

PARISH UPDATE



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021



2021

THE FUTURE IS NOT CANCELLED

Introduction

I must admit we have delayed the publication of this Parish Update by a month or so as the news and prospects for our immediate future looked depressingly bleak around New Year! These have been dark and frightening days for so many people here in the Village; unable to see family, relatives, and friends across the country at a time when we all traditionally come together.

What a difference a month can make as we seem, at last, to have something to look forward to. 'The future is not cancelled' appeared on my television screen recently and I liked that. Life moves on, perhaps not quite in the way we remembered it, but hopefully a step up from the misery of these past months.

Our huge thanks continue to go to all the staff working within the NHS, our Doctors and Nurses and our Carers. And to our own Medical Centre staff who continue to provide us all with exceptional care and ensure that we all benefit from a well organised vaccine programme. Thank you too to all of our shop and supermarket staff and to our Council workers who have worked so hard to keep us fed and our lives well ordered. Brilliant work!

Parish Councils are certainly in the news now! Whilst I cannot promise you will witness proceedings that will go viral on social media, I would like to invite anyone in Alderley Edge to sit in on our meetings if you would like to. I would also like to encourage anyone in the Ward who feels they might like to spend a little time on the Parish Council, to chat to us and see what we do. Parish Councillors don't need to make a life-long commitment. That would not be healthy! But a few years working together with others to do whatever we can to make our community better can be satisfying and rewarding. And we don't shout at each other!

I would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year as we watch 2021 slowly get better. Let us all Stay Safe as that happens.

Mike Dudley-Jones
Chairman

Alderley Edge May Fair

A message from the Alderley Edge May Fair Committee

We'd like to update you on our plans for the Alderley Edge Mayfair 2021. As I'm sure you can expect we are continuing to monitor the Covid-19 situation, and its implications to outdoor community events such as ours. In the hope that outdoor events will become part of the calendar later in the year, plans are in place to organise a delayed version of the Alderley Edge May Fair in September 2021.

Adhering to the government guidance at the time, the fair will include many of the usual attractions such as the parade, fairground, market stalls, live music, entertainment and catering, and will take place on the weekend of **10 & 11 September**. We feel that by delaying the event until later this year we can take some time until the current situation eases and we feel more confident that we will be able to bring you a safe, secure and an enjoyable weekend for the whole family. The line-up of events might be announced a little later than usual, whilst we take some time to fully understand what we can expect later on this Summer.

Paul Marshall - Organising Committee says "Hopefully by September we will have the right conditions for an event to take place. We are conscious that we may not want to encourage more visitors into the village. Instead, the May Fair will be a party for the local neighbourhood and business community; a chance for residents to mix outdoors safely and enjoy the entertainment.

We are very much in the early planning stages, so if there are any members of the community who would like to be involved in the organising committee or event team we would be very pleased to hear from them. Our contact email is alderleyedgefair@gmail.com". Keep Safe, look after each other and we look forward to seeing you later on this year.



Alderley Edge in Bloom

Growing Pride in our Village

*Britain in Bloom Gold Award Winner 2018 and 2019
Pride of Cheshire East 2019*

We are an independent environmental group financed by private donations. The work of our volunteers caring for our village continues in 2021. We have optimistic plans for the year ahead; following government guidelines our work includes:

Litter picking every Monday morning • Waitrose Woodland weeding and planting • Installation of attractions made by Steve Kennedy along the railings • Working with Waitrose for the future removal of dead trees • Tidying the Station Garden • Tidying grass verges on Wilmslow Road • A thorough cleaning up of part of the bypass in December • Preparing beds in our Chorley Hall Lane allotment supplying vegetables to the Luncheon Club and St. Philip's

Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group

Our group also work closely with the newly established Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group led by Kelvin Briggs. Kelvin has already started on improvements to the station and the Bloomers group are working with him on future platform floral displays to smarten up the appearance of the station.

If you would like to join our litter pickers, to garden around the village, to help with growing vegetables for the less fortunate, to help improve the appearance of our station or any of the work our volunteers do for the community please contact the group Chair, Leslie Cox on 07774488458 or email him at coxija@hotmail.com for more information.

