

Update to the 2009 Holmes Chapel Parish Plan June 2015

Collated and Produced by Holmes Chapel Partnership

This document lists and provides updates on the 49 Actions identified in the 2009 Holmes Chapel Parish Plan.

Key:

- **Actions Generated from Parish Plan at time of Publication**
- Status of Actions at March 2015
- *New issues/actions raised by Community over last year*
- **HCP** – Issue for the attention of the Holmes Chapel Partnership
- **NP** - Take forward action/issue into Neighbourhood Plan
 - HWG: Housing Working Group
 - ESWG: Employment & Skills Working Group
 - CEWG: Countryside & Environment Working Group
 - CWWG: Community Wellbeing Working Group
 - TTWG: Traffic & Transport Working Group
- **PC** – Issue for the attention of the Parish Council

1	<p>Raise community awareness of the need to patronise local facilities - use them or lose them! This is an ongoing issue and one that is faced by many towns and villages. Need to consider what further actions could be put in place to help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Many people have raised the issue re the loss of banks, building societies and shops.</i> 		Ongoing issue for Village
2	<p>Make the Parish and Cheshire East Councils aware of community feelings regarding the number of alcohol outlets. Note: Local opposition is not itself a ground for refusal; the licensing authority cannot refuse a licence, as long as the statutory criteria are met. This issue was raised at the time. It is an ongoing relevant issue for the village and should be considered with regards to any new applications</p>	NP (ESWG)	

3	<p>Carry out a detailed survey into employment within the Parish; seek out statistical information from groups such as Connexions, local authorities and from the census.</p> <p>Work was undertaken by the Partnership with the 5 Towns Employment Group set up by Cheshire East. Reviewing recent unemployment data (2014), it was determined that the unemployment within the CW4 postcode (Holmes Chapel & local Parishes) was very low and did not justify the setting up of a Job Club locally.</p>	NP (ESWG)	No further action to be taken by HCP
4	<p>Promote the formation of a 'business forum' to look at employment opportunities in the Parish (subject to the results of the survey)</p> <p>Since the completion of the Parish Plan there have been several attempts to promote and energise a 'business forum', but due to the diverse nature of the businesses within the village it has provided difficult to fully establish a cohesive group that can really make a difference and fully address the commercial needs of the village</p>	New business Group 'Junction 18'	Ongoing
5	<p>Develop ideas for parks and seating areas to put forward to the Parish and Cheshire East Councils for inclusion in major planning proposals</p> <p>The Dane Meadow has delivered a country park for the community; this has included seating areas, look out points and many areas of interest. The new access and paths have ensured easy access for all. This project is an investment for the future of our community, ensuring an area of natural landscape and habitat are protected for the local flora and wildlife.</p>	NP CEWG	Dane Meadow Project Completed
6	<p>Set up a Play Area working group to do a mini survey of the existing facilities; this would ideally include input from young people as well as adults</p>		Ongoing
8 & 10	<p>Review the existing arrangements for the maintenance of play areas with the Parish Council, and discuss how these might be improved</p> <p>Consultation on the development and the requirements for Middlewich Road Play area took place in 2012/2013 resulting in the total refurbishment of the Play Area (completed July 2013) and establishment of a maintenance schedule. This project was run via a Project Board which included representatives from Middlewich Road Primary School, the parents of children who used the area, the Partnership, the Parish and Cheshire East Councils. The playground is now well used, the average age of the children using it ranges from 2 – 12 years.</p> <p>Similarly consultation on the development and the requirements for Elm Drive Play area took place in 2014/2015. The project was split into two phases – the first to upgrade the fenced off playarea (completed June 2015), and the second to provide a fitness area (ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The second phase will be progressed in 2015/2016</i> 		

