

AUDLEM PARISH PLAN

'Village of the Year'

2005

By the Village - For the Village

November 2005



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to all those who have helped with the production of this Parish Plan.

Steering Group: Judy Benson; Bob Cartwright (chair); Roland Hall; Mike Hill (Parish Council Representative); Sarah Johnson; Kate Parkes; Greville Watts

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Planning Working Group: Bill Campbell; Shirley Firth; David Latchford (chair); Greville Watts

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Law & Order: There was no Working Group. This section was drafted by Bob Cartwright and approved by the Steering Group and discussed with PC Ken Maple

Traffic & Environment Working Group: Jennifer Chapman; Mike Dewhurst; Frank Edwards; Mike Hill; John Kemble; Gary Meadows (chair); Rachel Woollam

Communications Working Group: Bob Cartwright (chair); John Gunstone; Margaret Roberts; Pam Seddon; Bill Slater

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AUDLEM PARISH PLAN – 2005

INTRODUCTION

Parish Plans are being drawn up by rural communities throughout the country as a way of involving people in the development of their local community. Work on Audlem's plan began in November 2004 and a year has been spent developing this document. This, however, is only the start of the process if this project is to be a success.

The Plan is not meant to create some short-term interest and then gather dust on a shelf. It is instead an Action Plan, setting out what people want for the future and how we can make things happen. Short, medium and long-term goals have been included. Some will require external support and funding but most can be achieved by ourselves.

National award. The vast majority of us like living in Audlem and we plan to stay in the area. We have some issues but, compared with life in most of Britain and elsewhere, they are not huge and can be tackled with a reasonable chance of success. There is also a strong sense of community which, it appears from your comments, has been getting stronger over recent years. And, judging by the number of volunteers that have helped produce this Parish Plan, and those who make so many other things happen in Audlem, there will be no shortage of people to carry out the Action Plans.

We have kept one fact in mind throughout. A fifth of Audlem's inhabitants are under 19. This plan has to be for them as much, if not more, than anyone else. They

are the future and this plan, if it is to have any real point, must address their needs for years to come, hence some of the bigger ideas in the following pages, such as new sports and social facilities.

Over thirty people have worked on the Working Groups looking at issues and drawing up the Action Plans. Over two hundred gave us their views by completing questionnaires. Others attended public meetings. The Steering Committee set up by the Parish Council to oversee the work has attended many meetings and given an enormous amount of time and effort to help produce this report. A big thank you to all who have been involved.



We start with some great advantages. Audlem has just won three major awards including 'Cheshire Village of the Year', has won the Regional round covering the North of England and is one of five finalists for the

We hope you find the following pages of interest and will welcome your comments and any offers to get involved and to help make this Parish Plan work.



FOREWORD BY RICHARD FURBER, CHAIRMAN OF AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

With Audlem the current Cheshire Village of the Year, winner of the Most Vibrant Village in Cheshire and also winner of the 'Building Community Life' award for 2005, I was pleased, but not surprised, to see that the Parish Plan survey showed that virtually everyone liked living here and planned to stay in the area.

The Parish Council is here to look after the interests of the village, to keep what we like and try and get what we want for the future. Many people in Audlem, it appears, want precisely the same. I was enormously encouraged by the numbers that turned out for two recent public meetings organised by the Parish Council to discuss the Canalside Yard development on Shropshire Street. Seeing people really getting involved in Audlem's future is just what I want to see. I am sure that the interest aroused by this Parish Plan will help to build an interest in what we can do as a community.

We have seen enormous changes in recent years. The number of events organised by, for example, ADAS, ASET and the Festival committee, has increased to an amazing extent. The organisers put in a huge amount of work to make them happen and it's wonderful to see the events grow in their popularity and success. They all help to make Audlem the vibrant place it is.

