

# CHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter - April 2015

Website: [www.chelfordvillage.org](http://www.chelfordvillage.org)

## Chelford Annual Parish Meeting

**Tuesday 19th May, 19.30 at the Village Hall**

As Chairman of Chelford Parish Council (PC), I would like to invite all residents to the Annual Parish Meeting. This is an early opportunity for you to meet your new Council: nominees are listed overleaf.

There will be a short presentation to thank our four volunteers who have worked so hard for over eight years to improve our station surrounds, receiving a Best Kept Station Award for each year as just recognition. There will also be a presentation to long serving Councillors who are standing down.

The main item of the evening is to discuss the implications of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Chelford. There will be presentations to explain why NPs are important, how they work, how to produce one, the likely costs and the availability of funding.

One of the main aims is that, even at an early stage, a NP can be used as a 'significant consideration' in any planning application. It gives residents a voice in determining development in their community.

Our Parish Plan has served us well for six years and we have completed virtually all the actions, which is a rare achievement. However, NPs have now superseded PPs as they actually pass into law.

Come along to have your say on NPs and any other items you wish to raise with the PC. I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

*Kath Gildon*, Chairman of Chelford PC

## Stobart's housing development update

The application for a development of 100 houses including 30 affordable homes was approved by the CEC Strategic Planning Board in July 2014.

The 106 agreement is still not agreed 9 months after approval despite lobbying from the PC. This document sets out the monies for: potential additional school facilities; village facilities; Public and Recreational Open Space within the village. As part of the development, a pedestrian crossing will be installed in the centre of the village across the A537; a key Parish Plan objective.

## Community Pride Competition 2014

Chelford was placed third for villages of 1,001 to 2,500 residents; scoring a total of 660 points from a possible 780 points. This is our highest result yet and we aim to do even better in 2015.

A 'Little Gem' award, for the most attractive area in the village, was presented to the Astle Court Community for the area in and around their greenhouse.

The Judges commented, "It was a pleasure to judge Chelford; we really got a feeling that the residents cared about their village and were working hard to maintain and further develop it."

## Renovation of the website

In fulfilling the 'future proofing' action from the Parish Plan, the new website went live early in 2014 and seems to be providing the functionality predicted. With this successfully established, the old website will close completely next month.

## Potential re-use of the Station Building

The PC has discussed the possibility of redeveloping the Station Building into a Community Cafe and social hub. This idea is supported by Northern Rail, CEC and selected funders. The location is ideal, right in the centre of the village between the two new housing developments, for social interaction for residents of all ages. It aims to provide sustainable employment, complement our shops and use local produce.

It is early days yet in the project and there will be an independent feasibility study funded by CEC to test the need within the community and the working basis for managing the enterprise. Your views will be sought.

## Chairman's Report for 2014 / 15

### Street Lights back on at the Egerton

After much lobbying of CEC Highways from the PC, residents and our Ward Councillor, the street lights around the Egerton are finally back on.

### Renovation of Mere Court Open Space

The issue of the poor condition of Mere Court play and pond areas was raised by residents at the annual meeting last May. After consultation with these residents and CEC, who own the land and are responsible for maintenance specific renovation work was identified

Funding has been successfully obtained and work has started on clearing vegetation around the pond area whilst renovation of the play area has been agreed with CEC.

## Chelford Activity Park Update

The play area and MUGA have recently been cleaned, the BMX track has been resurfaced and the grass cut ready for the Summer. It has been good to see how the sun over the Easter holidays has brought so many young people and families out on to play on the facilities.

The tennis coaching is just about to swing into action and there will also be basketball sessions. Please see the website for further information.

### Developments at Chelford Activity Park

The Macclesfield waste disposal site has now closed. This means that Chelford is outside the qualifying area served by WREN funding. However, there is one final opportunity to bid for a WREN grant before July after which no more bids can be made from Chelford. Although the first priority remains the path to the site, it is very unlikely that WREN will fund this as CPC do not own the land on which the path would run. Funding for this is being sought elsewhere.

There are two proposals from the Parish Plan Team for this final bid to WREN

1. Active Cheshire are encouraging the installation of lighting at outdoors sports facilities in order to extend the usable hours throughout the darker months. Large improvements in games area lighting now means that it is more environmentally friendly; modern lights use LED technology and have an easily administered card-key system that allows users to put the lights on only when needed. The new technology means that running and maintenance costs are a fraction of what they were previously.

It is proposed that lighting is installed for the Chelford MUGA using low-running cost LED lights on masts just above the height of the MUGA sides which minimises light pollution. The hours of operation would be restricted to 9.00pm and the lights would only be used on demand by authorised users of a card-key system.

Of course, any lighting installation would be subject to obtaining planning permission from CEC.

2. Another proposal is to install some activity equipment suitable for the use of older children and adults. This was a need expressed in the Parish Plan consultations.

Cheshire East Council have suggested that a Kompan Supernova would be suitable which is great fun but also uses lots of energy. Please Google for full details.

There are also plans for an outdoor Table Tennis Table and football pitch improvements.

We would like you to answer the two questions listed on the right and deliver your replies to a collection box in Tony Boon's Butchers' shop by Friday 15th May. You can also reply online on the village website.

Thank you very much for your help and support.

### Persons nominated for the Parish Council

The following have been nominated for election as Parish Councillors. As the election is uncontested the Nominees, after due process, will take office on 14th May.

Tony Boon

Brian Brindley

Kakoli Chaudhuri

Sam Hampson

John Leach

Edward Michell

David Wilson

### Contact details for the Parish Council:

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Parish Council meetings for the rest of the year will be published on the village website calendar. The first 15 minutes of each meeting are set aside for residents to discuss their views and issues with the PC.

### Chelford Activity Park Questions

Do you support the installation of lighting at Chelford Activity Park (CAP) MUGA?

Yes

No

If No, please tell us your concerns here.

Do you support the installation of more activity equipment on the CAP?

Yes

Please specify what type of equipment you would like. You may choose more than one.

No

If No, please state your reason