9	<p>Investigate any possible grants or funding that could be available to support projects</p> <p>The sourcing of funds is key to some of the projects undertaken within the village. Funding has been secured through the Partnership to support the Middlewich Road Play Area and the Dane Meadow Project. This funding has been critical to the success of these projects. (Along with the funding provided by the Holmes Chapel Parish and Cheshire East Councils.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>It is anticipated that the Partnership will work to secure funds for the second phase of the Elm Drive Play Area project</i> 		Ongoing
11	<p>Call a meeting with Cheshire East Highways to highlight the issues with withy pathways and discuss what measures could be taken to address them</p> <p>Late 2014, the Cycling Team met with Cheshire East Highways and proposals have been made as to what maintenance is required to address issues for cyclists as well as pedestrians. A response is awaited. In general issues relate to paths being overgrown and encroached upon by boundary hedges, the surface of the path being unmaintained, i.e. unlevel, muddy, flooded when wet, or dangerous due to leaves on the ground. Also some of these pathways are dark/inadequately lit at night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>As an example, the pathway between Portree Drive and London Road has been raised as an issue by residents. The overhanging trees need to be cut back, hence the build up of fallen leaves would be reduced and the lights would actually illuminate the path. In summer the nettles and other vegetation needs to be removed.</i> 	/PC	Specific issues have been addressed, but others still ongoing
12	<p>Ensure that the owners of the precinct are made aware of public opinion regarding its appearance and maintenance</p> <p>Since the publication of the Parish Plan, the owners of the Precinct have invested in the area, pavements have been replaced / repaired and the car park has been resurfaced and the issue of flooding has been addressed. To note the use of some of the shops and types of business has changed over the last few years.</p>	PC	Completed
13	<p>Determine if there are grants or funding available to either the Parish Council or the Steering Group to support further improvements to the village centre</p> <p>Since the publication of the Parish Plan work has been undertaken to improve the village centre:- New paving on London Road from Knutsford Road/London Road from the double roundabout up to Parkway/the Precinct Planters installed The village Volunteers have taken on the maintenance of the flowerbeds within the village Home Grown have taken on some areas to grow fruit and vegetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Although some pavements have been refurbished the pavements from Parkway to Chester Road, from the Precinct to Chester Road and from the roundabout down Middlewich Road to the Sainsbury's car park are still in a poor state of repair, uneven surfaces and water collects creating big puddles. Also water collects on the road and following rain this splashes onto the pavement (and pedestrians)</i> 	/HCP	

14	<p>Monitor the effect of the changes to the waste collection services and keep Cheshire East informed of any issues</p> <p>Collections for household waste are satisfactory, although the loss of the garden waste collection over the winter months can be an issue. At times the emptying of waste bins and dog waste bins around the village has been an issue. This needs ongoing monitoring.</p>		Ongoing Monitoring
15	<p>Discuss with the Parish Council about taking forward their existing proposals, to provide adequate public toilets in the village centre, ensuring a suitable location (e.g. adjacent to the Library) and adequate signage</p> <p>This issue has been outstanding for a number of years, funding is not currently available. The Library has made their toilets available to the public - this is a daytime solution, when the library is open.</p>		Action Closed
18	<p>Conduct a survey of litter bin provision throughout the village particularly in areas where littering is serious - to provide more, better designed bins where they are needed. Feed the results back to the Parish council</p> <p>A survey was conducted and addition and better waste bins have been provided</p>	Village Volunteers	Completed
7 19	<p>Consider whether litter picking in play areas should be organised by volunteers.</p> <p>Launch a campaign to 'Keep Holmes Chapel tidy'. Elicit help from Schools, youth groups, shopkeepers and other local organisations to discuss how littering is best tackled. Discuss with the Legal Department of Cheshire East council how littering bye-laws could be enforced</p> <p>The Village Volunteers have taken on the responsibility to co-ordinate and undertake 'litter picking' on behalf of the village. They make a significant difference to our village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Littering can still be a major problem near food outlets and take-aways, the proprietors of these outlets need to be reminded of their responsibilities to keep the village tidy.</i> 	HCP / Village Volunteers	Ongoing
20	<p>Request the Community Action Team and Dog Warden to conduct a survey of the village, to establish whether dog fouling is more prevalent in some areas, compare this with the available bins in those areas and investigate whether and how the bye-laws need to be enforced</p> <p>A survey was conducted and addition waste bins have been provided</p>		Completed
22	<p>Make our data available to the Rural Housing Enabler for Cheshire East with a view to using it as part of housing needs</p> <p>This was completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Going forwards this will be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan which was launched in January 2015</i> 	NP	
23	<p>Invite the rural Housing Enabler for Cheshire East to come to talk to the community to discuss a housing needs survey and enlist their help and support</p> <p>This is an ongoing activity and will be addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan</p>	NP	

