

**CLERK'S INFORMATION REPORT
AUGUST 2015**

1 INTRODUCTION

The report is for information only but Members can seek clarification on any item.

2 STAPELEY PARISH ACTION GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of Stapeley Parish Action Group held on 13 July 2015 are appended below.

3 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Crewe and Nantwich Area meeting held on 15 July 2015 are appended below.

4 POLICE CLUSTER MEETING – 27 JULY 2015

Councillor Docker attended a Police Cluster meeting on 27 July 2015 and forwarded his report to all Members by e-mail on 4 August. The report rehearsed PC Sarah Marson's pre-meeting presentation to the Parish Council on 20 July 2015.

5 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR

There is no update on the situation in respect of the Co-op Store. The Clerk has now written to the landlord of the Cronkinson Farm Pub to ask if he would consider the AED being located on the pub's outside wall.

6 LAND AT TALBOT WAY

Councillor Hillman reported that the life-ring on the conservation area had become dislodged from its securing post and had been moved to the lawned area on Talbot Way. Greenspaces South Cheshire, which maintains the conservation area, has been asked to reinstate the life-ring on its next visit.

7 LOCAL PLAN STRATEGY

7.1 Comments to CEC

At its meeting held on 20 July, the Parish Council expressed concern about a report which was to be submitted to CEC Cabinet on 21 July 2015. At the meeting, Councillor Groves sought to assure Members that no decisions about sites had yet been taken and that the report was identifying that there was a site that is capable of development and formed part of the reasonable alternatives that the Council must show it was considering. This was not the same as stating that it should be developed.

Members remained concerned that although no decision had yet been made on site allocations, there was a fear that as Nantwich South was now considered to be a 'reasonable alternative' for development, land off Peter de Stapleigh Way could 'slip into the Local Plan', almost un-noticed.

Caroline Simpson (Executive Director for Economic Growth and Prosperity) responded to the Parish Council's letter and confirmed Councillor Groves' assessment of the situation; viz. no decisions about sites have yet been taken and it is a requirement that before any new or alternative sites are included in the Local Plan, there must be consultation.

7.2 Wider Engagement Event – 3 August 2015

Councillors J Hillman and M Malbon attended the 'Wider Engagement' event held at Macclesfield Town Hall on 3 August. Councillor Malbon was able to participate in the 'round table' event and Councillor Hillman observed.

Councillor Malbon's report is appended below.

Prior to Adrian Fisher's main presentation on the Cheshire East Council Local Plan Strategy, there was a 15 minute questioning on the process being used by Cheshire East Council.

This was a 'round table' event comprising 12 tables with 10 persons on each. The discussion focused on seven questions set by CEC to establish the audience's views on the Local Plan Strategy (LPS) to date.

The slides and questions/answers will eventually be uploaded onto the CEC website.

General points were made as follows:

Some general points that were made and recorded during the round the table discussions:

Economic Growth Forecast

- Concern that jobs are mainly in the north and houses are in the south.
- Wrong types of jobs (e.g. logistics warehouses at Basford E/W)
- Some numbers have been 'made up' to fit inspector's requirements; for example, by adding 'migration' to boost population numbers
- Concern that houses are being built before jobs created (i.e. unplanned)

Housing Need (36,000)

- Types of houses important – identified need for bungalows, starter homes etc.
- There is a need to deal with land-banking

Green Belt

- General confusion about what Green Belt is and what protection it actually affords, as it seems to be possible to change it or move it

Green Gap

- CEC seems to favour use of strategic green gap around Crewe and Nantwich. There was a view that this is better than nothing, but is only a local policy, therefore there is concern about what weight it actually carries

Up-dated Spatial Distribution

- Infrastructure (such as schools, roads, playgrounds) needs to be defined in the Local Plan, otherwise Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and new homes bonus payments can be avoided by developers.

Identification of Sites

- General concern over lack of consultation regarding new sites and omission sites
- Concern over re-wording of omission sites, e.g. in the case of Stapeley, wording changed from 'not appropriate' to 'appropriate' for consideration
- Concern that the sites will be put before the Inspector before consultation

Revisions to LPS owing to additional evidence

- The question was raised in respect of whether there should be a moratorium on house-building once housing targets have been met for an area.
- Preferred use of brown-field sites should be 'spelled out'.

