

# GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## Update on Planning

The planning application by Gladman Developments Ltd for 119 houses on land north of Main Road was refused by the Cheshire East Strategic Planning Board on Wednesday 1st of July. However, an appeal against the decision made by the Cheshire East Northern Planning Committee on 29th of October 2014 to refuse permission to build 26 houses on land to the east of Hermitage Lane has been submitted by the developer. Interested parties must make their comments to the Planning Inspectorate by 5th August. Sibelco UK Ltd has declared its intention to apply for planning permission to quarry sand in the triangle between Goostrey Lane, New Platt Lane and the A50. This site which spans the Cranage/Allostock border is outside of Goostrey Parish but could nonetheless impact Goostrey residents. Finally, the Parish Council has been approached

by an agent working for Russell Homes who are considering making a planning application for the construction of up to 55 houses on land off Mill Lane and behind The White House. The Parish Council cannot and does not have a view on these possible applications until they are submitted. As regards the Cheshire East Local Plan, Cheshire East is due to report back to the Planning Inspector during July 2015. It hopes then to be able to demonstrate to the Inspector that there are enough viable sites to meet objectively assessed needs for housing in the Borough (ie. 36,000 houses over a 20 year period) which will enable him to recommence the Examination of the Local Plan Strategy. In view of the uncertainty surrounding the timescale for having an approved Local Plan in place, the Parish Council is pressing on with developing a Goostrey Neighbourhood Plan (see article on page 2).

*CLLr Peter Godfrey - Chairman*

Edited by CLLr P Godfrey & S Jones, The Parish Office, Village Hall, Goostrey

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### Points of interest:

- **Saturday 25th July— Neighbourhood Plan “Drop-In”** - Village Hall Lounge 9.30am-11.30am.
- **Parish Council Surgeries** - In the Village Hall Lounge on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10.00am—11.00am. Except August. The next Surgeries will be on 12th September and 10th October 2015.
- **Parish Office Hours** Monday 09.30 to 12.30, Wednesday & Friday 13.00 to 16.00
- **Contact** - E-mail [ParishCouncil@Goostrey.info](mailto:ParishCouncil@Goostrey.info)  
Phone: 01477 535825  
Answer phone service out of office hours
- **Web Site** - For calendar of local events, Parish Council Meetings, Village Hall booking information and forms visit [www.Goostrey.info](http://www.Goostrey.info)

## Join the Friends of Booth Bed Lane Play Area

In a similar manner to the successful Friends of Goostrey Station (FOGS) volunteer group have helped protect, maintain and improve Goostrey's train station the Friends of Booth Bed Lane Playground (FOBBLP) is a new volunteer group being set up to help protect, care for and improve the Children's Playground facility on Booth Bed Lane. Our volunteer group wants the children of Goostrey to continue to enjoy an accessible, clean, safe, green, and enjoyable playground, both now and for generations to



come.

Here are just some key ideas for our group to consider:-

- **Litter**—There are 5 bins on the playground, why do some children continue to throw rubbish? Is this a 'Bin It!' message the Primary School could help us reach out with, rather like the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaigns aimed at younger children in days gone by? Litter Picks by Adults / Children upon first arrival at the playground. A small sign on the rear of the fence next to the yellow child safety gate to say "Please Bin Litter or Take it Home"
- **Graffiti / Damage**— This is thankfully not common, but has occurred a couple of times in recent years / weeks. How best to prevent this—immediately opposite neighbour volunteers wanted on 'playground watch'?
- **Parking**—In high summer holiday season, visitors cars necessarily park on the road outside. How do we encourage more children to walk / cycle to the playground via the footpaths that connect to the centre of the village Mill Lane? Investigate the option of a green lay-by on the road in front of the hedge near the entrance gate to get circa 5 car parking spaces off the road without compromising the park's vital open public green space.
- **Volunteer Pro-active Maintenance**— A good example would be the beautiful Goose Gate —just a little wood protection over the years would have prevented the

rot that now needs to be fixed. Identifying maintenance jobs volunteers could easily help with and completing them.

- **Tree Climbing / Cow Invasions!** —How best to discourage dangerous tree climbing in the far corner of the playground where there is poor barbed wire fencing in place to seal off the farming fields at the rear.
- **Lobbying Cheshire East (& West!)** - With the increase in use of the play-ground by more children in Goostrey from new homes, S106 agreement monies should be reaching the playground to maintain and improve the facility—a recent example of injustice in this area would be the recently passed Bloor Homes development, which should correctly have contributed to the playground, yet Cheshire West received S106 monies—how do we best fight for the playground in this key regard?
- **Improvements**— Hopefully with help from any success regarding the above, looking to the best ideas from group volunteers, children and adults in Goostrey for ways the playground can be improved, whilst maintaining it as a safe, clean, green public space for all to enjoy, i.e. adding to the facility without compromising the vital open public green space. Just some ideas to discuss might be: New apparatus not yet there, e.g. classic roundabout, monkey bars, wooden mini-climbing wall, rope bridge & slide unit, wooden balance bars, mini-bike / skate run, tunnels & slides, zip-wire (in-keeping with the park's scale and well located alongside hedge-runs so as to not use up any open green space) , mini-golf putting green, nature trail, second set of football posts etc... The volunteer group would canvass villagers opinions and seek to use the best examples of what really works at other rural village playgrounds to get the very best facilities for Goostrey children to enjoy.

