



# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

## OPENING MESSAGE

Prestbury Parish Council, Parish Clerk Georgina Ryder, the officers and elected members of Macclesfield Borough Council and Cheshire County Council, Cheshire Community Action (formerly Cheshire Community Council), especially Bron Kerrigan, Parish Plans Support Officer. We are grateful for the funding we have received from these bodies, as well as a contribution from the Prestbury Village Design Committee.

Prestbury residents for their enthusiastic response to the original household survey, subsequent targeted consultation exercises and the Open Weekend.

The many volunteers from within the community who have contributed to this plan through the Steering Committee, the working groups and the traffic surveys.

Prestbury School, The Legh Arms, The Bridge Hotel, the Trustees of the Ann Whittaker Trust, Prestbury Tennis Club and individual householders who allowed us to use their premises for meetings.

The Village Pharmacy for their help collecting survey responses.

The Trustees of Prestbury Village Hall whose help was key to organising the Open Weekend, and the Cinnamon Agency who produced many of the display materials used by the working groups.

McCann Erickson Communications House who designed this and the full Plan for Prestbury report, Alan Marshall and his staff at Paragon Printing who produced this and other Plan for Prestbury publications, Jill Newsome for designing our logo, NP banners and leaflets, Gerald Sokl (gerry.sokl@btinternet.com) and Kurtis Lloyd for the wonderful photos.

The volunteers on the delivery team, particularly Carl and Rosie Taylor and Sara and Stan Wiseman.

Paul Ellis and staff at Wax Digital for constructing and hosting the Plan for Prestbury website.

We would also like to thank Tanya Arturi, Onside Communication, J Brocklehurst & Son for putting up (and taking down) the banners, Ian Sherwood at Hattrell DS One Architects, Nick Walker at Barnes & Walker Landscape Architects and Prestbury's estate agents who all provided us with much appreciated help and support.

AWAIT "FSC" LOGO FROM THE PRINTERS



### FROM THE PLAN FOR PRESTBURY CHAIRMAN

January 2009

*With considerable foresight the Parish Council initiated Prestbury's parish planning process in May 2007. After 20 months and countless hours from over 100 volunteers, the Plan for Prestbury Steering Committee distilled its work into the recommendations summarised in this report and presented them to the Parish Council. We believe the recommendations are actions that are achievable in the relative near-term and which will meet many of the concerns and opportunities brought to light by our parish-wide survey conducted towards the end of 2007.*

*As you may recall, 57% of all households in the parish responded to our 10 page, 50 question survey and such an extraordinarily high response rate for a voluntary survey gave us the mandate to pursue solutions to those issues which scored highly in the questionnaire results. Involving so many volunteers on nine different working groups means we have benefited from the wealth of knowledge and experience available in the parish to find imaginative yet pragmatic solutions.*

*Those of us who have been a part of the Plan for Prestbury have been rewarded by seeing the enthusiasm of the community to appraise itself, strengthen the legacy we ourselves enjoy and chart*

*a course of improvement for the benefit of future generations. We are most fortunate in Prestbury that we have the will, the spirit and the capabilities to do these things. As a community, we are indebted to all those who so generously volunteered their time and their talents to this endeavour.*

*The Parish Council is now deliberating the recommendations. Several volunteers have agreed to stay involved and assist the Council as it takes the Plan for Prestbury forward.*

*This summary report is being delivered to every household in the parish. A more detailed full report will also be available on the **plan4prestbury.org.uk** website or in hard copy at Prestbury Library.*

*Thank you for your participation and interest and let us all enjoy this wonderful parish!*

Carol Hamilton  
Chairman  
Plan for Prestbury



Carol Hamilton, Chairman of the Plan for Prestbury

### THE PLAN FOR PRESTBURY STEERING COMMITTEE

Carol Hamilton	Chairman	Duncan Broomhead
Cllr Richard Comber	Vice-Chairman	Cllr Lillian Burns
John Clayton	Joint Secretary	Valerie Herbert
Caroline Roebuck	Joint Secretary	Chris Howe
Norman Woodside	Treasurer	Geoff Leary
Catherine Tooher	Editor	Cllr Rob Parrish*

\*Joined Parish Council part way through the Parish Plan process





# INTRODUCTION

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

January 2009

*It is my great pleasure, on behalf of Prestbury Parish Council, to introduce this final report of the Plan for Prestbury.*

*For the Parish Council, Plan for Prestbury has been a success on many levels. It has galvanised the enthusiasm and commitment of scores of individuals for whom it has provided an outlet for their personal interest in their community and it has opened up a resource pool of skills that is almost literally beyond calculation. People have given freely and generously of their time and talents to an enterprise aimed at improving life for all. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have worked so hard in this endeavour.*