However, there are some issues that threaten the quality of life in Audlem and members of the Parish Council are working with various village representatives to address these. Your responses to the questionnaire this year raised some serious concerns: traffic generally, and in particular the number of heavy goods vehicles going through the village; the shortage of affordable housing; the growth of vandalism and anti-social behaviour among some sections of the village youth, and the lack of sufficient sports facilities for all age groups. All these issues are now firmly on our agenda as a Parish Council.



Richard Furber receives the Vibrant Village Award from Cheshire Community Council's Derek Bowker and Sylvia Batty.

The Audlem Parish Plan is full of ideas for the future. It is important that as many people as possible get involved to turn these plans into reality. The Parish Council will use the Plan as a guide during the annual planning and budgeting process. It is also my hope that the Parish Plan will be re-visited and updated on a regular basis.

I am particularly delighted with the village website which is a comprehensive record of Audlem and its many and varied interests.

My thanks to Bob Cartwright, chairman of the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee and Working Groups, who did all the research and assembled the Plan. I commend it to you.

Richard Furber



HOW THE PLAN HAS BEEN PRODUCED

Parish Plans are part of a process initiated by the 'Rural White Paper' in 2000 which set out the Government's plans for rural areas. Funding for this and other Parish Plans has been provided by the Countryside Agency and support was offered and taken in the initial stages of the process from Cheshire Community Council.

The Parish Council asked a group of volunteers to form a Steering Committee in November 2004 with Mike Hill as the Parish Council's representative. Other members were Judy Benson, Bob Cartwright, Roland Hall, Sarah Johnson, Kate Parkes and Greville Watts.

Initially, each member discussed what Audlem residents liked and disliked about Audlem, and what they would like changed, with a small sample of around fifty residents. This gave a first indication of the key issues.

Two Public Meetings were then held in January 2005 which were well attended. Groups were formed at these meetings to discuss the key issues and give presentations. This led to the creation of seven Working Groups, made up primarily of volunteers from the Public Meetings. A Steering Committee member sat on each Working Group. The Groups covered:

Community Involvement including Sport & Leisure
Local Businesses including Tourism
Health & Education
Planning
Youth
Traffic and the Environment
Communications

Law & Order was not included initially because other initiatives were underway. After a number of incidents in the village, however, a Law & Order section has been added to this report.

The Steering Committee distributed a questionnaire to all Audlem Parish households in late February 2005 and the findings of this survey were used by all the Working Groups as the basis for their work.

The Working Groups were asked to produce Action Plans for publication in this Report and to include actions that were short term, medium term and, in the case of some larger projects, longer term.

The draft Parish Plan Report was then published in September 2005 on the new village website, copies were printed and a further Public Meeting held on 22nd September to discuss the draft before a suitably modified Parish Plan Report was published in November 2005.

WHAT DO WE THINK OF AUDLEM?

Questionnaires were sent to all households in February 2005 seeking residents' views on a range of issues. The questions were similar to an earlier village questionnaire from the 1976 Village Plan so that we could see how much views had changed over thirty years.

Questionnaires were also distributed to senior school pupils and a shorter version given to junior school pupils. 162 adult responses, 15 senior school and 36 junior school responses were received, a slightly disappointing 20% response rate. Responses were analysed both quantitatively (yes/no percentages etc) and qualitatively (comments received).



We really like it here

A number of clear points emerged from the Adult Survey. The vast majority (98%) like living in Audlem and most (94%) plan to stay in the area. Typical comments were 'friendly people', 'the community spirit', 'quality of life' and the 'rural village environment' with 'the canal' and 'walks' mentioned by many.

Except for the vandals and heavy traffic

Two concerns dominated what people did not like about Audlem - vandalism and traffic. There were numerous comments about gangs of youths, anti-social behaviour and the lack of a police presence. Traffic, in particular the impact of heavy goods vehicles on narrow roads, parking restrictions widely ignored and poor pavements, was a big issue for virtually everyone with 98% wanting heavy through traffic prohibited to the greatest possible extent. One lady's comment stood out – 'I know I'm not going to die in my bed but crossing Stafford Street!'

