Highways Service
The Highways Service has been planning for major road surfacing in the Pennines area with a large amount of pre-patching work on the roads. Resurfacing schemes, as presented to Highway Champions, will start in July and continue into August. The experimental traffic order for Elizabethan Way has been running for a minimum of 6 months and will be reported to Pennines Township Committee later in the year.

Library Service

Smallbridge Library now supports a range of groups including an Over 50s Reading Group, Knit & Knatter, English language course and a new health and well-being class called Armchair Exercises. The new weekly sessions commenced in April and are for 26 weeks. This summer will see the return of the vital Fit Feed and Read scheme that will incorporate this year’s Summer Reading Challenge.

Littleborough Library also offers a wide range of activities including Listen and Rhyme; Writing Groups; Coffee Mornings; Computer Classes and Craft Groups and a number of others. The library recently hosted a visit by the Calderbrook Alpacas; this was a great event which proved to be very popular.

Smithybridge library Tuesday mornings from 10-12 noon, Smithybridge Computer Club still meet in the library, term time only. This group is being featured nationally very soon as part of the Lorensbergs blog representing successful ‘Silver Surfers’ groups in the country as part of Libraries Week 2019. Occasional events held throughout the year including ‘The Biggest Coffee Morning in the World’ for MacMillan Cancer, last December the 40th one took place at Smithybridge Branch & over £12,000 has been raised for the cause over the years.

Wardle Library is host to a range of groups including Arts, Reading & Knitting Groups, Pennines in Bloom and Wardle & Smallbridge History Group, Wardle Friends & Neighbours, Wardle Society and a Lego club.

Youth Service

Moorhouse After school Club - Youth workers have worked alongside Moorhouse Primary School to deliver an after school club to engage with young people from Milnrow and the Cray around promoting positive communities. The sessions have been running since April and young people from years 5 and 6 attending. The group have participated in various team building activities, exploring local issues, arts and crafts and drama. The group have also had informal educational workshops in school with The Peace Foundation, we have continued to promote PEACE workshops by developing the teamwork with peers, exploring community issues in the Cray and Milnrow and exploring how communities get along with each other.
Detached Workers are currently out on Wednesdays and Fridays in various locations in Pennines between 6-9pm. Youth workers have been responding to ASB issues reported through local residents and Councillors regarding issues at Wardle Bowling Green.

Milnrow The session is held every Tuesday 6-9pm. The previous members who attended the group have completed a programme around the Suffragists movement with Tandem Theatre company and their completed artwork has been displayed in Central Manchester Library. New members have engaged in teambuilding activities, planning what they would like for summer holidays, learning new skills and scooter maintenance on Milnrow Park.

Community Safety

ASB casework Community Safety have a number of low level ASB cases on going in the Pennines, measures are being taken to prevent them from escalating. Some complaints however are not ASB and must be referred back to the complainant to deal with under Civil Law.

More serious ASB cases have been escalated in regard to allegations of drug dealing, rowdy behaviour, housing matters etc therefore Officers have liaised with colleagues in Strategic Housing / PET /GMP for home visits dealing with tenants & landlords.

Safe4Summer Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Officer has been co-ordinating this programme for the borough. Details have been advertised via RBC Communications on safe4summer.com The key safety messages are around water safety, railway lines and tram tracks and prevention.

A Community Day is being arranged by GMP in conjunction with Community Safety, RBH and other agencies.

Community News

Milnrow & Newhey Residents Watch
The Street Watch scheme launched in June and volunteers have already covered several miles on their monitoring visits. The project provides a visible presence and promotes good citizenship, safer neighbourhoods and engages positively with
residents and businesses. GMP fully supports the scheme and is monitoring progress, the initial feedback is really positive.

Pennines Events
Littleborough Food and Drink Festival, the weather was a little unkind but it didn’t stop the crowds attending to sample the variety of food, drink and entertainment on offer, another hugely successful event for the volunteers.
Milnrow Carnival was again a big hit in the community, the parade this year was movie themed and this was followed by live music and plenty of entertainment in Milnrow Memorial Park.

Funded Project / Grants
A number of Township Grants have been recently awarded including: -

Littleborough Fire Station has received a grant contribution to a community partnership building to host the many primary schools that use the garden for their learning. The building will also be available to community groups to use.

The newly formed Blokes Club @ Hare Hill House have been awarded a grant to continue their great work, their aim is to reduce isolation and loneliness amongst men within the community and thereby improve their health and wellbeing.

A grant has been awarded to a talented athlete who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Underwater Hockey World Championships.

Wardle FC secured a grant to fund much need security fencing at Rutherford Park and to purchase goal posts and storage at the Dearnley site.

Councillor Amna Mir
Pennines Township Chair

Thank you Mr. Mayor, I will be pleased to answer any questions from Members of the Council about these or any other matter relating to the Pennines Township Committee.