The playground is well loved and used by many Goostrey families, from football, to frizbee, to kite-flying and using the playground apparatus, it is a vital asset for all our youngsters. It is a key enhancer of Goostrey village life, and one of the reasons people move into to village. The ultimate aim of Friends of Booth Bed Lane Playground would be to protect this village asset, and make it better for all Goostrey residents.

In the first instance please offer us your name, address and email address so we can form an email distribution list so we can begin to form the group. Many thanks!

Any questions, please do ask, any ideas please do share!  
*David Johnson—33 Booth Bed Lane— Tel: 549718*

*Email: [djohnson84@hotmail.com](mailto:djohnson84@hotmail.com)*

## Churchill Oak Memorial Ceremony

On 19th April the Parish Council held a ceremony on the Bogbean to mark 50 years since the planting of the Churchill Oak which commemorated the life of Sir Winston Churchill, who died in January of 1965. Members of the Parish Council were joined by Jonathan Smallwood the Head Boy and Janet Squires (nee Hammond) the Head Girl from Goostrey School who originally planted the tree in April 1965, and Fiona Bruce, who unveiled the monument. The Parish Council was pleased to note the large number of people who attended the event.

The Goostrey Village Archive Group took photographs and will record the both the

events in 1965 and in 2015 for the Parish Archive

## Hedge Trimming

Many pavements and roadways in the village are very narrow. In the wet and warm weather, hedges and trees are growing rapidly and it is important that home owners with hedges/trees adjoining the pavement or highway ensure that they are trimmed back to their boundary line to allow pedestrians and vehicles the benefit of the full width of the pavement and highway. The Parish Council has written to some householders asking them to cut back their overgrown hedges. We would like to thank all those residents who maintain their hedges appropriately making the village a safer place!

## Vehicle Speed Monitoring in the Village

The first Speed Display Units (SDU) purchased by the Parish Council were installed in late Autumn 2008, with the first data collected from them and analysed in January 2009. Those initial data sets indicated that at all the locations, the SDU displayed speed did slow down the vehicles that passed the device. For traffic already going above 35 mph in a 30 mph restricted area, the speed reduction varied between 40% and 20% depending on the SDU location.

Since the initial data collections, data has been collected at various times subsequently to assess if the initial positive reduction in speeds has been maintained. For example, for the New Platt Lane SDU monitoring traffic into the village from the A50, the data generated has been compared to the initial data on twelve occasions between 2008 and 2014. This analysis indicated that the positive improvement in speed reduction has continued over the intervening 5 years of SDU operation.

In summary the SDU's are still as effective as when they were first installed almost 7 years ago.

*Mike Ball*

## Youth Facilities Update

The Scouts have been in touch with the Youth Facilities Working Party regarding the demolition of the Old Village Hall. It was their intention to have it demolished before Rose Day, but due to nesting birds this had to be postponed. It is hoped that demolition will start in September at the latest.

*Cllr Cath McCubbin - Vice Chairman*

## Rose Day 2015

This year the Parish Council Stand featured information on the Neighbourhood Plan and we started to collect names of people who are interested in helping create it.

We also had displays of information about the our new volunteer group, the Friends of Booth Bed Lane Play Area which aims to help take care of the area to keep it safe for village children.

Councillors were on hand to talk to residents and the weather was beautiful but unfortunately a gust of wind blew our gazebo over the fence, so the display was enjoyed in the glorious sunshine.



## Neighbourhood Plan

Cheshire East Council has recently approved the Goostrey Parish boundary as the area to be considered in the Goostrey Neighbourhood Plan. For further information please see the Neighbourhood Plan brochure distributed with this newsletter.

We would encourage all residents to complete the pull out "Questionnaire" and return it to the Parish Council by 3rd August. A drop in session will be held on 25th July in the Village Hall Lounge, where members of the Parish Council will be available to talk to you about helping make the plan.

*Fiona Bruce MP with Cllrs David Craggs and Ken Morris who are members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee*

*Cllr Terence Rathbone*

## Bloor Homes Site on New Platt Lane

The Parish Council would like to remind residents that the Bloor Homes site off New Platt Lane is a building site and, that for their own safety, they should only enter the site if invited to do so by a Bloor Homes employee. Thank you

## St Luke's Church Bells Could Fall Silent

The Bell Tower Captain, Mike Hodge has asked if anyone is interested in becoming a Bell Ringer would they please contact him on 537728 as more people are urgently required for

this vital role. Please help maintain this tradition and keep the bells of St Luke's ringing!

| Parish Councillors              | Cllr R Bennett | Cllr K Morris     |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Cllr P Godfrey (Chairman)       | Cllr C Caulkin | Cllr I O'Donoghue |
| Cllr C McCubbin (Vice Chairman) | Cllr D Craggs  | Cllr T Rathbone   |
|                                 | Cllr G Lenihan | Cllr E Williams   |