Limited growth is what we want

There was more divided opinion about the extent Audlem should be allowed to expand. 31% wanted no expansion but 66% were for limited expansion. Comments suggested expansion should be limited to infill with no expansion of the village limits. Concerns were expressed about how the village character could be lost with many referring negatively to recent developments in Nantwich and Crewe. Affordable housing was an issue for many with younger people having to leave the village.

The planned development in the village centre attracted much concern although many did want the old garage demolished. Concerns were also expressed about the Lord Combermere pub (although since the survey a major refurbishment has started) and many felt Audlem's eating out facilities were limited. Hardly surprisingly, most wanted the churches, the Butter Market, the village centre and conservation area and the canalside preserved.





Yes to small industries and tourism

The majority (88%) wanted small industries and crafts encouraged and 74% wanted tourism in Audlem developed. People said it would bring money and jobs into the village although concerns about traffic increases were raised. Better information about the village alongside the canal was raised by some and many felt improved pub, restaurant and tearoom facilities would be good for visitors and residents alike.

Education and Health

Educational facilities were seen as good by the vast majority although some wanted more adult classes and evening classes. Similarly, most were satisfied with the medical facilities although many would like an NHS dentist while concerns were expressed about weekend and out-of-hours medical cover.

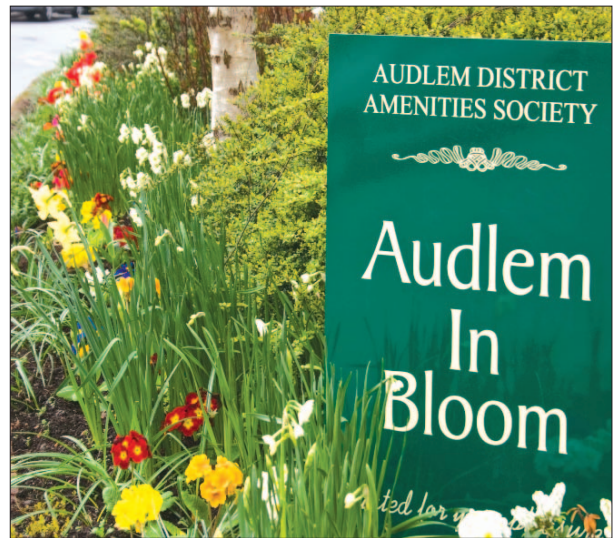
We want more recreation

Opinion was split almost evenly about sport and recreational facilities. 48% felt they were inadequate with many wanting more for the young; improved film and theatre facilities; a sports hall or sports centre and a pool. Changing facilities for football and a better pitch were also mentioned. The most popular sport pursuits were walking and cycling. There was, however, some concern about the state of some footpaths, particularly The Vale, while cycling in the immediate vicinity of Audlem was seen as dangerous with many comments about the lack of cycleways.

While 68% felt facilities for senior citizens and the less able were adequate, many felt more social events or drop-in facilities would be welcome. Most said they were happy or unconcerned about bus services but a significant number wanted more services, particularly to Market Drayton and Whitchurch and later in the evening.

Knowing what's going on

On communications there was a clear demand (86% in favour) for a village website with 70% saying they used the Internet regularly. The village website (www.audlem.org) has now been launched. While the majority were happy with the present methods of communication, many wanted fewer but better noticeboards while some asked for more regular newsletters.



Could Audlem be better?

Asked how life could be improved in Audlem, comments focused on improving the Public Hall; a police presence to cut anti-social behaviour and reducing the level of traffic.

The younger residents have their say

The Senior and Junior pupils' surveys mirrored the Adult survey with the vast majority liking living in Audlem. Heavy traffic and vandalism were again seen as the main issues. A lack of recreational facilities was a problem for the majority but walking, jogging and cycling were the main sports. A pool, skateboard park and, for the junior pupils, a toyshop, would be warmly welcomed. And a big compliment to the schools – they were well regarded by the pupils.

