

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM
MORETON PARISH COUNCIL

BUSINESS PLAN

Adopted – 11th January 2017

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Business Plan 2017 – 2020

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1. Mission Statement

To promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Parishes and to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive community.

2. Objectives

2.1 To assist in the creation of a socially inclusive and economically viable community embracing all residents irrespective of age, culture, income race or religion and which seek to develop their well-being knowledge understanding and mutual co-operation.

2.2 To provide high quality, efficient, cost effective and sustainable services.

2.3 To promote and encourage the provision of a range of leisure, social, recreational and community educational facilities in the Parishes appropriate to the normal activities of a rural parish along with the support and maintenance of environmental and heritage assets.

2.4 To provide a channel for the views and expressions of the local community and to be responsive to its needs and aspirations.

2.5 To develop partnership and agency working with the public and private sectors in terms of resources and finance for the benefit of the community.

2.6 To liaise with and support local community associations.

3. Principles

In all its actions the council will take into account and, where appropriate, act in accordance with the principles enshrined in relevant legislation and best practice for:

- Health and Safety
- Equal Opportunities
- Best Value
- Crime and Disorder Act
- Disability Discrimination Act
- Age Discrimination Act
- Local Council Awards Scheme
- Environmental and Planning legislation

4. Four Year Plan

The Key Objectives for 2017 – 2020 are:

4.1 Planning and Development

4.1.1 The Neighbourhood Plan

On the 8th January 2013 Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council appointed a Steering Group to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parishes. The Steering Group is supported by Cheshire East Borough Council (CEBC) and the Parish Council but is independent of them.

The core Steering Group comprises four Parish Councillors and two Parish Residents and began development of the NP under the provisions of the 2011 Localism Act in the latter part of 2013 after designation of the Parish as an NP Area by Cheshire East Council.

Following extensive Community surveys, Public Meetings, Newsletters and dialogue with interest groups Reg. 15 Stage of the NP was reached in late December 2016.

The Plan is expected to be subject to CEC inspection and consultation followed by Parish Referendum for Adoption in 2017 and will form the basis for Planning and Development within the Parishes up to 2030.

4.1.2 The Local Plan and Strategic Location 6 (SL6)

The Cheshire East Borough Council has been in the process of drafting and submitting a Local Plan for some years and it came before the appointed inspector for the first time in September 2014. The inspector adjourned the hearings for the council to address a number of issues and in December 2014 the Inspector agreed to a CEBC application to suspend the process. The process resumed in October 2015 and the hearings concluded in November. The Inspector issued further interim views in December 2016 and it is now for the council to consider a preferred course of action and a future timetable. The process is expected to last well into 2017.

4.1.3 Planning Applications

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council receives notification from the Cheshire East Borough Council (CEBC) of any planning applications submitted in respect of properties located in the parish and those in adjoining towns and parishes which may directly impact upon the Parishes. These notifications are circulated to parish councillors by email and the applications themselves are available for all to view online. The PC will respond to each one of these applications as appropriate and wherever time permits they will be discussed at the next available PC meeting prior to such response.

In responding to the applications the PC will have regard to their Neighbourhood Plan and any representations made to it by parishioners.

4.2 Open Spaces and Community Buildings

4.2.1a The Church

The Church of St Mary's is a Grade I Listed Building dating from the C11 and a major focal point in the Parishes, both as a Heritage asset and community focus. The PC supports in principle the social work of the Church and co-operates on major community functions.

4.2.1 b The Village Hall

The Village Hall originally built in 1952 was extended in 1983 and now provides an extensively used focal point for Parish and wider community use. The VH is self-financing and operates as a Charitable Trust. The Parish Council appoints one member of the VH Management Committee annually.

4.2.2 The Registered Common Land at Brownlow Heath. It is presently overgrown and subject to a boundary dispute. The PC proposes to clear a substantial area of the land and subject to local consultation provide a basic amenity for recreational use by walkers and riders on the adjoining bridleway.

4.2.3 The Village school

The Village School dates from the mid-C19 and is a successful and thriving C of E Aided Primary School with over 100 pupils largely drawn from the surrounding areas.

