



**NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETON PARISH  
COUNCIL**

**BUSINESS PLAN 2020-2024**

**ADOPTED 09.10.19**

**1. Mission Statement:**

To promote the economic, social and environmental well-being 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 seeks 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 leisure, social, recreational and community educational facilities in the Parish appropriate to the normal activities of a rural Parish along with the protection, enhancement and maintenance of environmental and heritage assets.
- 2.4 To provide channels 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 groups and Associations.
- 2.7 To recognise Climate Change and implement measures consistent with carbon neutrality in 2025.
- 2.8 To support ecological enhancement and biodiversity.

**3. Principles:**

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

- Health & Safety
- Equal Opportunities
- Best value
- Crime and disorder
- Disability Discrimination Act
- Age Discrimination Act
- Local Council Awards Scheme
- Environmental, Heritage and Planning Legislation
- General Data Protection Regulations.

**4. Four- Year Plan:**

The key objectives for 2020-2024 are:

**4.1 Planning & Development:**

**4.1.1 The Neighbourhood Plan:**

The Astbury & Moreton PC Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by Cheshire East Council on the 17th August 2017 and will remain in force until 2030.

Whilst there is no statutory requirement to review or update a Neighbourhood Plan (gov.uk.NPpara084) the Parish Council will review and consider modifications at 5-year intervals in accordance with para 106. The first being August 2022.

#### 4.1.2 **Local Plan:**

The Cheshire East Local Plan was adopted in 2017. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with Cheshire East in the preparation of the emerging SAPD (Site Allocation and Development Policies Document).

### 4.2 **Open Spaces & Community Buildings:**

4.2.1a) **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 of a heritage asset and community focus. The PC supports in principle the social work of the Church and co-operates on major community functions.

#### 4.2.1b) **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 Village Hall 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 Sandy Lane, Brownlow Heath** is presently overgrown and subject to a boundary dispute. The PC intends to implement measures to improve ecology and planting to provide a readily accessible community and recreational resource.

#### 4.2.3 **The Village School:**

The Village School dates from the mid-C19 as a Church of England Aided School which converted to an Academy (CDAT) in February 2019.

The PC appoints a Councillor annually to liaise with the Governing Board to provide support and advancement for community involvement, including a regular entry in the quarterly Parish Newsletter.

The Parish Council will work to support the hard work of the School, Staff and Pupils as an essential part of the Village and community life.

### 4.3 **Transport:**

#### 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 walking/visitors and Spring displays of daffodils and feature lighting of the tree at Christmas.

The PC will seek to minimise the impact of traffic, in particular through running vehicles on the Village Green and its setting/environment in accordance with the published Conservation Area Status Policies.

#### 4.3.2 **Congleton Link Road:**

Construction of the CLR is now underway with completion scheduled for late 2020. Although only the southern roundabout on the A534 and a short length of Sandy Lane is within the Parish Boundary, the potential impact on adjoining rural lanes is significant.

A Planning Condition on the CLR Approval requires mitigation measures to be implemented on Wall Hill Lane and Brownlow Heath Lane in consultation with the Parish Council before the road can be open.

Negotiations will be continuing with Cheshire East Highways to minimise the impact of peripheral traffic generated by the CLR

#### **4.3.3 Astbury Village**

The Village is a Statutory Conservation Area subject to pre-defined Policies. The Conservation Area includes numerous Listed Buildings Grade I, Grade II\* and Grade II. The Parish Council will seek to protect and enhance Heritage assets and their setting in accordance with Local and Central Government policy/guidance.

#### **4.4 Footpaths & Bridleways:**

The PC will continue to liaise with Cheshire East PROW and Ramblers Association in monitoring condition and accessibility of footpaths and bridleways.

Objectives include re-opening of "lost" footpaths where appropriate and provision of public seating at popular locations.

#### **4.5 Ecology & Planting:**

Further planting of daffodils is proposed to the Village Green and Ackers Crossing and along the A34 to the Parish Boundary Signs. Other locations in the Parish will also be identified for additional daffodil planting.

Tree planting at both public and private locations with the necessary consents is an objective along with supplementary planting to encourage biodiversity.

#### **4.6 Well-being & Consultation:**

Defibrillators have been installed with Parish Council assistance/co-operation at several locations around the Parishes including the BT box at Ackers Crossing now in the care of management of the PC.

The PC will seek to enhance P.C registered assets in consultation and dialogue with residents.

The PC will implement a monthly "surgery" for Parishioners at a central location, with advanced advertising via the Newsletter and website.

#### **4.7 Local Council Award Scheme:**

The PC with the guidance of the Clerk will continue to develop skills in communication/management/decision making and evaluation by attendance at Seminars and Training Sessions. The PC and Clerk have achieved Foundation Level and aspire to attain Quality Status.

#### **4.8 Communication:**

**4.8.1 Website and IT:**

The PC will continue to expand and improve the existing website so that Residents can access all information.

Steps will be taken to explore and implement improved broadband connectivity to all parts of the Parishes.

**4.8.2 Parish Meeting:**

The Parish Meeting is held annually as a social event to which all Parishioners and Stakeholders are encouraged to attend. The Chairman provides an Annual Report and a specialist item of local interest is incorporated in the proceedings.

**4.8.3 Police Liaison:**

A Councillor is appointed annually to liaise with the Police Authority and PCSO who reports regularly to the PC in an Action Summary.

Direct contact with the PCSO is encouraged and details published on the website.

**4.9 Finance:**

In addition to fixing the annual precept, the PC will prepare an annual budget cost plan and monitor on monthly basis reported in the Meeting Minutes.

**4.10 Recreation/Community:**

The principal Parish Event is the annual May Day which the PC supports and encourages, bringing together the School, Church and Community.

The PC also supports, subject to compliance with Environmental Planning/Neighbourhood Plan legislation, appropriate recreational and community activities within the Parish.

**4.11 Parish Clerk:**

The Parish Clerk plays a key role in administering the working of the PC, in particular ensuring correct procedures are followed and formal record taking. The position is an employed/remunerated function and the present Clerk, Julie Mason, operates on a part time basis also being Clerk to other local PC's.

The PC encourages the Clerk to develop further management/administrative skills under the current Awards Scheme.