Have views changed since 1976?

A slightly higher proportion of residents today like living in Audlem and plan to stay here than in 1976. Today's residents are also more open to limited development of the village than in 1976 when a majority wanted no further development. People are far happier with educational facilities now than in 1976 but approval of recreational facilities has moved in the opposite direction with more now dissatisfied.

In 1976, as today, virtually everyone wanted heavy through traffic removed to the greatest possible extent. Views about developing small businesses and crafts are now more positive. There were no questions in 1976 about health service provision or the development of tourism.



AUDLEM – THEN and NOW

A significant section in this Report has been given to the history of the area. As with earlier Village Plans, such as in 1976, it is hoped that this Report will become an historical document of interest to local historians in years to come.

Audlem (population 1,790 in a civil parish of 2,348 acres) stands at the intersection of the roads from Nantwich (Cheshire) to Market Drayton (Shropshire) and Newcastle (Staffordshire) to Whitchurch (Shropshire). The Shropshire border lies close at just over a mile to the south of the village centre on the Market Drayton road and about 3 miles to the east on the road to Woore and Newcastle. The parish includes the compact and attractive hamlet of Coxbank situated about one mile to the south between the canal and A529.

The oldest part of the village is the core at the “T” intersection of the two main roads and is dominated attractively by the ancient sandstone Church of St James built on top of a walled mound.

The village is bounded on the west by the River Weaver which flows north through fine open countryside to Nantwich.

The Domesday Book’s (1086) entry for Audlem (“Aldelime”) refers only to fields, woodland, agriculture and hunting. However, by the late 13th century the church had been founded and Audlem’s market charter was granted by Edward I in 1296. Excavations to the rear of the present butcher’s shop revealed the site of a pottery kiln with contemporary vessels dated to between 1250 and 1300. It therefore seems certain that Audlem has been a significant centre of population since at least that time.

The only visible medieval building is that part of the church dated from the 14th to the 16th centuries. Buildings of the 17th century are prominently represented by Moss Hall (1616), on the north side of the village close to the canal, and the Old Grammar School (1647-55), off Vicarage Lane near the brook.





A pleasing and characterful range of buildings, with facades of the 18th to 20th centuries, line the streets radiating from the centre. They include shops, public houses and dwellings, some converted from former shops and pubs. The Butter Market alongside the church was built (or refurbished) in 1733. The imposing Methodist Chapel dates from 1863 and, helped by its recent extension, plays an important part in the secular as well as the religious life of the community. The village extends about half a mile to the north, east and west along the main access roads. Some new housing estates, built mainly in the 1970s, have added considerably to the population and have markedly changed the appearance of many parts of the village.

In the eastern part, just north of the Woore road, lies a small and distinctive group of older houses known as Salford which includes the attractive Baptist Chapel (1840).

For a hundred years from the middle of the nineteenth century the population was more or less static at around 1300 to 1500. Because of some boundary changes it is difficult to be precise about trends. During this period, indeed for centuries before, agriculture was the driving force for the local economy and the main employer. The village, being by far the largest in its

immediate area and at some distance from larger towns in the days of slow transport, was substantially self-sufficient for services and day-to-day necessities. The original staple products of oats, potatoes and hay gave way to livestock and dairy production as the nineteenth century progressed. But there was also substantial employment in supporting trades such as milling, brick making, rope making, boot making, agricultural engineering, blacksmithing and wheelwrights, as well as in the many retail shops, inns and public houses. Of the formerly numerous mills in the district, only two buildings survive within the parish boundary – Kingbur Mill (now the canal shop) and Swanbach Mill close to where Audlem Brook joins the River Weaver.

Social life, in days of a great deal less leisure, and as exemplified by Audlem Wakes of which we have a record back as far as 1812, was rough and boisterous according to the custom of the era. It included bull and bear baiting, also cock fighting.

