



Prestbury Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2013

Letter from the Chairman Autumn 2013:

Autumn may now be well and truly with us but we can look back on a long Summer of warm and dry weather, apparently the best since 1996. It was good to see the village looking so pretty, with flower tubs and baskets, with shop fronts well decorated, and with even our pedestrian crossing at last repainted. Let us hope that the recent sale of Ford House will lead to an improvement of the eyesore with which we have had to live for five years.

Since the last Parish Council newsletter we have held the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and the Civic Service.

At the Annual Parish Meeting we discussed some of the important planning issues which will seriously influence our future, including the Local Plan and the proposals for major road developments. Many of those issues have now been further clarified with the partial publication of the Draft Local Plan and this newsletter focuses on them. I urge you to take part in the public consultation on the Plan which will affect the future of the Borough for the next 20 years and beyond.

At the AGM we thanked Jennie Davies who retired from the Parish Council and whose enthusiasm and energy we will very much miss. We welcomed David Hawkins as a new Deputy Chairman. We have a strong team with a good mix of skills and experience, all committed as volunteer Parish Councillors to do their best for our village and for the 4,000 people who live here. We are currently two short of our full complement and are looking to recruit.

The Civic Service was the occasion when we celebrate, and thank God for all the good things we share through living in our unique and beautiful village. The Reverend Patrick Angier took the service which was followed by a reception in the Village Hall. Your Parish Council promised to continue:

- to work together with all organisations in the parish
- to foster a spirit of cooperation and community
- to keep Prestbury a safe and friendly place in which to live
- to make our parish an attractive and welcoming place to visit
- to support the village as a successful place to do business.

It has been good to see the opening of the new Cooperative Store in its new location in the village centre and that it is being well used. The return of a Post Office service is particularly welcome after so long without one. Your Parish Council, actively supported by our MP David Rutley, fought hard for the return of this essential service and we are grateful to the Co-op for listening to our pleas and re-instating a Post Office counter for the community. Let us hope that this new store brings more people into the village and will help the other local shops to succeed. We should not forget that the economic situation is improving very slowly and that these are difficult times for all of our local businesses. They need all of our support if we are to see them continue to serve us. As a Parish Council, we comment on planning proposals for the Prestbury area, and in doing that we strive to retain the character of the village, although our views are not always taken on board by Cheshire East Council. We continue to work to improve road safety and road standards. We are liaising closely with the local police to monitor and to reduce crime and to enforce road safety. We have given our full support to the group seeking a site for a new scout hut for our thriving scout group. I am pleased to report that we are progressing plans for a full refurbishment of the children's playground which is starting to show its age.

The transfer of assets and services from Cheshire East Council, our principal authority, to local level has been a slow process. It is still our intention to take over the toilet block, but progress here has been especially protracted and difficult. The latest delay has resulted from the need to clarify responsibility for the services which run below ground under that area. We still hope to complete the transfer this year.

Your Parish Council intends to provide good and useful information as it continues to promote co-operation and harmony in a successful and happy village. A new parish website has been added to other sources of information about the village: take a look at it at www.prestburyparish.com where we are posting our major submissions.

I hope that you will find reading these pages informative and stimulating. Let us have your news, views and questions as we are here to help.

Arthur Dicken, Chairman



Plans For New Road Ongoing

Cheshire East Council (CEC) and the Cheshire & Warrington Local Transport Body (LTB) which was established earlier this year are pressing ahead with plans for a new north-south 'A' road through the east of Prestbury. In effect, the £20m. road would be an extended Poynton Bypass and Poynton Town Council are pushing for it to be built at the same time as the east-west A6 to Manchester Airport Road which is a dual carriageway costing £290m.

Initial funding for the new Local Transport Bodies for the period 2015/16 to 2018/19 was announced by the Government in July. The Cheshire & Warrington one was awarded £14.5m. In July, the LTBs comprise local authority and Local Enterprise Partnership representatives.

Half of the money required to build the A6-Manchester Airport Road has been promised directly by the government. The remainder is being guaranteed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority using a new 'Earn Back' funding model. Where the funding for the Woodford-Poynton Relief Road will come from is due to be revealed in a CEC Cabinet report.