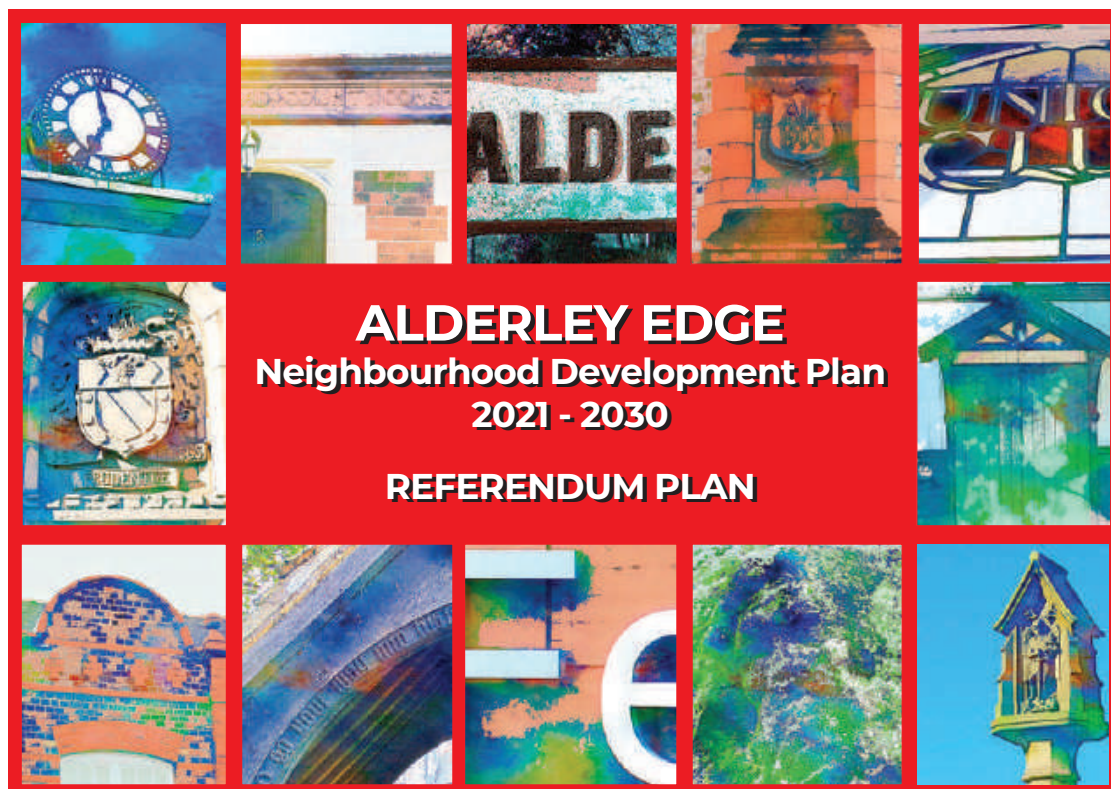
We have no minimum requirement for your contributions and never pressurise anyone into work. We are happy to fit in with your busy lives. Just joining a litter pick once a year is a contribution to the village. Every little helps.



The Neighbourhood Plan

Call to Referendum in May 2021

It's been a long haul for the small but dedicated group who've prepared Alderley Edge's Neighbourhood Plan. We have had to jump over a mountain of legal boulders to get to where we are now. After each of our many public consultations we have had to carefully consider and record every response, not just the ones from residents but also those from public bodies like Sports England and the National Trust. Then add in businesses like United Utilities and housing developers. We have also had to deal with big changes to Cheshire East Council's Local Plan. For more on that see below. And then, just as we were making real progress along came COVID....



So where are we now?

In spite of the coronavirus restrictions, Cheshire East Council has now completed its own public consultation. And the Plan has then gone to an independent examiner for assessment. We're pleased to say it has now passed that stage as well, with a few amendments to make. Now we are preparing the final Plan, and that is the one that will go to referendum. That will be your chance to vote on the final policies.

What has changed since our previous public consultation? The main change comes from amendments that Cheshire East Council has made to its own draft Local Plan, which has knock-on effects on us. The biggest change is that we are no longer required to give up green belt land to build more houses around the village. So, the developments at Ryleys Lane and Beech Close have been removed from this Plan altogether, though the Ryleys Lane development could be revived after 2030 as the land is safeguarded for future development.

These changes do have other knock-on effects. Whilst protecting the green belt is to be welcomed, it does mean that land will not be available for the creation of additional parking for the village. Existing recreational land (e.g. allotments, playing fields etc) identified for parking would need to be provided elsewhere in the village, and this may have been achieved by releasing land from the green belt for housing and leisure. Many will rue the loss of extra car parking in the village, but many will also welcome the preservation of our green belt land.

The next step will be the referendum on Thursday 6th May 2021 to tie in with local elections across Cheshire East. Further details will become available to view on the Parish Council notice board and also on the website.