Roads were improved with the creation of two turnpikes in the late eighteenth century, which became the basis of the current intersecting A525 and A529. There was a toll bar at Brown's Bank and a toll house (demolished in 1947) at the corner of the Market Drayton road in Audlem.



Further employment and activity were created by the construction of the Birmingham and Liverpool Canal between 1827 and 1835, and the Nantwich and Market Drayton Railway in 1863. The railway was never an economic success and Audlem Station was finally closed in 1964. Only slight traces of the line now remain on the west side of the village. However the canal, now known as the Shropshire Union, has given the village a very beneficial legacy. Though commercial carrying virtually ceased in the 1950s, it was almost immediately followed by the development of the leisure boating industry which in recent years has brought tens of thousands of visitors through the village each year. The flight of 15 locks in a mile and a half raises the canal 93ft in the Shropshire direction. With its attractive wharf and well-kept towpath, it is also a magnet for walkers and casual visitors.

The Modern Village

The past thirty years or so can be seen as a period of rapid change and a watershed in the long history of Audlem. Agriculture, with increasing mechanisation and the use of contract services, is no longer a significant employer in the village. Just over a quarter of the population is aged 65 or more and, of those in work, nearly

a third is in managerial or professional jobs. About three quarters of the employed travel to work by car, sometimes to quite distant places.

The Village Plan published in 1976 was drawn up at a time of rapidly increasing population associated with the building of new housing estates. There was understandably great concern about the effect of these on the character and appearance of the village, indeed the report noted that “parts of Audlem began to look like suburbia” and “the charming area around the canal wharf and its approaches has suffered”. There was a strong recommendation that no

further estates should be built. Although some minor infilling was considered acceptable, the village had lost 12 acres of green land within the settlement boundary, and there was a strong plea that some of the remaining green spaces should be kept open in perpetuity.

The heart of the village was designated a conservation area by Cheshire County Council in 1969. The 1976 Village Plan recommended various extensions. These were in due course adopted for Salford and the Woore road as far as Paddock Lane, also for Coxbank, but not for Little Heath, Copthorne or Swanbach.





The other main concern of the 1976 Plan was the heavy traffic through the village, particularly on the east-west A525, a problem which is still with us today. An RAC study had shown that an alternative route on the A53 to the south, though slightly longer on mileage, was quicker and needed fewer gear changes for heavy vehicles. In the 1960s a village bypass had been proposed and three different routes surveyed. However the schemes did not survive a cost/benefit analysis by the authorities.

The 1976 Plan and associated activities by enterprising residents led to a number of successes. The Old Grammar School and the Stafford Street cottages were saved from potential demolition. The bus services (Crosville) were improved, a playground provided and a Youth Club formed. However, the WI Scrapbook of 1951 mentions that a Youth Club was formed in 1943.

Community activities gathered strength and developed to the point that they attract large numbers of visitors from well beyond the normal catchment area of the village, as well as contributing significantly to local funds. The early summer Carnival, which is thought of as a successor to the nineteenth century harvest Wakes, dates from the 1960s, and has more recently become a long weekend incorporating the Arts and Music Festival. The Public Hall is now being used for more events. The Amenities Society, the Parish Council and various entrepreneurial sub-groups have added to the annual festivities - the Pantomime (January), "Proms in the Park", the "Funky Weekend" for young people,



the Festival of Transport and the Open Gardens Weekend (all in July), the November 5th Bonfire, Carols in the Square at Christmas and Fireworks on New Year's Eve. Indeed, there are now so many summer events that the bunting in the village centre stays up for months.

This is also a village fully conscious of its ancient history. Notable in this context were the historical pageants held at Highfields in 1969 and 1983, and the celebrations in July 1996 of the 700th anniversary of the granting of Audlem's market charter. Many of the booklets on Audlem's history were written in this period, possibly helped by the growing presence in the village of retired professional people. A full history of Audlem, incorporating much of the research previously printed in small booklet form, was published by The Local History Group in 1997.



