

New Wards and Area Working Opportunities

Discussion Paper

Purpose of paper

The purpose of this paper is to consider Rural West Area Partnership Board's response to the new ward boundary changes and the opportunity to discuss with parish councils ways that the APB can provide improved support to address shared issues and priorities.

Introduction

With the recent confirmation of the new electoral wards in Cheshire West and Chester and local council elections taking place in May 2011 an opportunity exists to open informal discussions with parish councils about improved area working arrangements, gaps in local services and the effective use of limited resources.

One consideration for parish councils located in the new wards is the potential to work in partnership within "clusters" of parishes that share similar priorities.

An initial assessment of the new wards indicates that there may be a number of parishes that share common issues. For example looking at just 3 of the new wards within Rural West, **Tattenhall, Saughall & Mollington** and **Gowy** many common issues can be seen that may be addressed through improved collaborative working.

Tattenhall Ward:

(Foulkstapleford, Hatton, Huxley, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall, Handley & District, Beeston, Burwardsley, Broxton, Tattenhall & District.)

There are two parish plans within this Ward, **Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall** and **Tattenhall**. The former is currently under review to be refreshed. Broxton is currently considering creating a Parish Plan and Village Design. There are variety of successful community groups and projects within the ward.

Saughall & Mollington Ward

(Puddington, Capenhurst & Ledsham, Saughall & Shotwick, Mollington)

Again there are currently two Parish Plans within this ward, **Saughall and Shotwick**, and **Mollington**. **Puddington** has also reached stage 3 of the Parish Plan process. Saughall & Shotwick Parish Council make good use of their website and provide a great deal of information to their residents. This could prove useful for communications. **Lea-by-Backford** has close ties with Mollington and share a Parish Clerk and website.

Gowy Ward

(Dunham-on-the-Hill, Alvanley, Manley, Mouldsworth, Ashton Hayes, Barrow.)

This ward also has two Parish Plans, **Ashton Hayes and Barrow**. Dunham-on-the-Hill is currently consulting more widely on a possible Parish Plan with Alvanley also considering starting a plan. Ashton Hayes is looking to be the first carbon neutral town so already has a very active community.

A "Time Bank "has been set up to cover both Ashton Hayes and Barrow demonstrating good public participation and community focus. Ashton Hayes has also set up a community run shop.

The above is only a brief assessment of the potential opportunities within 3 of the new wards. **Appendix A** looks at some of the more tangible actions that neighbouring parish councils are striving to deliver as identified within their parish plans. It could be assumed similar opportunities exist within the other new wards in Rural West.

It is recognised that identifying shared issues and priorities require more than a table top exercise and it is for communities to agree what is important or needs improving. It is suggested that by working with parish councils and communities to identify possible geographic areas of interest will enable the APB to gain a better understanding of the needs of communities and the support they need to achieve improved outcomes.

Recommendations

- 1. Undertake informal discussions with local councils within the new wards to obtain views on:**
 - a) Opportunities for collaborative working between parish councils within the new wards of Rural West.**
 - b) Opportunities to achieve common or shared outcomes for communities as identified within their parish.**
 - c) Identify what support parish councils and communities need from the APB to help deliver improved outcomes for communities**

Appendix A

Tattenhall & District and Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Parish Plans

Shared Parish Level Priorities

Children and young people

Tattenhall

“Explore ways to provide more play equipment for toddlers and playground facilities for the under 12’s”

Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall

“Explore potential for equipping a village green with simple play equipment, e.g. wooden logs, miniature maze.”

Community Activities

Tattenhall

“Discuss the results of the surveys with the Recreation Club for consideration in their future plans”

Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall

“Explore potential for a joint hall’s discussion group to progress future improvements and social programmes.”