Sarah Greenwood
Chair - AENP Steering Committee

Alderley Edge Medical Centre



Let us start 2021 by paying tribute to all our patients, colleagues and staff for their exceptional levels of understanding and cooperation during these challenging times. It is testament to our partnership and community that we have managed to get this far so thank you, sincerely from all of us here at the practice.

Major incidents such as this bring out the best in people. We have been humbled by the amount of good wishes and thanks we have received and it has kept us going through some of the darker days. We too have had to cope with illness, isolation, home schooling and bereavements and send our condolences to those who have suffered and lost during the last twelve months.

The COVID vaccination programme is well underway. Dr Hunsley and our practice manager Shaun have been instrumental in managing the biggest logistical challenge we have ever undertaken, working in partnership with our fellow Primary Care Network (PCN) colleagues in Chelford, Handforth and Wilmslow. Some of you may have been vaccinated by our ex-partner Dr Helen Hall who has worked tirelessly (despite being retired) manning the phones at 111 and delivering the vaccinations with our dedicated nursing and administrative team.

Dr Merchant also spent much of 2020 working for 111. Dr Thompson has been helping us greatly during staff sickness and isolation periods by covering surgeries as a locum. No rest for the wicked! Unfortunately due to the vaccination programme being rolled out so rapidly in the middle of our usual winter pressure time, some non urgent services have been put on hold but we will start them again as soon as we are able.

Love it or hate it, our online consultation tool, Klinik, has been launched and is now the mainstay of speedy access to the practice. We are contractually obliged to provide an online consulting tool and decided that Klinik offered the most user friendly interface for patients. They are responsive to development suggestions and are working with us to improve the system all the time. We are still acclimatising to this different way of working which has enabled us to keep everyone shielded and socially distant when it was unsafe to have large numbers of people in the surgery building.

Whilst we desperately miss the face to face aspect of primary care, it has allowed us to quickly identify and deal with those patients in most need of clinical attention. Most interactions are dealt with by telephone, some with text messages and video and a smaller number of face to face interactions where safe and appropriate to do so. The doors may be closed but we have been open the whole time and continue to serve the community, albeit in a slightly different way. If you have a medical problem that self care or the pharmacy can't solve then we urge you to contact us.

There are some new faces around the building now – our locum Dr Jess Searle is now working 2 days a week as a salaried doctor, we have a superb GP trainee Dr Naz Ahmed and have medical students rotating throughout the year. We pride ourselves on being an excellent teaching practice and have a long legacy, with several ex-trainees being brought into the permanent staff. Dr Speake is our lead trainer and Dr Garvey will be a qualified GP trainer before too long. Having trainees around keeps us fresh and on our toes so we can deliver the best possible care. Our GP trainees are experienced and fully qualified doctors who have chosen to become specialists in general practice.



It is lovely to be able to offer a quick update via the Parish Newsletter but we would encourage you to keep a regular check on our website: <https://www.alderleyedgegp.co.uk/> where you will find the link to klinik: <https://access.klinik.co.uk/contact/alderley-edge-medical-practice>. Things are moving so fast that we try to update these regularly and I aim to update weekly on our twitter page @alderleyedgegp – please follow us for regular practice news.

So let us wish you a happy and healthy 2021. It is unlikely to be easy but if we work together with optimism and cooperation we can make the best of it and start getting back to normal. Please continue to follow the government's guidance on lockdown, social distancing and hygiene precautions. Kindly don't contact the practice to ask for your COVID vaccine, we will contact you when it's your turn and it won't be long now.

Stay safe.

Dr Vicki Taylor

GP Partner, Alderley Edge Medical Practice



Festival Hall *Thank You!*

Thank you for supporting the Festival Hall in 2020. Whilst we remain closed in accordance with government guidelines, we are busy taking bookings for later this year and 2022!

If you're planning a Wedding, Christening, Anniversary, Birthday, Celebration of Life, or just want a get together in this fantastic facility in the heart of Alderley Edge please get in touch to see how we can help you celebrate.

enquiries@aefestivalhall.com

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Alderley Edge Park

As many residents will know, 'our' Park is not owned by the Village. It is owned by Cheshire East Assets and maintenance work is controlled by ANSA, a Cheshire East Service Provider.