Crime and vandalism have always been with us but some may look back with nostalgia to the era when the village had a police station from which problems could be dealt with swiftly and effectively. The first station was built in Salford in 1853 and this was replaced in 1901 by the substantial brick building (now a private house) in Cheshire Street near to the present car park. There was a resident policeman in the village until as recently as 1989. Fortunately, at least the Volunteer Fire Brigade, formed in 1899, remains a reassuring presence today.



Notable changes in the village centre in recent years include the conversion of the former Crown and Lamb Hotels into dwellings, happily without major harm to the street scene in this conservation area. A further substantial change seems likely with the current planning application to redevelop Canalside Yard following the closure of the filling station and the termination of the leases for the Reclamation Yard and the Farm Feeds business. It is interesting to recall that the Yard had been an important trading centre and source of employment since 1888 when James Moseley founded his ironmongers and bicycle shop there. In the 1960s sixty men were employed in general building, car repairing and ironmongery retailing.

The conversion of commercial premises to housing, with consequent loss of local employment and amenities, has been a nationwide trend in recent years. It has been fuelled by greater affluence and mobility, and the desire to live in or adjacent to open countryside rather than in urban surroundings. The result is that much countryside housing, and this is particularly true of Cheshire's villages, has increased even faster in value than the nation's housing stock as a whole. This can exclude the less affluent with a loss of the traditional mixed income community which gives vitality to villages.

REPORTS FROM THE PARISH PLAN WORKING GROUPS

This section of the Parish Plan consists of the reports from the seven working groups, plus a summary of Law & Order issues approved by the Steering Group. The

Action Plans from the Working Groups can be found on Pages 25 to 33.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT including SPORT & LEISURE

It was clear from the comments at the first public meetings that Audlem benefits from the tremendous range of activities that take place in the Village. However, although it was recognised the various community groups, clubs, societies and organisations deserved great credit for their contribution to village life, nearly half of those who responded to the questionnaire wanted more recreational facilities. This view was repeated in both the children's and youth comments.

- iii) Further support for music, art, drama and culture
- iv) Better recreational footpaths, way marked trails, nature reserves and cycle ways
- v) Continued improvements to the Public Hall
- vi) The requirement for a comprehensive upgrade of sports facilities, including changing rooms, possible fitness gym, Astroturf pitch, Skateboard Park and modern Sports/ Leisure Centre.

The Community Involvement Working Group has taken into account feedback from all sources and its prime aim has been to develop ideas and issues that will build on the good work of many people over a number of years. At the same time we have looked at what is needed for the future, particularly for the younger people. The topics that received most comment and therefore attention were:-

- i) The need for comprehensive up to date details of the activities that take place in Audlem, both for existing and new residents
- ii) New activities for the Public Hall, such as Cinema facilities





Having looked at and examined all these comments the Group has prepared the 'Action Plan for Community, Sport and Leisure'. Some 'Actions' will be achieved quickly while others will take many years. Where we can implement a worthwhile interim solution before the final proposal, then we will do so taking into account the costs and benefits.

The most ambitious 'Action' is the proposal to look at providing a Sports Centre and Social Club. Having looked at existing land and buildings in Audlem, the Working Group felt strongly that we should try and retain the current locations in the centre of the village, but that the existing uses need to be re-appraised looking at the Public Hall, Playing Field, Play Area, Tennis Courts and Car Park as a 'greenfield site'. An initial assessment to see if this is feasible has already been commissioned. If it is not, other possible sites will be considered.

The golden rule will be that all users should end up with better facilities than at present and that in particular we should consider improvements for the younger generations who are the long-term future of the village. The key is to take into account all the land adjoining the playing field area that could be available for the proposed complex.

This is currently owned/leased by a number of parties, including Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council, Audlem Parish Council, Audlem Tennis Club, the Public Hall and British Waterways. The aim would be to expand the area that could be used towards the Canal, Cemetery and rear of the Fire Station. It is appreciated that this will need significant landscaping to obtain acceptable levels.