*The exercise has also helped to bring the work of the Parish Council to a wider audience. However, of perhaps the greatest significance for the Council is that the Plan for Prestbury provides a programme that is rooted in the ideas and imagination of the whole community. As a mandate for future action it provides a degree of legitimacy that local councils normally find very difficult to achieve.*

*The Plan for Prestbury was initiated by the Parish Council and its conclusions and recommendations have now been passed to us to consider. Some of these call for little or no direct action by the Council while others will require considerable further work and time if they are to be brought to a successful outcome. We know that some of the ideas are controversial. We intend to take our time in deliberating on all of the proposals, will consult fully where there may be disagreement and will communicate our decisions and intentions as and when they become clear. If you would like to comment to the Parish Council on any aspect of the report please contact us via the Parish Clerk, 41 Kenilworth Road, Macclesfield, SK11 8PE,*

*Richard Comber  
Chairman  
Prestbury Parish Council  
e-mail [parish.clerk@ntlworld.com](mailto:parish.clerk@ntlworld.com)  
telephone 01625 260362.*



Richard Comber, Chairman of the Parish Council

# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

## PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED COMMUNITY INFORMATION

As a result of the Plan for Prestbury, the parish now has a new quarterly magazine – 'Prestbury Living' - and a Welcome Pack for new residents. Realising the importance of the 11 noticeboards around the parish, we suggest they are spruced up, access to the one at the school is made easier by moving it outside the gates, and a regular rota of volunteers is established to keep all the boards up-to-date. We propose displaying bus and train timetables on the boards and a calendar of forthcoming events. A new website **PrestburyVillage.com** is already in development by volunteers, and has a Webmaster to provide overall control.



We recommend the Parish Council covers the small annual running costs and that a Parish Councillor is nominated as 'Community Information Sponsor' to liaise with the website volunteers.

## TAKE FORWARD IDEAS FOR IMPROVING COMMUNITY & SPORTS FACILITIES

We contacted sports, social and civic clubs to assess whether existing facilities met their needs, especially given the closure of the Ford House building and the Scout Hut. This exercise established a need for a new moderate sized, multi-user facility to augment the Village Hall and other existing venues. It would provide a new home for the Youth Club and pantomime group, changing rooms for the playing fields, store rooms for various groups, additional meeting rooms to relieve the pressure on the Village Hall, an office for the Parish Council, some indoor sports activities like badminton, areas for public display, possibilities for senior citizens leisure activities and, very importantly, space that can also be used by teenagers. Further research concluded that the logical location would be near the Scout Hut, Tennis Club and playing fields. Access would be through the surrounding residential area, so potential parking and traffic issues would need to be addressed. Strong in-principle support for these proposals was expressed by residents at the Open Weekend. We recommend that the Parish Council, along with an implementation group, continues the work of our volunteers by engaging professional help to develop a specific proposal for approval by residents later in the year. We also recommend that the playing field is levelled and properly drained.



Kurtis Lloyd



## OPEN UP PARROT'S FIELD FOR PUBLIC USE

Some 63% of the respondents to our survey of a year ago said they would like Prestbury to have a village green. The most frequently mentioned location was Parrot's Field, the plot of land on



New Road opposite the 'Admiral Rodney'. Parrot's Field was donated to the Borough over 30 years ago by the developers of the Bridge Green housing estate, but at that time it was unmanaged and became a significant problem for Bridge Green residents. The Amenity Society addressed this problem by planting a hedge, but the maturing of the hedge has effectively closed off the area. It remains, however, publicly-owned land. We recommend it now be restored to public use by installing an additional gate at Bridge Green Road end, putting in a natural winding path linking the new gate to the existing one on New Road, raising the crown of some of the trees and placing three or four benches along the path so residents can enjoy the delightful natural setting of Parrot's Field.

We received very strong support for this proposal at our Open Weekend when the feedback showed more than 3 to 1 in favour. The Bridge Green households that back onto this area are naturally concerned about noise, anti-social behaviour and litter. After studying the results of The Millennium Green at Henbury (opened 2000), the Bakewell Village Green (opened 2004), Congleton Park (opened 2006) and taking advice from Macclesfield Leisure Services it was concluded the risk of these things happening is very low, especially if the height of the hedge is reduced by about 40% making it more open to view.

## SUPPORT A NEW YOUTH FORUM

We recommend establishing a Youth Forum along national best practice guidelines bringing together young people, their parents, and organisations providing youth activities in the parish. This organisation would meet regularly and oversee social activities such as discos, quiz nights, cinema, cookery and fun themed evenings. It would ensure that these activities are publicised on the teenagers' page of the new parish website and would continue to investigate ways of improving public transport provision to Alderley Edge and Wilmslow at

weekends to give older teenagers more independence. It is suggested that the Council appoint one of its Councillors as a 'Youth Sponsor' to liaise between the Forum and the Council and gain insights into our teenagers' needs.