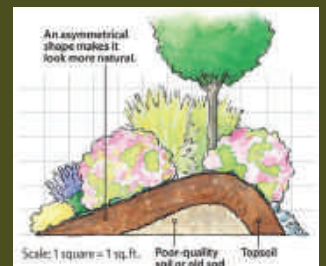
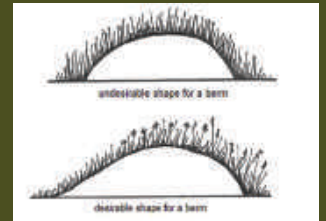
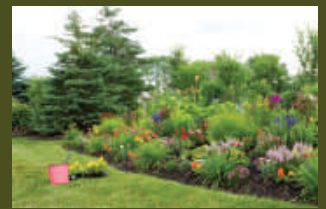
Over the past two years we have endured two 'occupations' of the Park by traveller communities, and to ensure that we were not targeted again the Parish Council took steps to insert 'hard barriers'. This action wasn't really supported by Cheshire East but it seemed sensible and timely to us to take immediate action.

By any standards, these huge orange blocks are not pretty but in the summer of 2020 they were only designed to be a temporary measure whilst our landlords came up with a plan to secure 'their' Park more effectively. To date there has been no positive action put forward so the onus to protect the Park still lies with us.

The Parish Council is anxious to take more permanent action and there are ways in which we can create effective barriers that are, shall we say, horticulturally more pleasing to the eye! In the absence of any supporting action from Cheshire East we feel we are forced to take this action as the orange barriers do carry a monthly cost that cannot be sustained indefinitely. Nor is this cost discounted in any way due to the shocking colour!

Our worry is that 'funding a clearing and cleaning up exercise' after yet another occupation might be deemed a more economic approach by Cheshire East than funding effective barriers. For those in our community who have played a part in the last 'clean ups' and who know what a grizzly task that is, this approach is clearly unacceptable.

We have plans - and will continue to push those forward. For the moment, the Park is secure.



Paws for Thought

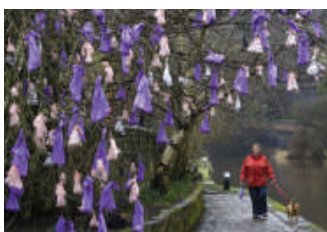
The Parish council along with community organisations are wanting to raise awareness and give a gentle reminder to all dog owners that they must pick up any mess made by their 'best friend'.

Dog fouling is not only unpleasant, but a risk to public health due to the risk of Toxocariasis. This is an infection caused by roundworm *toxocara canis*. Eggs of the parasite can be found in sand or soil contaminated with dog faeces and if swallowed can result in an infection and can cause blindness. The most common areas that are found to be infected are in play areas and this is why toxocariasis most commonly affects children between 18 months and 5 years.

In and around our village, unfortunately you don't have to walk far before you come across a pile on the footpath and for those that take their best friends down the fields for a run, this also needs to be picked up! A field is not just a field, it is a crop, be it to feed humans or more so around here, to feed cattle, and if faeces gets into their feed then this can cause *Neospora caninum* which can result in cattle aborting their calves. And for those of you that do 'scoop the poop', please ensure you bin it instead of hanging it on a tree for all to see.

And what better way of getting the message across with the help from the children of the village...

Competition time! We are asking for children to design a poster that will be put up in and around the village in the most affected areas to make the reluctant non scoopers, scoop up! Posters need to be no more than A4 portrait, with first name of child and parents contact on the back.



These can be posted into the Union Club, Steven Street by Sunday 28th of March. The winning entries will receive Easter goodies and their artwork displayed around the village.

Brian Potts

Brian Potts sadly died in early February 2021, aged 84. A great character who will be much missed by so very many friends.

Brian Potts spent his entire life in Alderley Edge. Employed as a farm worker at Ryleys Farm, Brian was always a well known Village character.

A wise and knowledgeable gardener all his life, Brian quickly established himself as a mainstay of Chorley Hall Allotments, with a large plot facing the 'Allotment Shop' as it was known then. Here he built a large, heated greenhouse which still stands proudly today.

Brian was a quiet, softly spoken soul who loved watching the world go by from one of the benches on the London Road. Many residents will have sat with him over the years. He did like a chat!

Painful muscles and hands that didn't work very well anymore slowed Brian down in his last years to the point where he needed more and more care at home.



AECPS MUGA Appeal latest



Wow – what a response!

Everyone at Alderley Edge Community Primary School has been blown away by your generosity and community spirit. When we asked for your support in making our vision of a first-class school and community sports facility a reality, none of us could have imagined that just a few months later we would be £43,000 closer to making it happen. Your generosity means that we have now raised £73,000 of our £120,000 target!

As we come to the end of a hugely challenging year, we are all immensely grateful to be part of such a supportive community. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed – do please remember to leave us your address details so that we can send you a thank you and boost your donation by 25% through Gift Aid.