24	<p>Set up a working group to address parking within the village and liaise with the owners of the privately owned car parks, Cheshire East highways Department, Police and other relevant agencies</p> <p>Parking is an ongoing issue and one that cannot be satisfactorily resolved with the current available parking spaces. This is an issue that needs to be included in the Neighbourhood plan. To note the new Sainsbury's car park in the village has provided some additional parking. Station parking maybe an option at the former AP Club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Currently there is a major issue with cars parked all day on the road outside Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School reducing Selkirk drive to a single file and obstructing traffic down Portree Drive, Selkirk Drive and to the School. There have been several near misses. During the time of school opening and closing this area is gridlocked. As the school expands it is vital that additional spaces for parking are created within the schools land. With the loss of some landscaping this would seem a feasible option.</i> <i>On road parking is also an ongoing issue in Bessancourt, (impact of school) and Sandiford (impact of station).</i> 	NP TTWG	
26	<p>Liaise with the Community Action Team regarding the 'policing' of designated disabled parking spaces</p> <p>This is an ongoing issue</p>	PC	Ongoing Monitoring
25	<p>Encourage residents to walk or cycle into the village, rather than drive, emphasising the health benefits of doing so (as well as reducing the pressure on the parking places)</p> <p>Many clubs and organisations are supporting this initiative, but the reality it has not had the impact required to make a significant difference to parking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Partnership is investing in Health and Wellbeing Project over the coming year. The Walking Map for Holmes Chapel is being working upon, it is anticipated that it will be available for Spring 2015, the Cycling Project is continuing.</i> 	<i>Future Village Planning – HCP/ NP TTWG</i>	Ongoing
27	<p>Create a map of the Parish with suggested safe cycling routes</p> <p>This has been completed and a map is available. Further work is ongoing re ensuring pathways are safe for both pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>A map of cycling routes around the local area has been produced and more routes are being worked upon. Organised cycle rides have been published and more are planned for this year.</p> <p>Events have taken place at local schools re “safe cycling and general care and maintenance of your bicycle”.</p> <p>A Cycle Shelter, provided by the Partnership has been put up outside the Library.</p>	<i>Future Village Planning –NP TTWG</i>	Original Action Completed, further actions covered under future Village Planning