Continued on page 2



Rough illustration of the Woodford Poynton Relief Road that will pass through Prestbury

PUBLIC MEETING

BRIDGE HOTEL, PRESTBURY
7pm - 9pm Tuesday
October 8th, 2013

PRESTBURY Parish Council have invited two senior Cheshire East Officers to talk about road building plans and land-use proposals in the Local Plan and answer questions. You are invited to come along and learn what is store for Prestbury and the wider area from **Andrew Ross, Strategic Highways & Infrastructure Manager**, and **Adrian Fisher, Strategic Planning & Housing Manager**.

At their meeting in July the Cheshire & Warrington LTB agreed a set of priorities including the Woodford-Poynton Relief Road. Meanwhile the report to the CEC Strategic Planning Board about the Cheshire East Local Plan that was published in mid September maintained that "substantial new road infrastructure will... be required to open up the east of Cheshire and connect the M6 with main settlements and surrounding major roads".

The Woodford Poynton Relief Road (WPRR) is an amalgamation of two previous road schemes - the A523 Poynton Bypass and the A523 Poynton to Macclesfield Improvement, both of which are part of the SEMMMS (South East Manchester Multi-Modal Study) network of schemes. The WPRR would connect at its northern end to the proposed A6-Manchester Airport Relief Road (which is another SEMMMS scheme) somewhere near Bramhall oil terminal off Chester Road and proceed via the west side of Poynton and through Adlington and Prestbury to the northern end of the Macclesfield Silk Road on the border of Prestbury and Tytherington.

Whereas the last time such a scheme was proposed 20 years ago, it was dual carriageway, it is thought that the current proposal is for a single carriageway. But indications are that, as with the previous scheme, this one will run 'off-line', ie. not following the existing road. According to the report to the Strategic Planning Board, "where new road proposals are under consideration but a protected line has not yet been agreed, the [Local Plan] strategy will identify 'Corridors of Interest' to describe the swathe of land where the road is likely to be located". So, it is expected that will apply to the WPRR and also to the Congleton Northern Relief Road which would be another new strategic road connecting Macclesfield to the M6.

While two consultations have already taken place on the A6 to Manchester Airport Road, formal consultations have to occur on the WPRR and the Congleton Northern Relief Road and none of the roads have yet received planning approval. It is also likely that all of them will be subjected to public inquiries.

What we want to know

When Prestbury Parish Council responded to the consultation on the A6 to Manchester Airport Road, it noted that traffic modelling for the scheme showed there would be an increase of 1,100 vehicles a day on Bonis Hall Lane immediately after the road was due to open in 2017. It asked the principal authority to provide more information on projected traffic flows looking further ahead and not only on Bonis Hall Lane but on the remainder of the Parish. It also asked to see the outcome of traffic modelling if the SEMMMS roads were built to the north and east of the parish and the Macclesfield South West Distributor Road and the Congleton Northern Relief Road were built to the south and it asked to be appraised of air quality and landscape impacts. This information has not been forthcoming but the Parish Council are hoping more will be revealed at the public meeting on October 8th (see page 1).

Green Belt Removal & Strategic Sites

Cheshire East's Draft Local Plan will be debated before a planning inspector at an examination in public in spring or summer next year. Preparatory to that it will have been discussed by the CEC Strategic Planning Board and agreed by the Cabinet (on October 15th) and the full Council (on October 17th). Papers discussed by a previous meeting of the Strategic Planning Board revealed that the Plan would include a Green Belt review and would involve the removal of around 300 hectares of land from Green Belt - some for use in the current plan period and some for use after 2030.

The largest area of Green Belt loss would be 137 hectares in Henbury, Gawsworth and South Macclesfield which would be land captured by the building of a road that would circumnavigate the south west quadrant of Macclesfield. It would stretch from near Macclesfield Football Club on the A523 south of Macclesfield round to the A537 Chelford Road heading westwards to Knutsford, emerging nearly opposite Church Lane, Henbury.

A further 40 hectares of Green Belt land are sought at Handforth East for an entirely new settlement to be partly developed during the Local Plan period and partly afterwards.