LOCAL BUSINESSES including TOURISM

The starting point for the Business & Tourism Working Group were the findings of the Audlem Parish Plan Questionnaire. The feedback relevant to this Group was that most respondents were in favour of developing tourism and small industries/crafts within Audlem and the majority of respondents felt that there were sufficient shops, pubs and eating places - though the quality of these was commonly mentioned.

Local Businesses

Local businesses, and in particular shops, have been in steady decline over the last 100 years in Audlem. The

A new Sports centre would be built close to the existing Public Hall and the two linked to provide the following:-

Public Hall: Redesignated for Social/Village/Entertainment use with permanent bar and lounge area. Small meeting rooms retained with snooker room.

Sports Centre with a Fitness Centre, badminton court, possibly a squash court, changing rooms and showers for all sports/events.

External Sports and Recreation: Football pitch/Events area, tennis courts, children's play area, Astroturf 5 a side football/sports pitch and skateboard park.

The Sports and Social Club would become the focal point for the Village and benefit all age groups and families and support a healthy lifestyle for everyone. The younger generation will have better facilities to keep them fit and the small minority would be less likely to cause problems.

It is recognised that the financial costs would be vast, the practical difficulties many and it could take many years to complete but the Working Group feel this is a challenge the village should accept. The last improvement to sports facilities was in 1984 when the tennis courts were refurbished and floodlights installed. With fitness a major national priority and the country hosting the 2012 Olympics, the climate for a major project over the next 5 – 7 years may be just right.

advent of the big supermarkets, increased car ownership and the commuting to work of an increasing proportion of local residents, have all had a role to play in accelerating this decline over the last 30 years. Most recognize, however, the existence of shops within the village not only adds to its vitality but also provides essential services to the elderly and convenience to other local residents.

Despite these pressures, Audlem presently has a good range of shops and food & drink outlets that are rarely found in today's British villages. These businesses rely



heavily on local residents, tourists and each other for support. There is currently a threat of losing the Post Office under its own business rationalisation scheme, and also many of the existing shops, should a major supermarket chain decide to open a mini market, as per current national trends.

was generally felt that these units would increase parking and congestion problems within the village centre.

Farming

There was a general recognition that the farming industry has changed significantly in recent times and that the impact of these trends needs to be considered. There are now significantly fewer employed in agricultural work and related trades than 30 years ago, reflecting a national, rather than localised trend.



Recent trends over the last 20 years have been for larger scale farming, contract farm operations and the conversion of disused farm buildings into housing. However, barn conversion is fast becoming something of an epidemic, and whilst it serves in many ways to reduce the pressure for green field development,

It was also recognised that there are many local tradesmen that require the support of the local community in order to prosper. An ongoing campaign is needed to encourage the use of all local businesses - the formation of a Local Traders' Association is needed to provide cohesive and coordinated action.

it is important that efforts are made to actively encourage these new residents to fully integrate into the village. Barn conversions would also make excellent office space and provide local employment. However, present government housing needs and residential house pricing make this unrealistic at present.

In terms of the Working Group's brief, concern was raised over the proposed inclusion of shops in the plans to develop the Canalside Yard on Shropshire Street, given that over the past 20 years, shops in Audlem have been declining. The results of the village questionnaire did not highlight any significant need for new shops. The concern was that these would either stand empty as has occurred previously within the village, or they would damage existing shop businesses. There was also concern that these shops may be taken over by an existing shop(s) – thus leaving the older shop frontage vulnerable to disuse and or housing conversion.

Suitable Sites for Light Industry and Service Industries

The loss of the businesses that until recently operated on the Canalside Yard development, which had not only been thriving, but had also been contributing to increasing general trade within the village, was an issue of concern. Regrettably, it would appear that there was nothing that could be done to prevent this site being changed into housing use. The pressure for building stock, and the lack of an active Rural Business Development policy by the government, would suggest that there is little prospect in the foreseeable future of any light industries developing in the village.