28	<p>Set up a working group to address the issues around the layout of the London Road / Chester Road junction, the provision of pedestrian crossings, pedestrian safety and liaise with the appropriate authorities</p> <p>Since the publication of the plan a pedestrian crossing has been installed at the lights at this junction on the village side on London Road. This has improved safety on London Road. But there is still a major issue for people needing to cross Chester Road at these traffic lights. This needs to be addressed. There is poor visibility due to trees / overhanging branches and there is no footpath only a grassed verge on the village side corner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Chester Road/London Road pavement – need to cut back all trees in this area, many overhang the pavement; where is the pavement vs. property boundary? At night this area is very dark. Need to improve the pavement, this is very uneven, the grass verge is just mud.</i> <i>Approaching London Road from Chester Road on the south side pavement, the pavement is very narrow which makes it impassable/ unsafe for prams and wheelchairs. On the north side the pavement is always muddy and puddles in wet weather, the big tree, grass verge and hedge can make this very difficult.</i> 	/PC	
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16	Set up a working group to monitor traffic in the village at different times of the day, consulting with the police and Cheshire East highways as to how this is best achieved. Feedback results to the councils and highways	NP TTWG	Ongoing
17	Look at possible solutions for reducing the traffic problem, such as weight restrictions, one-way system, by-pass etc. Check with the Parish and Cheshire East Councils to understand what plans are in place to help relieve traffic problems		
29	Consult with Cheshire East highways regarding possible measures to control speeding within the Parish		
30	Investigate the formation and equipping of a Community Speed Watch Group, as well as the feasibility and cost of obtaining flashing speed signs		
31	Set up a working group to assess the traffic issues within the Parish, raise awareness with and make recommendations to the appropriate authorities		
32	Investigate how HGV movement through the village could be limited or restricted, e.g. weight limits, one way systems etc. and discuss results with Cheshire East Highways A major traffic survey was conducted in 2014, involving the Parish Council, Cheshire East Council and the Highways Agency. Traffic restrictions have been put in place and access through the village to HGV's has been restricted - these changes are currently being piloted and will be reviewed before full implementation. Other changes re motorway junctions are taking place; this should discourage HGV's leaving the motorway at junction 18. Speed restrictions on the outskirts of the village have been implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Traffic approaching from the South of the village along London Road has not been addressed. A 30 mph speed limit is required at Dunkirk Farm into the village. Flashing speed signs are now in place at strategic points in the village. Data from these systems is available for monitoring.</i> 		
26	Liaise with the Community Action Team regarding the 'policing' of designated disabled parking spaces This is an ongoing issue	/PC	Ongoing Monitoring
33	Contact the Bus service providers and inform them of the residents views regarding extending the range of bus destinations e.g. Alsager, Knutsford, Macclesfield Bus service providers were contacted. More frequent bus services are available. But, public transport for the village is something that should be kept under review as the needs of the village evolve.	NP TTWG	Original Action completed, other actions may follow
34	Support ongoing improvements to Holmes Chapel railway station Fully supported	HCP	Ongoing

21	<p>Conduct a survey with young people to understand what extra facilities and activities they would like to be provided in the village. In parallel, get advice from Cheshire East Council to understand what types of sport and leisure activities exist or could be provided for young people. Present the results back to the community and councils with a view to planning extra facilities and investigate whether additional funding or grants might be available to help finance such facilities</p> <p>This is an ongoing action, although information has been gather and some changes and projects have been delivered to address this issue there is still more work to be done in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Within the Partnership our Youth Representative has offered to conduct a consultation with young people. We as a Community also need to ensure that opportunities arising at the former AP Club site are realised</i> 	NP CWWG	Ongoing
35	<p>Make the data regarding leisure facilities available to the relevant department of Cheshire East Council, with a view to potentially improving and providing additional facilities at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre</p> <p>The facilities available to the community at the Leisure Centre have been reviewed, but access is limited due to the priority the school has during the day and for after school sports clubs in term time. The centre is available in the evenings and weekends and is well used, also the fitness suite is available and used during the day.</p> <p>In 2015 there has been an initiative to encourage the use of the fitness suit during the day. The new 3G pitch at the school is to be opened to clubs & teams during the evenings and weekends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>When the purchase of the former AP Club for the community is completed, there are plans to include the development of both indoor and outdoor sporting and fitness facilities for the community. The range of activities on offer will be for all generations.</i> 	/PC	
36	<p>Determine the demand for access to swimming facilities and investigate whether transport can be arranged to pools in other Parishes</p> <p>There is a demand for a swimming pool in Holmes Chapel, but unless ongoing additional funding could be secured, this could never be a viable operation.</p> <p>(Most recent data to support a Swimming Pool was collected via the former AP Club development questionnaire in 2014.)</p>	PC / NP CWWG	