If you can help us maintain this momentum, we hope to build a fully-accessible, all-weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) with a playing surface suitable for football, hockey and netball next summer. This will be a fantastic community asset and will improve the physical and mental health of our village's children for years to come.

If you haven't yet had the chance to support us, you can get in touch with us at PTA@AECPS.org.

Direct donations can be made into the AECPS MUGA fund (using the Reference "MUGA CD")
AECPS PTA Business Account Number 11011343, Sort Code 01-00-13
Cheques can be made payable to AECPS PTA

OR if you fancy the chance of winning £25,000 while supporting a good cause, why not join our PTA Lottery?
(<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/alderley-edge-community-primary-school>)

**"THANK YOU" ON BEHALF OF ALL THE LOCAL CHILDREN WHO WILL
BENEFIT FROM YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Your voice at Cheshire East

Cllr Craig Browne, Deputy Leader, Cheshire East Council

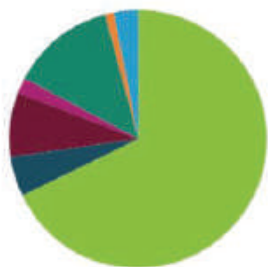
Cheshire East 4-Year Plan: following a meeting of full council on Wednesday 17th February, Cheshire East Council has approved its new Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy; this will be the first time in the Council's history that it has produced a budget that is balanced across each of the next four years – no mean feat under ordinary circumstances, but an unprecedented achievement during a global pandemic. In order to help meet the costs of the pandemic, we have had to

increase Council Tax by 4.99% next year; however, the plan envisages much more modest increases of just 1.99% in each of years two, three and four.

Residents sometimes ask me what their money is spent on and are often surprised to learn that nearly 70p in every pound is used to support vulnerable adults and looked-after children, both of which are statutory services.



How is £1 of your council tax spent?



Social care services	68p
Waste management and street cleaning	13p
Education support like home to school transport	8p
Highways and public transport	5p
Museums, parks, libraries	3p
Homelessness and planning	2p
Licensing, elections, trading standards	1p
Total	£1



Highways Repairs: it is a source of some frustration to me that more of the funds that are spent on social care services cannot be ploughed into improving the condition of our roads and footpaths. Only 5p in every pound raised in Council Tax can be spent on these repairs, which is simply not enough to return the network to a state of repair that most residents and businesses would like to see. Similarly, as government is trying to meet the costs of the pandemic, Cheshire East has seen a 23% cut in the funds it receives from the Dept for Transport for road maintenance. I have recently gone on record as saying that with this level of funding, the condition of our roads is only going to get worse; however, we do what we can do with the funds available and I was delighted recently to secure some patching work on Moss Lane (outside Alderley Edge Cricket Club).

Gully Emptying: with pressure on local authority finances being at unprecedented levels, I have been pushing for Town & Parish Councils to be given greater opportunity to buy extra services into the annual programme, in line with their local priorities; with this in mind, I encouraged Alderley Edge Parish Council to take part in a pilot project where additional gully-emptying was bought in from a private contractor. The pilot was successful and over a two-day period, we were able to empty a number of gullies that had not been emptied for many years along Davey Lane, Oakfield Road, Heywood Road, Trafford Road, Moss Lane, Moss Road and Chorley Hall Lane. Cheshire East Highways will continue to empty gullies on primary routes, Town & Parish Councils will be able to pay for additional services on secondary routes (e.g. residential streets). The pilot will be extended to other areas of the borough over the course of the coming year.



Litter Bins: back in the summer, all Cheshire East Ward Members were invited to nominate local organisations to receive a small grant (through the Cleaner High Streets Fund) to encourage them to make minor improvements to the public realm. Naturally, I nominated Alderley Edge Parish Council and as a result two new litter bins have been placed on order. Following consultation with the Alderley Edge in Bloom Group, the first of these new bins is now in place by the Bus Stop on Wilmslow Road and consideration is being given as to where to place the second one. Working with local resident, Karen Robinson, we have been speaking to residents on the Bollin Fields Estate with a view to it being placed at the junction of Beech Close/Elmfield Road.

CONTACT THE COUNCIL: PARISH CLERK - ANNE ROSS CILCA

Alderley Edge Parish Council, Festival Hall, Talbot Road, Alderley Edge. Cheshire SK9 7HR
Tel: 01625 582150 email: clerk@alderleyedge-pc.gov.uk www.alderleyedge-pc.gov.uk