## ADOPT A MORE PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH TO PLANNING ISSUES

With over 60 'knock-down and rebuild' house projects in the Parish over the last four years, planning was obviously a major topic in our survey. Some residents thought these new houses were OK while others thought they were spoiling semi-rural Prestbury, but a majority of 70% believed local planning controls were "too lenient". This is a complex issue as much of the control comes from regulations. Parish councils can only offer advice since Borough Councils or Unitary Authorities are the planning bodies. However, because of the strength of feeling in the community, we recommend the Parish Council should be more pro-active in trying to influence planning policy. We also recommend that it should continue to seek adoption of our proposed Supplementary Planning Document. This seeks stronger planning controls regarding size, mass and spacing of new builds; a requirement that gated properties have off-road vehicle waiting areas; recognition of the importance of 'soft' boundaries and dry stone walls to Prestbury's visual appearance; and, in the event of any new housing requirement, a focus on provision for senior citizens. We also want the principal authority to preserve the designation of 'Areas of Special County Value' (or its successor) which covers a good portion of the parish and to encourage developers working in Prestbury to join the national 'Considerate Contractors Scheme'.

## INTRODUCE A TREE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Half of residents said in the survey that our trees, hedges and verges were not well maintained, and 80% thought there should be a tree replanting programme. The profusion of greenery in our parish is clearly a hallmark of Prestbury, but our ageing flora needs managing and replacing if we are to pass on the heritage we all now enjoy. Therefore, we are recommending that the Parish Council introduces a sustainable, locally-managed replacement and maintenance programme for the trees, hedges and verges in the parish.

## SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

The Plan for Prestbury has inaugurated a Business Forum as a collaborative means to strengthen and promote local businesses. Out of the 50 local businesses, 42 have signed up to take part in the Forum and the first formal meeting will be early in 2009. The Forum will provide an avenue for the business community and the Parish Council to interact and will continue efforts to attract new businesses to our existing vacant premises.

## IMPROVE PARKING IN THE VILLAGE

A third of residents are "very satisfied" with the current parking provisions in the village, but half think "improvements are needed" and another 9% are "very dissatisfied". This data from the survey, the loss of 36 parking spaces from behind Ford House and strong pleas from businesses led us to form a sub-group to review parking provision. The group conducted a detailed survey of Shirleys, Springfields and village-centre road-side parking areas. This showed that from 10.30am until 3pm, the main road and Shirleys is almost always full, although spaces are available at Springfields. From 6.30pm onwards restaurant-goers completely fill up Springfields parking. To meet the need for more parking, we recommend creating a new car park where the public conveniences are now located at the New Road/Bridge Green junction. A specialist architect has worked out that a 26-space facility could be developed there without removing the beautiful large trees, but we would need to replace the existing toilets with a small unisex toilet. We recommend landscaping the area to conceal the car park, which would actually improve the street scene.

Visualisation of proposed new car park after landscaping



At our Open Weekend, 62% of those who gave feedback were in favour whilst 29% (half of whom were Bridge Green residents) were not in favour. In addition to helping local businesses, this new car park would be beneficial to users of Bollin Valley and Parrot's Field (if it is opened to the public) and would help alleviate parking problems on Church event days. We suggest restricting parking at the new 'Riverside Car Park' to two hours during the day. We also recommend improving the signage to all car parks and marking individual parking spaces on the main road. Funding for this project would be principally from the local authority but might also require a local contribution.

## INTRODUCE LAND MANAGEMENT AND PATH UPGRADES IN THE BOLLIN VALLEY

Prestbury is fortunate to have lovely riverside paths on its doorstep. Fourteen acres of private land stretch from the end of Bridge Green to the parish boundary with Tytherington, with the River Bollin winding through it. The existing right of way extends all the way to Macclesfield, but the Prestbury end is not as well maintained as the Macclesfield end with invasive Himalayan Balsam along the riverbank and generally unkempt undergrowth. We recommend that (with the landowner's permission) a team of volunteers is recruited to improve the maintenance of the flora. We are also recommending upgrading the footpath to joint use for both walkers and cyclists (consistent with the Macclesfield end) as this would allow cycling to/from the Village (including the school) to Macclesfield and link to other routes such as the Middlewood Way.



Kurtis Lloyd



Traffic survey at Butley Lanes

## IMPROVE PAVEMENTS ON KEY WALKING ROUTES

After considerable investigation into the many suggestions received from last year's questionnaire and discussions with the highways authority, we have focused on three areas for improvement.



