but celebrating success, with bursting restaurants and shops and a higher than average footfall - does Northwich not deserve the same?

CWAC officers work hard to implement the ruling party's manifesto and portfolio holders should be the guiding hand ensuring delivery of their strategy, this is not happening

Let's promote Northwich for its heritage, its riverside location, its people and unique market town opportunities. We need not only a man with a plan, but a council which delivers!

Cllr Lynn Gibbon, Cllr Don Hammond and Cllr Norman Wright

## Open meeting

YOUR report last week about plans for flats for 'young professionals'



Gwyned Roberts of Middlewich took this picture of a duck on the River Weaver. He said: "It's a female wood duck or Carolina duck (*Aix sponsa*). The Wood Duck is not native to this country. They are supposed to be kept captive but, inevitably, a small number have escaped. Interestingly, they don't nest at

was yet more evidence that Cheshire West and Chester Council do not have a clue about what to do about the embarrassing concrete and glass monster, Barons Quay, that they have created.

By scraping the bottom of the barrel it appears that they actually believe that installing some under 30-year-olds with a few bob to spend in local pubs and the occasional trip to the movies will transform its prospects.

Oh my giddy aunt. They have got it wrong yet again in just the same way as their idea to have an ASDA store as the key attractor tenant in the development was ridiculous and their total failure to take account of internet shopping undermined the scheme from the very start.

CWAC have a responsibility to tell the people what their plans are for the future.

Plans, mind you, not fatuous waffle. But first they should apologise for the mess they have made out of our town centre and for screwing up what was a wonderful opportunity to put Northwich on the map for the right reasons.

I suggest CWAC hold an open meeting in the Memorial Court and listen to what the public has to say. And then act on it.

For a start, I would like to know what the council means when they say they want to create a 'night time economy', where do families with children figure in their social housing plans alongside 'over 55s' and so-called 'young professionals' and what the council intends to do with the redundant buildings in Barons Quay as the years pass by in order to reduce costs and avoid further damage to existing retailers and the reputation of Northwich.

There are many more relevant questions to be answered before CWAC should be allowed to continue throwing (our) good money after bad.

Liam Byrne  
Little Leigh

## Covenanted?

I HAVE always understood that car parking in Northwich was free because the land was gifted to the citizens of Northwich and covenanted to have permanent use without charge.

If this is indeed the case how do CWAC propose getting round this covenant?

Do they simply plan to ignore it? Perhaps we can get an answer to this from somewhere.

I contacted CWAC during the so called consultation period and was completely ignored without any answer.

Don Micklewright  
Weaverham

## Impasse

THERE were three main reasons why people voted for us to leave the EU, one of which was that they don't want the European Courts of Justice to carry on having dominance over our own courts.

There seems to be an impasse with this in the present talks.

I feel that the talks will fall and we will walk away. We would then revert to World Trade Organisation rules which would mean that once we leave the EU we would trade with them for 10 year's tariff free.

Personally that can't come quick enough.

Name and address supplied

## Take action

I LIVE in John Street, Winsford and our backs are shared with Well Street.

I've noticed, since the council has become more strict with the rules at their recycling centre, that people are dumping rubbish on our backs.

Would the council be prepared to help with this problem because its turning our street into a ghetto?

Would they also look at parking in Well Street, John Street and Dean Street as it's a nightmare.

I fear if they start charging people for parking on the shopping centre that will push the problem on to us. I feel they should be made aware of the problems they are creating for us.

Name and address supplied

## Two sides

AS they say, there are two sides to every story and I would like to put my point of view forward as someone who is aware of both sides.

The label of 'worst surgery' for Weaverham Surgery is just not right nor fair.

It is certainly not their fault that they just don't have enough GPs to meet the demands of thousands of patients.

The GPs they have left are working around the clock to keep the surgery operating to the highest standard, in my opinion.

If the doctors become ill with exhaustion and are off work sick, then where will Weaverham patients be?

It isn't just 'a quick prescription or a quick signature on a form', which is what the patients believe.

Patients do not realise the amount of work that goes into each request, as it has to be dealt with thoroughly to avoid error.

I also feel that the staff are always friendly and polite and certainly more helpful than other surgeries, speaking from experience.

They also care deeply and are upset that the patients feel this way.

The staff of Weaverham Surgery are constantly reviewing the appointment system to try to meet patient demands and needs, but you just can't please all the people all the time.

I know the staff will keep their chins up and will not let this get

them down, but it is so easy to knock someone when they're down.

Some support and understanding for the surgery wouldn't go a miss, so let's get behind them to work with them and not against them.

Name and address supplied

## Hedgehogs

GIVEN the huge decline in the population of hedgehogs in recent years it now seems I can barely go a day without spotting another hog in who has sadly fallen victim to the motor vehicle.

Unfortunately, although I of course accept this is a fact of life for the little beasts we now have a situation where Britain's hedgehogs are reaching critical status.

I plead with drivers to give a little thought to what amazing creatures may be just round the corner as we drive in the evening and early morning. Let's do our bit to try and help our hedgehog neighbours and try and live as safely among one another as we can.

Graham Parry  
Cheshire

## A sorry sight

I CAN'T believe CWAC has spent so much money on the roundabout at the top of Chesterway only to let it get overgrown. It's an eyesore.

I was under the impression that this roundabout was built to help with all of the anticipated additional traffic that Barons Quay would attract.

Well, I don't think it has attracted that much extra traffic but if it had, what a poor welcome to our town.

Travel further down Chesterway and there are the lovely flower boxes on display. It's like two different towns.

Name and address supplied

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