

Newsletter, July 2018

A brief summary of what's in our July 2018 newsletter...

It's mid-summer and our newsletter has a definite environmental bias made even more relevant by the way the June and July heatwave got people talking about the impact of Global Warming. As the heat gives way, in some areas, to rain, we turn our focus towards flooding and the initiatives SPC is getting involved in to minimise the impact that future floods might have on our area. We also explain why leaving your engine running while waiting in your vehicle is bad for your car and your bank balance as well as being bad for children, local residents and the environment. Finally we talk about an exciting new plan to create new cycling and pedestrian routes across our area to encourage more people to swap four wheels for two.

'Slow the flow' – how Saddleworth is getting 'flooding ready'

Although, at the time of writing, the heatwave seems to be at an end, it seems a bit strange to be talking about flooding during a time when people are being asked to conserve water and where, in some areas, there is talk of hosepipe bans being enforced... BUT during these hot spells it's important to remember that our area is also prone to flooding.

Over the past few years SPC has been doing its bit to promote anti-flooding initiatives which will hopefully mean that future flooding won't cause as much devastation as, for instance, the severe floods of 2014.

Earlier this month, we invited Antony Bhunu, project manager at the Unity Partnership and lead officer for flooding across Greater Manchester, to

present SPC with a detailed overview of the flood management projects he has been working on in the Borough and across Greater Manchester.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 had created local Lead Flood Authorities which are responsible for looking after water courses which are not major rivers, those being the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Local landowners retain responsibility for the maintenance and repair of water courses and Antony's team identify solutions when flooding occurs and offer advice to the owners.

It is recognised that flooding will happen in the future but initiatives such as 'Slow the Flow' create schemes in uplands areas, mainly the planting of trees and vegetation, to slow the flow of water to levels which the drainage systems can cope with. Antony is also involved in the 'Moors for the Future' project with the Peak Park and RSPB which works to improve the condition of the moorland and encourage responsible use and care of the landscape of the Peak District and South Pennine moors.

Another initiative to help control flooding is for all planning applications for 10 or more houses in vulnerable areas to incorporate a strategic drainage plan which may include, for example, garden ponds or underground water retention tanks.

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For children's sake, turn it off!

With fuel prices continuing to be sky-high, you would think that people would turn off their engines when stopping for any period of time. On top of this there's the environmental impact of unnecessarily pumping fumes into the atmosphere. Worse still, in areas close to schools or sports grounds where there are children.

So parents waiting in their cars when picking up their children from local schools are being asked to 'Turn it off!' – to turn off their engines rather than leave them running.

According to iturnitoff.com, 10 seconds of idling wastes more fuel than restarting (since the electric ignition became universal in the mid-1980s, restarting a vehicle does not result in significant fuel loss). Not only this but turning your car off is better for the engine than leaving it running. Also, two minutes of idling is equal to one mile of driving!

So 'Turning it off' makes sense on every count – and it's healthier for our kids and better for the environment.

Whether it's picking up the kids from school, waiting outside a friend's house, stopping at a drive-thru, picking people up from the station or waiting at traffic lights and level crossings, please think for a moment and 'turn it off'!!

More facts about engine idling can be found on this website:

<https://iturnitoff.com/#/savings>

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Why it's going to be easier than ever to swap four wheels for two

Here at SPC we've been learning all about the 'Beelines' scheme which has recently been launched by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, in partnership with top cyclist, Chris Boardman. The scheme aims to get more people within Greater Manchester cycling and walking in order to take traffic off the roads. A Government grant of £160m has been set aside to fund the initiative and all residents are being encouraged to put forward proposed routes and identify crossing points.

Over the next decade, the 'Beelines' initiative aims to create the UK's largest joined up walking and cycling network, connecting every neighbourhood in the city region and revolutionising how journeys are made in Greater Manchester.

Here in Saddleworth, we have more than our fair share of hills which may deter many people from swapping four wheels for two, but, as many cyclists who've been out and about in the Pennines will tell you, electric bikes are making it easier for people to tackle hills while reaping the many benefits of cycling.

Cyclists and walkers often share routes with horse-riders. So any decision about cycling routes will have to take their needs into account, too.

So please watch this space for more news about how SPC is getting involved in the 'Beelines' scheme as it begins to take shape and also how you can get involved.

You can find out more about 'Beelines' here:

<https://www.tfgm.com/news/beelines>

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And finally... congratulations to the winners of Saddleworth in Bloom 2018 – and a huge thank you to everyone who took part

The judging of the Annual Saddleworth in Bloom competition took place on Tuesday 31st July 2018. The panel of judges consisted of the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman's Lady, Councillor Rob Knotts and Mrs Lesley Knotts, the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and the Vice Chairman's Lady, Councillor Paul Fryer and Mrs Aileen Fryer and the Clerk

to the Council, Pam Bailey. Paul Bailey accompanied the judges and took photographs of all the entries.

- The following categories were judged:
- Small Garden (under 125 square metres);
- Medium Garden (over 125 but under 250 square metres);
- Large Garden (over 250 square metres);
- Container Garden;
- Community Garden; and
- Best Blooming Pub.

The judges' decision was as follows:



Winners:

Small Garden: Jean Phillips, Grotton

Medium Garden: Dr Eammon and Pauline O'Daly, Uppermill and William Dean and Eileen Lousin, Dobcross (joint winners)

Large Garden: Glynis Bruce, Denshaw

Container Garden: Ann Smith, Dobcross

Community Garden: Outram Mews, Uppermill

Best Blooming Pub: The Old Bell, Delph

Highly Commended:

Small Garden: Les Chapman, Delph and Christine Foy, Greenfield

Large Garden: David Haines, Grasscroft

Container Garden: Brenda Whitehead, Delph

Community Garden: Anne Coude, Greenfield

Best Blooming Pub: The Old Original, Scouthead



Commended:

Small Garden: Mr and Mrs P McCarthy, Springhead

Best Blooming Pub: The Swan, Dobcross

The judges commented that the standard of entries was very high and their decision had not been easy. They offered their thanks to everyone who took part and said that they hope to see an even bigger competition next year. The Clerk added that a review of the format for the competition will be undertaken to try to encourage more people to enter next year.