Communications

Tattenhall

“Look for innovative ways to engage the local community in taking charge of its future and the work of the Parish Council, including:

- ***Developing a communication plan***
- ***Providing a welcome pack for village newcomers”***

Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall

“Make better use of PC Newsletter with advance publication dates and content that better reflects community issues”

“Explore potential for use of the Stone Lock Length man’s Hut as information point for canal and village”

Planning / Housing

Tattenhall

“Investigate all means possible to meet the community’s views relating to affordable housing, including:

- ***The feasibility of developing a Village Housing Trust***
- ***The possibility of developing positive relationships with those who administer rented property in the parish to secure priority for local people***
- ***Consider extending the level of consultation to investigate support for local hamlet housing plans”***

Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall

“Re-survey of the demand for local affordable housing, either by public meeting or further focused questionnaire and reviewing sustainability issues including information from the Transport Survey on commuting

Identify sites with the potential for small-scale housing development and review these against the development of current planning guidance

Identify those buildings which are, or may be, classed as ‘redundant’, available for alternative use, and consider support for appropriate schemes, particularly in the context for any proposals involving affordable housing.”

Ashton Hayes and Barrow Parish Plans

Shared Parish Level Themes

Activities

Ashton Hayes

“Assemble details about existing leisure clubs, activities and societies.”

“Promote existing village leisure amenities.”

“Create a feasibility study for the provision of new leisure activities...”

Barrow

“Retention of village activities: coordinate long-term planning and seek wider involvement.”

“Village Hall: consider uses for spare capacity.”

“Youth Club facilities: consider the need for pavilion extension.”

Environment

Ashton Hayes

“To provide flowerbeds”

“To maintain the existence and nature of the green spaces.”

“To provide seating [around the Parish]”

Barrow

“Environment Group to be established...”

“Instigate production of biodiversity audit.”

“Wild flowers: Inform public on regulations. Consider developing wild flower meadow schemes.”

“Create a forum for farmers and residents to share understanding of stewardship and issues.”

Planning

Ashton Hayes

“To create a Village Design Statement.”

Barrow

“Commission Village Design Statement and seek adoption as supplementary planning document.”

Housing

Ashton Hayes

“To investigate the provision of future housing development to meet local needs.”

Barrow

“Consider case for proactive policy on new housing: establish the extent of need and identify potential sites.”

“Discuss with City Council planners and initiate consultation with residents.”

Transport

Ashton Hayes

“Investigate ways in which the availability and use of public transport can be improved.”

Barrow

“Lack of transport for those without cars: expand the use of mini-bus. Review delivery schemes.”

Road safety

Ashton Hayes

“To create safer environment for all pedestrians.”

“To reduce [parking] obstructions and increase visibility on roads and pavements.”

Barrow

“Press for pedestrian crossing.”

“Renew speed and monitoring and liaise with Police.”

Saughall & Shotwick, Mollington Parish Plans and Lea-by-Backford

Shared Parish Level Themes

Planning

Mollington

***“Resist development outside the old “envelope” and the hotel/business park area.”
“Develop a supplementary planning document on the basis of the Mollington Parish Plan.”***

Saughall & Shotwick

“The Parish Council will support regeneration of derelict sites within the village and encourage new industry/business etc. to establish themselves and provide job opportunities.”

Housing

Mollington

“There is no significant call for affordable housing but some “downsizing units”.“

Saughall & Shotwick

***“Lobby as appropriate in an attempt to ensure that the needs of residents and their families [for affordable housing] are met in the Parish.”
“Work with Chester Housing Partnership to identify suitable opportunities.”
“Encourage the use of the proposed site off Lodge lane for affordable housing.”***

Lea-by-Backford

“The local need for small retirement type accommodation will be incorporated in a later questionnaire.”

Transport

Mollington

“Investigate and publicise alternatives such as the Community Car, Dial-a-ride and Women’s Safe Transport schemes.”

Saughall & Shotwick

***“Introduce car sharing schemes.”
“Promote the environmental benefits of using public transport.”***

Lea-by-Backford

“To publicise Chester District Community Car Scheme.”

Road safety

Mollington

“Continue speed monitoring in Well Lane to provide supporting evidence for traffic calming.”

Saughall & Shotwick

***“Educate residents and visitors to “Kill their Speed”.“
“Look at ways to reduce the general speed of traffic.”***

Lea-by-Backford

“Establish a working group to make recommendations to the Parish Council in order to reduce the speed of traffic throughout the Parish.”