Castle Hill

The first proposal is to improve pedestrian safety on Castle Hill. In the uphill direction, the crossing point is close to a bend which makes it potentially hazardous, especially at busy times such as the morning rush hour when families use it walking to school. We have also started discussions with the local authority and adjacent householders about the possibility of widening the pavements on the lower section of Castle Hill.

The second proposal is to extend the pavement on Chelford Road approaching the junction with Castle Hill. This would connect the existing pavement with the small section at the corner of the junction creating a safer way to walk into the village along Chelford Road.



Heybridge Lane

The third recommendation is to improve the road crossing point on Heybridge Lane which links the public footpath to Bridge End Lane with the Meadow Drive snicket. Suggestions include marking the crossing point with a coloured road surface and additional warning signs. The Parish Council has already installed a larger mirror at this location to help pedestrians.

## IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON BOLLIN GROVE



Bollin Grove

Bollin Grove is narrow and the pavement is also narrow to non-existent in places; yet it is a major walking route to Prestbury School and other important destinations. A traffic survey conducted by Plan for Prestbury volunteers around the school and discussions with the highways authority have led to a relatively low cost proposal to address these safety issues. By removing parking along the wall by the river between the Bollin bridge and Bollin Mews (Springfields Car Park provides parking for Bollin Grove residents) and creating two 'throttles' to slow and guide traffic, we would be able to accommodate a 1.6m-wide pavement from the Village Club to Scott Road where it would link to the raised school crossing. This would still leave the road wide enough for bin lorries and other essential large vehicle access. Nine parking places would be lost, but we believe the safety benefits outweigh this, particularly in the light of the parking proposals set out earlier.

## INTRODUCE INITIATIVES TO REDUCE SPEED

In the survey 84% of residents expressed concern about vehicle speed, but the low accident rates in the parish and relatively recent expenditure on the village-centre traffic calming scheme make the task of persuading the highways authority to allocate any of its limited budget to our problems very challenging. However, we recommend the Parish Council continues to seek support for more flashing speed signs at key locations, limited extension of the 20mph zones on Castle Hill as far as the crossing point and on Macclesfield Road to Shirleys Drive, and investigates the use of 'ripple' paint on road surfaces to slow traffic.

In addition, based on our research into how other communities have addressed speed issues, we recommend the Parish Council introduces several community-led activities: recruit volunteers to operate the mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) to gather reliable speed data and alert speeding motorists; encourage residents to keep their own speed within safe limits through 'Set the Pace'; and work with Cheshire police to introduce a new Community Speed Watch scheme whereby individual speeding drivers are identified by trained teams of volunteers using a speed gun and subsequently receive a letter from the police reminding them to observe speed limits in the parish.

## INTRODUCE 'NO WAITING' ZONES

We recommend that a 'No Waiting' zone should be introduced at the corner of Bollin Grove and Coachway. When sports events are held, cars are often parked across the corner of this junction which could prevent emergency vehicle access. A 'No Waiting' zone is also recommended on Macclesfield Road for 10 metres towards the village from Broadwalk to improve visibility for drivers exiting onto the main road.

## ADDRESS TRAFFIC ISSUES ON 'A' AND 'B' ROADS

Although 94% of residents expressed concern about traffic congestion in the survey, addressing the problem is a longer term project requiring extensive data collection as well as negotiations with the highway authority and this was beyond the resources and timescale of the Plan for Prestbury. However, we have made a start! We had meetings with highway engineers and in early October 2008, with the help of many volunteers, a major traffic survey was undertaken throughout the parish. From this and other data collected

by using the SID we were able to make recommendations about how to take things forward. We propose that the Parish Council seeks a comprehensive solution to traffic issues (including volume, noise, HGV routing and signage) on London Road and Bonis Hall Lane which have the highest levels of congestion, traffic volumes, number of HGVs, and vehicle speeds. This results in a number of safety issues particularly at junctions. We also recommend further investigation into measures that could prevent accidents at the Heybridge Lane/Prestbury Lane and Heybridge Lane/Manchester Road junctions (without increasing traffic flows through the village).

## SUPPORT MEASURES TO HELP PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS

In addition to displaying train and bus time tables more widely (Post Office, notice boards and website), we recommend the Parish Council kick-starts the 'adoption' of Prestbury railway station. Survey responses suggested that improvements in appearance, lighting and security would result in greater use of the station. Under the 'adoption' scheme, which has been successful in other communities, volunteers work in concert with the train operating company to look after their local train station and help bring it up to 21st century standards. At our Open Weekend, a number of volunteers signed up to join a Prestbury 'Adopt a Station' group, which would work with the Amenity Society who have already been devoting some of their efforts to maintaining the station over the years. We propose the Parish Council supports the idea and donates £300 to get the group started.

Prestbury Station

