

Good evening and welcome to this year's annual village meeting.

It has been necessary to recruit two new councillors during the year to replace Syd Blakeborough and Don Hatch. Syd had to resign due to ill health and Don retired after giving many years of loyal service to the village. Your new councillors are Rob Hughes and Steve Hatton.

Moving to the first item on the agenda which is to let you know what the Parish Council has been doing on your behalf. We have again been extremely busy responding to the numerous planning applications that have involved considerable investigations and attendance at appeal hearings all of which has been very time consuming.

Considerable time has also been devoted to responding to the various consultations emanating from Cheshire East and other organisations, mainly the 1300 page Cheshire East Local Plan, the supplementary 600 page document and the Green Belt assessment carried out on behalf of Cheshire East and the latest

document which is the Site Allocation and Development Planning Document.

We have responded to all 20 plus issues raised in this latest document, several of which refer to the Green Belt. Issue 6 asks whether rural villages should be classed as “Washed Over” or “Inset”. It took a little while to determine what these terms meant. Washed Over means that the parish will stay in the Green Belt whereas Inset means that the villages of Mottram and Newton would be removed from the Green Belt and Cheshire East would determine the extent of the villages. Our response to issue 6 was that villages already in the Green Belt should remain in the Green Belt. However if Cheshire East decide that the village should be “Inset” then this would remove the restrictions that apply to building in the Green Belt. Cheshire East may well decide this is the option to be implemented to achieve their aims of increasing the numbers of houses required under the Cheshire East Local Plan. If this happened it would be desirable for the parish to develop a neighbourhood plan so that the parish could

determine areas suitable for building rather than leaving it to Cheshire East and the developers. Other parishes have already commenced the preparation of neighbourhood plans, a time consuming activity way beyond what your parish councillors can achieve. In other parishes this has been achieved by the setting up a group of people to prepare a neighbourhood plan.

Our response in full to the SADPD will be available on the village web site.

The other major consultation has been in respect of likely changes to the flight path over the village by planes from Manchester Airport. Planes fly over the village when the wind is from the east and this occurs about 20% of the year and is obviously weather dependent. Currently the flight path is 3km wide which means that the noise impact is spread over the full 3km. In future planes will fly along the centre line of the flight path using new satellite navigation technology which will result in the noise impact being concentrated over residents under the centre line. We stated that we would prefer the full 3km flight

path be used but were told that this would not be possible.

Broadband speeds is still an issue for some residents. Those who are lucky enough to be able to take advantage of the service provided by Vispa are receiving up to 60Mbs. The parish council is still pursuing with BT and Cheshire East to obtain a fibre connection into the village and it is hoped that this will be achieved next year for those who are unable to access the Vispa connection due to lack of line of sight.

The parish council is still pursuing improvements to the junction of Mill Lane and Woodford Lane with Lees Lane in Newton.

The parish council is also looking into the possibility of setting up rural watch schemes in the village and we would be interested to know if this is of interest.

The parish council is also obtaining quotations for the cleaning of the Mottram Cross that is a grade two listed monument near to the cross roads at the Bulls Head.

The emergency plan for the village is currently being updated and will be discussed at the AGM of the Parish Council on Monday 15th May and an updated copy will be available to view on the village web site.

D&G Little Bus have been providing a reliable service on two days a week from the village to Wilmslow/Alderley Edge on a Tuesday and Macclesfield on a Friday.

On Tuesdays the 12 seater mini bus leaves the Crescent at 10.30 and returns from Wilmslow at 12.15 arriving back in the village at 12.30.

On Fridays the bus leaves the Crescent at 09.30 and returns from Macclesfield at 12.00 and arrives back in the village before 12.30.

The service is free for those in possession of a bus pass which can be obtained from Macclesfield Town Hall/Visitor Centre. Those wishing to use the D&G bus service must be registered with them for insurance purposes. Registration can either be by telephoning their office between 09.30 and 12.30 Mondays to Fridays on 0845 077 9110. Alternatively you can register on line by

downloading an application form from their web site. From experience the best time to telephone their office is after 10.00 as their line is usually very busy until then. When applying to register to use the service please mark on your application that there is no public transport in the village.

There are a number of regular travellers on the bus and it has been found beneficial to co-ordinate those who are travelling so that only one person needs to telephone their office on a Monday morning advising who is travelling on Tuesday and Friday.

This is a very useful service that we managed to obtain and I would encourage people to register and use this very important service, you never know when you might not be able to drive for whatever reason, as the saying goes use it or lose it, something that would be hard for those unable to drive.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has launched an exciting new initiative to help improve the health of potentially vulnerable people. These visits will build on the Service's successful Home Safety

Assessment programme that has helped protect thousands of people throughout Cheshire from the risk of fire to their home.

Safe and Well visits will be offered to residents who are aged over 65 or who are referred to the Service by partner agencies. The visits will still incorporate the traditional fire safety information but will also offer additional advice on slips, trips and fall prevention etc.

It is expected that over the next year the visits will be extended further to provide extra help to people who have just been discharged from hospital after a fall and to address hypertension and blood pressure concerns.

Safe and Well Visits will be carried out by fully trained firefighters and prevention staff.

If you are not eligible for a Safe and Well Visit, you can check that your home is safe, by completing the on line home safety check.

To arrange a visit telephone 0800 389 0053.

The mobile library still visits the village on a three weekly timetable. The library arrives in the village

and stays at the Crescent from 12.30 until 1pm. This is a useful service that we managed to retain and I would request as many people as possible to use this service to ensure that it remains.

It has been necessary to make a small increase to the parish precept this year by £280 from £7,000 to £7,280, this is still a lot smaller than adjacent parishes.

We have also kept the allotment rents at the same level as last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ron Taylor the Parish Clerk for the ongoing professional support that he has given me over the last year and the support of my fellow councillors.

Thank you.

Bill Pilkington

Chairman