Both the Henbury/Gawsworth proposal and the Handforth East one are classed as 'strategic sites'. These and others elsewhere in Cheshire East will be debated at the examination in public.

Smaller development sites will not be specifically identified until a site specific document is produced after the Local Plan has been agreed. That said, a promised Green Belt review document due to be published imminently will give a good indication of where many smaller sites are being targeted. Some will almost certainly be in Prestbury as it is one of 13 designated 'Local Service Centres' which will be expected to accept about 2,000 new houses in total (an average of 154 each). It is most unlikely any Local Service Centre will not be required to accept any housing and there are unconfirmed reports that the Macclesfield Rugby Club site west of Priory Lane, which was originally identified as a possible housing development site and then dropped, might be making a reappearance. The Rugby Club ground, known as Priory Park, to the south of Four Lane Ends, is just within the Prestbury Parish boundary. When it was first proposed for development, the Parish Council objected to it on the grounds that it was Green Belt.



Green Belt continues to be under threat

COMING SOON: 20 mph Speed Limit Extension & Mobile Speed Indicators

Since the introduction of the 20 mph limit through the village centre and the flashing speed indicator on New Road, average vehicle speeds have declined to the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors.

The Parish Council have been working with the highways authority, Cheshire East Council, on an extension to the 20mph limit and has invested in more Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS).

The 20 mph limit will reach further westwards and southwards in future - to near the junction of Castle Hill and Chelford Road and to near the junction of Macclesfield Road and Shirleys Drive.

The SIDS will have five accredited locations on access roads and will be moved around. The agreed fixed positions (all travelling into the centre) are:

Macclesfield Road, just beyond the turning for Broad Walk.

Chelford Road, just beyond the turning for Packsaddle Park

Castle Hill, just before the turning into Castle Hill Court.
Heybridge Lane, at the turning into Yew Tree Way and
Butley Lanes, between The Fold and Nether Fold.

There will also be a portable pole with a SID.

The SIDs will record vehicle speeds and the time of day when the vehicles pass, which will help with deciding where best to position the devices.

The Parish Council's aim is to achieve safe road conditions. Every local driver can help by 'setting the pace' (ie. driving within the speed limits) and helping to suppress the speed at which other motorists can travel.



Public realm up-date

Dialogue between Prestbury Parish Council and Cheshire East highways engineers has prompted several public realm improvements.

The zebra crossing is now more defined following re-painting. Comments have been received to the effect that the lighting in the beacons is not sufficiently bright. This is being explored but the proximity of living accommodation to the lights on both sides of the road and the fact that the crossing is in a conservation area are restricting factors.

Replacement bollards are to be put in place on the narrow paved walkway outside the Bridge Hotel in October after several incidents of vehicles mounting the pavement.

New walkway lighting between the railway station and the village centre is being explored as many of the present lights have either failed to work on many occasions or attracted vandalism. It is hoped that this can be resolved before the onset of winter.

There will be new Christmas lights along New Road and in The Village this year.

Public realm reminders

Where parking is permitted on the main street in The Village it is restricted to 45 minutes. Vehicles are often parking for much longer and sometimes all day. Do be considerate to others wanting to make quick calls to the businesses. If you know you are staying for any length of time, use one of the free public car parks or parking provided by the businesses.

Please ensure that leaves from your garden and highway frontages are not intentionally blown into the road by leaf blowing equipment. It blocks the gullies and makes driving hazardous, especially in wet and icy conditions. A large number of gullies on Prestbury's roads have been cleared and cleaned during the last few months. If they become blocked there is a danger of flooding.

Doorstep sellers

If you are visited by a doorstep seller who claims to be working for the Probation Service and/or on a government-assisted scheme, please be aware that they are not legitimate (there are no such schemes) and report them to the police by calling 101.



Christmas Street Party: Sunday December 8

Prestbury's Christmas Street Party will take place on Sunday December 8th this year between 5pm and 7pm. What makes this celebration special is the participation of the people of Prestbury Parish and friends and we extend a warm welcome to everyone.