Councillor Martin's personal opinion on the presentation is as follows:

"A few thoughts that I have regarding what Adrian Fisher said and what was in the presentation:

- *I gained the overall impression that CEC is having to 'make-up' as they go, the LPS, especially the numbers for housing, economic growth and population, because of the demands of the Inspector, rather than being able to derive a strategy based on study; for example, the revised housing numbers, 36,000 which presumably came from the Inspector, fed back into economic growth and numbers of people, which lead to the 'migration' being forecast, without knowing if it was going to happen or not. This my own opinion, based on the feeling I gained listening to what was presented.*
- *Adrian Fisher mentioned engagement was limited because of limited time. Personally, I can't see that. They're already 5 years into the plan period, so they've had at least that much time!*
- *He mentioned 'dove-tailing' NPs into the Local Plan (LP), this may prove difficult as the LP doesn't currently exist.*
- *Regarding 5 year housing supply, Adrian Fisher said they need to firstly establish a target that the Inspector agrees to and, secondly, address the slow build rate.*
- *The risk of NPs being undermined by lack of a 5 year housing supply was mentioned (can't remember by whom – possibly not Fisher).*
- *Grave concerns about lack of consultation, especially regarding new sites and omission sites was a recurring theme 'across the board' throughout the meeting.*
- *On a positive note, there was an illustration showing distribution of new houses to be built during the plan period in each of the main towns. Each town had a value for the original draft LP, the revised draft LP and the proposed latest values (to give the rise from 29,000 to 36,000 I think). This shows that no new houses will be added for Nantwich, Sandbach and Alsager but there was an increase for Wilmslow, Knutsford and Poynton."*

8 NOTICE-BOARD OUTSIDE STAPELEY BROAD LANE ACADEMY

The Clerk has notified the Head Teacher of Stapeley Broad Lane Academy that the current notice-board is to be removed and replaced with the bespoke board which has been crafted by a local resident.

Arrangements are being made for this work to be carried out over the summer holidays prior to the children returning to school. Councillor Davenport has been asked to bring the board to the community hall for storage and for ease of access for the contractor.

9 PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTION IN CHESHIRE EAST (PACE)

The latest PACE newsletter is attached.

10 PERIMETER FENCING

The Clerk is seeking additional information from the two contractors which quoted for the installation of perimeter fencing and will be able to report to the September meeting.

11 COMMUNITY HALL SIGNAGE – PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 15/2719N

The planning application for the 'community hall' sign is being processed. Unfortunately, the plan which accompanied the application (as supplied by CEC Assets Team) is not to scale and the Case Officer is unable to process the application without a revised plan.

The Clerk has asked the Assets Team to provide a plan and has reminded the Team that Planning is required to determine applications within a specific time-frame, and an urgent response to the request is required.

Item 2 – Minutes of Stapeley Parish Action Group – 13 July 2015

**Stapeley Parish Action Group
Minutes of the meeting held at Brine Leas School on Monday 13 July 2015**

Present: Noel Wagstaff, Val Ingram, David Ingram, Sue Sherwood
Apologies: John Davenport, Angus Graham, Bob Walker, Rob Morton

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were received and accepted.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

- **Litter Group**

The litter group had met on Saturday 11 July. The children's play area was heavily littered.

- **Dog Watch**

NW had contacted Peter Groves to arrange a meeting to discuss Dog Watch.

- **Cycle Paths**

NW had received a response from the Local Access Forum and had passed it to David Ingram to respond. **Action DI**

- **Speed-watch**

AG will action this after his holiday. **Action AG**

- **Section 106 Agreement areas**

All grassed areas on Cronkinson Farm Estate now cut except one, Mainwaring Close

NW had not received any further response from Bovis on details of their land ownership and so would now involve the local Cheshire East Councillors, Andrew Martin and Peter Groves. **Action NW**

3. Parish Council Update

JD was absent but had emailed to say that there was nothing of note to report other than the decision of the new Secretary of State not to defend the Muller challenge (re planning application) in the High Court.

NW reported that the Parish Council were still waiting for quotes for additional security for the Parish Hall and that the Parish Notice Boards were being replaced.

4. Neighbourhood Plan

NW gave an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party.
Five policies had been or were being written.

- **Housing**

Housing policy was broadly written but needed reinforcement with information from a Housing Needs Assessment. A brief had been written and tenders were being sought. This would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 20 July.

- **Green Spaces, Natural Habitat and Countryside**

A consultant from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust had been appointed to carry out a Green Spaces audit assessment. The report was due at the end of August.

- **Transport Infrastructure, Amenities and Well-being and Community**

The three policies had been written supported by information from the rural community profile ACRE/CCA survey.

The timetable for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan had slipped by a month.

The next meeting of the Working Party¹ was on 21st July.

5. Future Project Plans

Bulb Planting

VI and SS had drafted an application to Stapeley & District Parish Council for small grants funding for purchase of Narcissus bulbs for naturalising within the Parish. This form would be finalised by the Chairman and e-mailed to Carol Jones, Parish Clerk. **Action NW**

6. AOB

All the proposed dates for meetings from September 2015 to June 2016 had been agreed by Brine Leas School.

