

Take-away plan rejected

A would be take-away has been left in limbo after its planning application was rejected at the most recent planning meeting.

The application covered the change of use from a two-storey end-terrace house to a hot food takeaway, but despite a strong showing from the applicant's architect, the latest Tameside Council speakers panel rejected the idea.

Abdel Koussa told the panel on behalf of Soha Shaheen that he didn't agree with the planning officers' concerns – such as parking and noise issues – and that he felt the take away was a timely business opportunity for the people of Ashton.

He said towards the end of a lengthy statement: "There is already late night activity here and I don't feel that there are significant numbers of people who have complained.

"If it becomes an Indian takeaway then that is great because the most popular dish in the country is a chicken tikka masala and I think that's why there have not been a lot of complaints from nearby residents.

"People out there are struggling and to deny someone in this environment to make a living is wrong.

"I don't feel there are enough objections locally to say 'wait a minute this is going to cause a problem'."

But despite Mr Koussa's pleas, the planning committee unanimously refused the Mossley Road application.

Friends are illuminated

Hurst Circle of Friends went on their annual trip to take in the Blackpool Illuminations last Thursday.

They were given a lift by the 2/1 Hurst Scouts - travelling in their bus. Members enjoyed a fish and chip tea when they arrived before taking in the spectacle.

The group, especially for older people, meets every Thursday at the Hurst Community Centre from 1pm to 3pm and provides an opportunity to make new friends and get out and about.

The group have regular trips, play games and hold regular talks.

For more information about the group you can contact treasurer Alan Fish, telephone Alan Fish 07931 765120 or email alan.fish.161te@gmail.com

On the cards

Ashton and District Bridge Club is back in action today (Thursday) between 12.45pm and 4pm.

The friendly club welcomes visitors and new members and each session is scored using "bridgemates" so players know their result before leaving at the end of each session and, if you wish, you can even take away a copy of the hands you have played.

The club meets at Car Street, Hurst Cross, Ashton.

Visit www.bridgewebs.com/ashton-district to find out more.

Tree felling

A request made to Tameside Council to fell a Silver Birch and a fire damaged tree together with pruning of existing trees at Bourne House Residential Home, 12 Taunton Road, Ashton, has been approved.

Ashton kids getting Active

Ashton pupils are sport on for success thanks to a store voucher scheme.

The town's Canon Burrows Primary School is one of more than 1,100 schools, groups and clubs across the Manchester region now preparing to receive deliveries of their new sport and leisure equipment thanks to Sainsbury's Active Kids.

Sainsbury's has announced that since the scheme began in 2005, a massive £224,255 worth of kit has been invested across the city.

The Ashton school, plus Denton West End Primary School in Denton, each collected more than 20,000 vouchers, which have been exchanged for equipment from the Active Kids catalogue.

Elaine Horridge, head teacher at Canon Burrows School said: "The Active Kids scheme is a great way to engage the teachers, parents and extended family of our students to get behind a project to support the school with vital sports and leisure equipment that we would otherwise have to take out of our school budget.

"We have been overwhelmed by the response and can't thank everyone, including Sainsbury's, enough.

"The scheme has helped us teach the benefits of a healthier more active lifestyle to hundreds of children over the last few years and we're really looking forward to getting active with



SPORT ON: Canon Burrows Primary pupils collect some of their sporting equipment thanks to Active Kids.

this year's equipment".

Sainsbury's customers across Manchester collected vouchers in-store between January 30 and May 22, earning one voucher for every £10 spent.

The Sainsbury's scheme saw a surge in interest for sporting equipment fol-

lowing last summer's Olympic Games with nearly 52,000 schools, clubs and organisations across the country now benefiting from their membership to Sainsbury's Active Kids.

This year alone, the scheme has delivered over £13 million worth of

equipment and experiences to schools, clubs and organisations, an increase of £5 million on the previous year.

A total £136 million worth of equipment and experiences has been donated to schools, groups and clubs across the UK since it launched in 2005.

Cooking up expansion plans for King George's park cafe

An Ashton park cafe is looking to expand to cater for an increase in demand.

Ashton King George's Georgie Porgie cafe has been cooking up a storm and now needs a bigger kitchen to serve all its hungry visitors.

Cheese burger muffins, bacon butties, ice creams and cakes, have all been going down a treat.

The cafe is run by volunteers from FoKGVPF (Friends of King George the fifth Playing Fields) group led by Molly Dean, who is the volunteer catering manager.

She explained: "We need a bigger kitchen so we can cope with all the people that call in at Georgie Porgie's especially on Saturday mornings when the junior football league teams come to play.

"It's a very small kitchen and we keep treading on each others toes and it is very 'cosy' for us all."

Alan Fish, chairman of FoKGVPF came up with the initial idea for a cafe when the Friends set up three years ago.

Initially the idea was to serve tea and cakes to boost funds.

But little was it realised then how popular the cafe would actually prove.

"I didn't expect it to do so well and we are selling a lot more than tea and cakes now," said Alan.

"So I am now applying for grants to expand the kitchen to cope with the extra demand.

"The original cafe was funded by grants from the Lottery, You Choose, the Co-op, Comic relief, and the health authority providing

grants of £11,300.

"The Georgie Porgie's cafe has done very well since it started in 2012 and has made money to reinvest into the park."

The cafe is appealing for more volunteers to help out, especially on those busy Saturday mornings.

If you can help contact Molly on (0161) 344 2366.

To help out in a variety of projects underway at the park you can contact Alan Fish on 07931 765120 or visit www.fokgvpf.co.uk

The next big project is another tree planting day on December 1.

A total of 60 trees were planted last year but some were vandalised so FoKGVPF working group will be planting more.

The Friends will also be joining in with www.wildaboutgardens.org.

uk/events.aspx from October 25 to 31 in an effort to make King Georges an even better place - but more volunteers are needed to help out.

Wild about Gardens is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to help people to make their gardens, green spaces and parks better by supporting the local communities in them.

FoKGVPF has been given 200 crocus bulbs to plant in the park by the RHS and with a You Choose grant from Tameside the group has more than £300 of wild flowers and seeds to plant in their wild flower meadow at the top of the park.

If you would like to help with the wild about gardens week contact Pat Kent on (0161) 339 4400 or email patricia.kent@yahoo.co.uk

Ashton school's Welly Walkers help give hunger the boot

Children from Grafton House Preparatory School in Ashton have raised the fantastic sum of £120 to help 'Give Hunger the Boot' after holding a Welly Walk.

As reported last week the children were raising money for the UK charity Farm Africa which is working to beat hunger across eastern Africa.

To help 'Give Hunger the Boot' the entire school of children aged between four and 11, as well as some of the younger ones from the day nursery and many of the staff, took part in the "Welly Walk".

The charity itself supports smallholder African farmers, providing them with training and technology so they are able to grow enough to eat with surpluses left over to sell for much-needed income.

The school walked 16 laps of their premises totalling one mile.

Cumulatively, those taking part clocked up over 32 miles. Carers, friends and parents all donated generously to the walk and the funds generated will be used by Farm Africa to train farmers in how to grow and produce more food and increase their harvest yields.

Bob Wynn, Head Teacher at Grafton House Preparatory School, added: "World Food Day is also coming up and we will use this as an opportunity to further their knowledge on global hunger on top of what they have learnt from Farm Africa's campaign."