The event will be introduced by the Reverend Patrick Angier and the Parish Council Chairman Arthur Dicken and followed by carols and a blessing at the Parish Church, St Peter's, led by Rev. Angier.

The Christmas Street celebration will include live music, singing and further street entertainment and activities. Father Christmas will join us to take residence in his grotto for the evening. As always there will be an abundant variety of food and drink, the village shops will showcase their products and produce and we will be joined by other traders, who can introduce interesting ideas. We also welcome local activity groups and charities to make their unique contribution and encourage others to get involved.

There will be a raffle with great prizes donated by the village traders and the beneficiary of any surplus money raised will be the local scout movement who are working towards a new scout hut, assisted by the Parish Council. We look forward to the scouts providing support to the event.

The roads into the village will be closed for the duration of the celebration and parking will be challenging. Anything that can be done to reduce the need for parking or traffic would be greatly appreciated. If there are any parishioners, who need particular help to attend, please let the Parish Council know by contacting via email: clerk@prestburyparish.com or telephone 01625 260362.

We should like to extend thanks to the village traders. They are key to the vibrancy of the village and we would ask that they are supported at this event and indeed throughout the year. We are also always keen to have the charities involved as they offer great encouragement and support. And our focus on youth is looking to issues of growth and renewal.

Ultimately, we want everyone to enter into the spirit of the celebration. Regardless of religious denomination or belief, our Christmas party is about giving and sharing. It is about making time for each other, extending a caring hand of friendship and acknowledging each other as important co-travellers in this life.

Prestbury Parish Council Needs You!

We are seeking applications for two Parish Council vacancies that have become available.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please contact **Georgina Ryder**, the Parish Clerk, for an informal discussion and to arrange an interview.

The closing date for applications is 28th October 2013.

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Prestbury Community Risk Plan

Why is community resilience important in Prestbury?

Emergencies do happen and whilst we would immediately contact emergency services there is also a need to complement this with a good resilience plan drawn on our knowledge of the area and the people living within our community. Ultimately the aim is that a community would, as a result of implementing their plan, be able to offer a considerable degree of self help to its community in the face of adversity and where needed highlight to the authorities namely, the emergency services and the local authority etc any priorities for assistance that may be required.

The plan is to focus on a contacts cascade with identified individuals willing to assist and communicate in a crisis.

The Village Hall can be used as a reception area/s to temporarily accommodate people in case of emergency, accidents/fire/floods etc.

Parish Council Responsibilities; Create awareness within the community of our risk document and create and update our website to give the information on immediate and potential risks.

If you have any ideas as to how we can make a better resilience plan or wish to help as a volunteer in the case of an emergency happening in Prestbury please contact Cllr David Hawkins.

Acknowledgement A detailed review of the possible risks within Prestbury was undertaken by Norman Woodside, Director, Warm Zone Solutions Ltd nw@warmzonesolutions.co.uk. This enabled us to focus on the main areas of risk. We are most grateful for his help and professional advice.

Prestbury Parish Council Contacts

The Council Chamber, The Village, Prestbury SK10 4AL

Parish Councillors and Wards Represented

PRESTBURY WARD (south of the river)

Councillor Arthur Dicken (Chairman) - 01625 828796

Councillor Karen Miles - 01625 828075

Councillor Shaun Turner (Vice Chairman) - 01625 827520

Councillor Marilyn Leather - 01625 829074

PRESTBURY-FALLIBROOME WARD

Councillor Maurice Ireland - 01625 829320

PRESTBURY-BUTLEY WARD

Councillor Lillian Burns - 01625 829492

Councillor Don Foden - 01625 828041

Councillor David Hawkins (Vice Chairman) - 01625 829833

Councillor Chris Stott - 01625 824929

Councillor Thelma Jackson - 01625 827719

Prestbury Parish Council

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Elected Representatives

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Cheshire East Councillor

Cllr Paul Findlow
01625 828 004

Acknowledgements

The Prestbury Parish Council newsletter is published two or three times a year. We have limited advertising opportunities available for local businesses. If you would like to be included in the next issue **please call 01625 827520**

This newsletter is supported by the businesses who have advertised.