37	<p>Encourage existing local groups and organisations (e.g. Scouts, Churches, Schools, Ramblers) to discuss the Holmes Chapel Social Events Team - who could then investigate possible grants, sponsorship and funding opportunities in support of local events</p> <p>For a number of years an annual event "Holmes Chapel Today" was organised to help publicise and showcase all the organisations that were active within the village. This is no longer considered necessary. Over the last few years many local organisations including the schools and churches have successfully secured grants and sponsorship to develop and maintain their buildings and services to the community e.g. Scout HQ St Lukes Church Hall St Lukes Church Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Partnership has created a list of all organisations, clubs and societies that operate within Holmes Chapel; this is available in the Library, in booklet form and on line. The Partnership also maintains a schedule of events where any organisation, club and society can advertise their events and meetings. This information is also published in the Partnerships Monthly Newsletter.</i> 	HCP	Ongoing
38	<p>Ensure positive feedback regarding health service provision is shared with the various health professionals and contractors</p>	/Patient Panel	Original Actions completed – further actions to be identified
39	<p>Notify the Health Centre (via Senior Partner and practice Manager) and the patient participation group, of all comments relating to services within their control</p>		
40	<p>Ensure the Central and Eastern Cheshire primary Care Trust are made aware of all the findings on health. Investigate whether there are plans for a public consultation on health service provision to the village</p> <p>At the time of publication of the Parish Plan all these actions were addressed. There have been major changes in the organisation and funding of the Health Service in the UK over the last few years, hence these have had an impact on the services available. It is important that in the Neighbourhood plan all issues relating to the health services provided locally are fully considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Currently there are great concerns within the community with regards to access to health professionals and health services locally</i> 		

41	Communicate findings about education to providers of adult and special needs education and ask about plans for improvement (Not sure that special needs have been reviewed.)	HCP	Completed
42	Conduct a survey to determine what types of adult education are required and how these might be provided Findings were communicated following the publication of the Parish Plan. Throughout the UK investment in adult education has been cut, hence the diversity of course has been reduced and costs have been increased. Locally, there are several schools and John Deans College who provide evening classes and weekend courses, but travel is required. Within Holmes Chapel and the local Parishes there are many clubs and groups that provide "education" and activities for adults.		
43	Consult the retired and senior population to understand whether the formation of a U3A (University of the Third Age) group in the village is desirable A U3A was established in the village in 4Q 2010. It is now recognised as an important group within the community, providing activities, outing and educational groups for over 400 members.		Completed
44	Encourage older volunteers (perhaps retired people) to share their skills with younger people; areas for investigation could include sport, art etc. A lot of work is done to promote inclusive events and activities, this is ongoing.	HCP & other Voluntary Organisations	Ongoing
45	Liase with schools and youth groups to understand what facilities are needed for the 11-17 year olds and how they can interact with other age groups	NP CWWG	
21	Conduct a survey with young people to understand what extra facilities and activities they would like to be provided in the village. In parallel, get advice from Cheshire East Council to understand what types of sport and leisure activities exist or could be provided for young people. Present the results back to the community and councils with a view to planning extra facilities and investigate whether additional funding or grants might be available to help finance such facilities This is an ongoing action, although information has been gather and some changes and projects have been delivered to address this issue there is still more work to be done in this area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Within the Partnership our Youth Representative has offered to conduct a consultation with young people. We as a Community also need to ensure that opportunities arising at the former AP Club site are realised</i> 		

46	<p>Promote age inclusive events</p> <p>A lot of work is done to promote inclusive events and this is ongoing. A recently introduced event in the village is the Christmas Market, which has grown from strength to strength over the last 3 year. Other examples of established events are the Village Fair and Firework display both held at the Victoria Club. Other groups that provide activities include Home Grown, the Village Volunteers, the Churches and the recently established Community Cinema. There are many other events within the community.</p>	HCP	<p>Many events established, will continue to work with Local Groups to introduce new events</p>
47	<p>Encourage local history and conservation groups to investigate whether the official conservation areas could or should be extended to include other sites of special interest</p> <p>The Dane Meadow project has been completed and has given Holmes Chapel a country park within the Parish. This has been a very successful project and has opened up this area to the whole community. It is expected that through management of this area it will attract more people of all ages and allow them to enjoy this space.</p>	NP CEWG	
48	<p>Make Cheshire Constabulary and Holmes Chapel Community Safety Action Group aware of residents concerns regarding antisocial behaviour</p> <p>Safety and security within the community is always going to be an ongoing issue. Hence having a visible Community Officer within the village is essential, allowing them to deal with issues as they arise but also for them to build a relationship with the community.</p>	HCP / PCSO	Ongoing
49	<p>Liaise with current Home Watch Coordinator, with a view to publicising and potentially expanding the scheme</p> <p>The Home Watch scheme has been active and work was done to expand the scheme.</p>		Ongoing