The PC co-operates with the School in mutual support for community development and activities.

4.3 Transport Issues

4.3.1 The Village Green

The Village Green is Registered Common Land at the centre of a Conservation Area and is overseen, maintained and enhanced by the Parish Council as a community asset with seating for walkers/visitors and in the Spring displays of daffodils and feature lighting of the tree at Christmas.

4.3.2 The Congleton Link Road

The Congleton Link Road is a scheme which has been planned by CEBC for some years, the intention being primarily to take traffic from the A536 Macclesfield Road and the A34 Manchester Road headed for the M6 motorway around the town of Congleton and distributing that traffic to the A54 Holmes Chapel Road (for M6 North) and the A534 Sandbach Road (for M6 South) and vice versa whilst leaving A34 traffic travelling between Manchester and Stoke on Trent to travel along the Clayton Bypass through Congleton town.

4.3.3 Village of Astbury/ A34 /Wallhill Lane/Brownlow Heath

The village of Astbury is a Conservation Area containing a number of listed buildings. The Conservation Area designated by Congleton Borough Council in 1972 and its successor Cheshire East Borough Council has a responsibility to reduce the impact of traffic on the village. Nevertheless, in the years since the designation of the Conservation Area, there has been a relentless growth in the flow of traffic through the village, fuelled by significant house building in the eastern half of Congleton and more recently in Biddulph.

The PC will apply pressure to CEBC to address the issue, and is willing to co-fund concrete proposals to that end.

Wallhill Lane, Brownlow Heath Lane and Child's Lane link the Sandbach Road and the A34 Newcastle Road. Wallhill Lane's junction with the A534 is close to the proposed Congleton Link Road (4.3.2) western endpoint, and there is widespread concern in the parishes that the lanes will be used to complete an informal 'Congleton Bypass' for north-south traffic on the A34. The lanes are narrow and pass through the settlements of Wallhill and Brownlow, making them unsuitable for such a role.

The PC will seek to ensure that CEBC will undertake sufficient traffic calming work to prevent this usage on any significant scale.

4.3.4 Footpaths /PROW /Public seating

The PC would like to reinstate any missing footpaths shown on old Ordnance Survey maps, and to enhance the footpath network by adding some new footpaths.

The PC would like to install seating for walkers etc. at Brownlow Heath/ Ackers Crossing/Land at the end of Childs Lane where it joins Sandy Lane.

4.3.5 Ackers Crossing Green

Daffodils around the edge of the Green.

4.3.6 BT Phone Box at Ackers Crossing

The ex-BT type K6 phone box is now in the possession of and will be maintained by the Parish Council. Redecoration has been implemented and future use as a community asset will stem from local dialogue and consultation.

4.3.7 Daffodil planting

a. Along full length of A34 from Boundary sign near Little Moreton Hall to Boundary sign at Astbury Marsh.

b. Extend daffodil planting gradually around other roads in the Parishes.

4.4 Local Council Award Scheme

The new Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Award Scheme has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the

cutting edge of the sector. It is only through the sector working together, to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

The Local Council Award Scheme undergoes a review every year and new guidance is issued in January each year. Councils must meet the criteria of the guidance that is in place at the date they submit their completed application form to their local accreditation panel.

4.4 Training of Councillors

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council fully understands the benefits of an ongoing training programme. Members and employees will be supported to undertake the training and development which v they need to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

4.5 The Parish Clerk

The role of the parish clerk is one that has increased considerably in the recent past. From humble beginnings as a “keeper of records” to the current role of effectively being a chief executive or business manager of the council. The role encompasses not only the original purpose of taking notes, keeping records and arranging meetings but also extends to being the legal and financial advisor, publicity officer, event’s organiser , liaison officer for residents and outside agencies, confidant, etc.

The current Clerk , Julie Mason, carries out the role on a part-time basis and also clerk’s the neighbouring parishes of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths, Cranage and Somerford. This combination of roles benefits each of the parishes considerably since the experience gleaned by one council can be shared with others and this can often lead to costs saving.