

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO READ PARISH COUNCIL ON 4 JUNE 2025.

County Councillor Stephen Atkinson is now the Leader of the Reform UK Group and Leader of Lancashire County Council.

Ribble Valley Borough Council remains in No Overall Control but a Conservative-led administration was re-elected by a narrow majority at the Council's AGM on 13th May. The Liberal Democrat Group now forms part of the Opposition on the Council which is a departure from its support for the Conservative-led administration since May 2023.

I hope that the Parish submitted an Expression of Interest Form for one or more project bid(s) funded by the Ribble Valley Shared Prosperity and Jubilee Fund by the deadline of 30 May. The next stage will involve the preparation of a full bid(s) to be submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council by 31 August 2025. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist the Parish with this process.

I would like to highlight Ribble Valley Borough Council's First Time Buyer's Greener Homes Grant of up to £15,000 towards the cost of renovation and energy efficiency works. Properties must be located in Ribble Valley and over 10 years old, in council tax bands A to C, with an energy performance certificate of D to H. Other terms and conditions apply but first time buyer residents are encouraged to check the Council's website for full details.

Also worth another mention is Ribble Valley Borough Council's Affordable Warmth Fund which helps low-income households in receipt of means-tested benefits, or with a total gross household income of less than £31,000, and with vulnerable members, such as the over-65s, under-fives and pregnant women, those with cardiovascular and respiratory problems, a disability or mental health condition, stay warm. Up to £4,000 per property is

available for as long as funds last for the servicing, repair and replacement of boilers, the purchase of oil-filled heaters and dehumidifiers, or dedicated home energy assessments by the Home Improvement Agency. The affordable warmth fund is administered by Ribble Valley Borough Council on behalf of Lancashire County Council. Full details are on the Council's website.

Following recent contact from their Management Company, I am currently trying to organise a multi-agency meeting to discuss the plight of residents on Meadow View in Read who most or all of you will know were left with an incomplete road and footpaths when the developer became insolvent prior to completion of the estate. The road and footpaths cannot be adopted by Lancashire County Council Highways until they are completed to an adoptable standard and there is a large shortfall of funding available to do this at present, despite residents saving hard towards its cost. So far I corresponded with local residents (via their Management Company) and made contact with County Councillor Ged Mirfin, Lancashire County Council Highways, Onward Housing and Jonathan Hinder MP. Although there are several strands to draw together before any meeting takes place, I hope that Read Parish Council can agree to make a representative available to attend if a future date can be confirmed.

Councillor Malcolm Peplow

3 June 2025