Monday 14 September 2015

Monday 9 November 2015

Monday 7 December 2015

Monday 25 January 2016

Monday 14 March 2016

Monday 9 May 2016

Monday 27 June 2016

All meetings would start at the later time of 7.30pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 14 September at 7.30pm Room GC 19 Brine Leas School.

¹ This is a reference to the NP Steering Group

Item 3 – Minutes of ChALC Meeting 15 July 2015

CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
CREWE AND NANTWICH AREA MEETING

Chairman	Cllr John Cornell	01270 820247
Vice- Chairman	Cllr Colin Todd	01270 569241
Acting Secretary	Jackie Weaver	01948 871314
	email: jackieweaver@chalc.org.uk	

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2015

Present

John Cornell (Weston & Basford)	Jo Hillman (Stapeley & Dist)	Mike Dixon (Bulkeley & Ridley)
Trevor Gill (Weston & Basford)	Sharon Gorman (Haslington)	Ian Burton (Hatherton & Walgherton)
David Brickhill (Hough & Chorlton)	Geoff Seddon (Audlem)	Andrew Thomson - Consultant
Jackie Weaver (ChALC)	Colin Todd (Willaston)	

Apologies

Cllr Lord D Millington (Wistaston)	Cllr L Smetham (CE)	Shaun Clough (Stapeley)
Joyce Bond (Wistaston)	Bill Consterdine (Audlem)	Philip Jackson (ChALC)

Welcome

The Chairman, John Cornell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves.

Appointment of Officers

The acting secretary, Jackie Weaver, invited nominations from the floor for the position of Chairman. The meeting unanimously supported the nomination of John Cornell for the forthcoming year.

Other officers were then appointed as follows:

Chairman	-	John Cornell
Vice Chairman	-	Colin Todd
ChALC Representatives	-	Colin Todd
		George Wood
		John Cornell (Deputy)

Cheshire East Local Plan

The Chairman gave an update on the progress of the Local Plan since the last meeting. He advised that representations had been made to CE Council to get Strategic Planning Policies in place to protect the Crewe & Nantwich areas, in particular ensuring there was rural retention.

A meeting took place with ARUP which parties found helpful, and John Cornell has since written to CE expressing further concerns and updated them on the meeting with ARUP.

It is disappointing that a meeting with Rachel Bailey has not yet been forthcoming and Geoff Seddon of Audlem offered to contact Rachel Bailey and encourage her to reply.

Andrew Thomson, Consultant, referred to an email from the inspector to CE which had expressed concerns with the progress of the Local Plan.

Members were invited to note that there is a Cabinet meeting on 21st July which will, among other things be discussing a 33% increase in housing, Green Belt in the north and Green Gap. Spatial distribution is also being considered. Concern was expressed at the lack of consultation on the amendments which may result in the Inspector throwing the Plan out.

Andrew Thompson reiterated the importance of undertaking and completing Neighbourhood Plans.

It was agreed that Colin, John and Andrew would draft a letter to CE addressed to Michael Jones, Mike Suarez, Adrian Fisher and Cllr Rachel Bailey.

Neighbourhood plans are being furthered by six areas with Andrew advising on their development. A new eagerly anticipated Housing Bill should be supportive of Neighbourhood Plans. Although the process itself is somewhat arduous a lot of progress is being made. In Norley the Examiner has been appointed, will report back in a week and if all is well the Neighbourhood Plan will be ready for the referendum process.

It was noted that there is no facility to amend a Neighbourhood Plan; the process would have to be started again. It was generally agreed that this is a situation that needs to be rectified.

Minutes of meeting held on 16th April 2015

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th April be approved as a correct record.

Report from ChALC Chief Officer

George Wood (Haslington) advised members of the ChALC Board Meeting that he had attended earlier in the day. Among the points to mention he included that generally ChALC Membership was on the rise with 5 new members this year and that the Board had approved a recommended increase in the Affiliation Fee of 1p per elector. This will still have to pass the Annual Meeting in October.

Matters of interest raised by members

Members felt that it would be appropriate to offer to support CE Council in lobbying through the LGA on concern over the ever-changing planning legislation. This was surely as frustrating and unhelpful to the principal authorities as it was to local councils.

Haslington drew attention to their concerns over speeding and sometimes over-laden tractors. It was agreed that this would be raised at the regular meetings between ChALC and John Dwyer. It was also suggested that this could be raised at the police cluster meetings.

Date of the next meeting – **Wednesday 23rd September 2015**

Hough Village Hall
Cobbs Lane
Crewe CW2 5JN