There were also concerns as to the lack of parking facilities for these shops for both users and employees – it



Office Space

The Working Group propose that Audlem could be promoted as a desirable place to rent office space rather than for industry to provide local employment.

Tourism

Tourism is inextricably linked with business within the village as tourism generates business for the shops, food outlets and pubs. In addition, 'attraction' to the tourist inevitably means 'attraction' for the local population with leisure activities and events. Audlem has already been identified by Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council as a key area in promoting the Upper Weaver Valley (South Cheshire) as a national tourist attraction.

Tourist Information and Communications

The following requirements were identified to successfully promote Audlem as a local tourist destination - a tourist information centre (which is now open at Williams' newsagents); a dedicated tourist information leaflet (and selective leaflet distribution); better road and canal signage; improved notice board facilities for tourists; improved references to Audlem in the canal and local interest guide books; and an active Audlem website (which is now on-line with an extensive section for Visitors).

Tourist Accommodation and Facilities

The present car parking facilities should be maintained and improved (including signage). The large car park in Cheshire St. should remain free of charge.

Accommodation such as local holiday lets, camping and caravan sites need to be promoted more actively.

Tourist Attractions

A great deal has already been done within the village in order to attract tourists. For example, the organisation of various festivals and activities that run from Spring through to the early Autumn and the planting of flowers and the addition of hanging baskets in the village centre in the Summer months. There are also the flags and

bunting in the village centre over the main events period.

Litter and vandalism were highlighted as the main concern for the overall attractiveness of the village. Litter is a particular problem on a Saturday and Sunday mornings (the aftermath of the night before) despite the best efforts of the appointed (part time) village sweeper.

Leisure Activities

Leisure activities bring visitors into the village and surrounding area. It is important that visitors to the village have sufficient parking facilities and are also encouraged by the provision of relevant information whether by leaflet, notice board and/or website. Walking in and around Audlem provides a significant draw to visitors given the beauty of the surrounding countryside. High priority should be given to promote and enhance the facilities used by walkers and ramblers.

The present farming legislation is encouraging the up keep of footpaths, under the 'Maintenance of Farming Compliance' scheme, however, there is still plenty to be done to improve existing Audlem footpaths.

Other leisure activities that are suitable tourist attractions to the village are cycling, fishing, golf and photography.





Events

Audlem already has much to offer visitors in terms of staged village events.

Some events, however, struggle to maintain both public support and/or volunteers to organise them. Added to this are the problems of insurance and Police support. Even established events may in future become vulnerable and therefore solutions need to be found to prevent this.

In addition to the existing events, suggestions have been made by the Working Group to add to these such as a craft show, agricultural show, local produce show, bygone farming exhibition, canal-themed attraction, open air theatre, fun run, farmers' market, antiques fair, TV or film location set, and a history/genealogy trail.

Buildings

New buildings: It is currently of concern that there appears to be no link between the 'Tourism' and the 'Planning' departments at local Council level. This means that planning permission could be given for buildings that could be directly opposed to tourism interests within the village.

Existing Buildings: There are many existing buildings that make the village look attractive and that are distinctive - St James Church, the Butter Market, Kingbur Mill, The Old Grammar School, Highfields and Moss Hall. The Working Group looked at how these could be used to promote Audlem, for example, by hosting special events etc. A dedicated building to provide a canal-based attraction would be highly desirable.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

As well as using the findings from the Parish Plan questionnaire, the Working Group has also sought the views of the Health and Education service providers in the village. Input from the Audlem Medical Practice, Audlem St James Church of England School and Audlem Tree House have therefore been incorporated in this report.

Health

Audlem has a well-established Medical Practice situated in the centre of the village. It is contracted with Cheshire West Primary Care Trust to provide front line medical services to the area. There are three doctors, with appropriate nursing and auxiliary support, housed together in a modern building. The Practice Manager does not foresee any major changes in the near future and is satisfied with the Practice's performance in relation to the Trust's guidelines.

Issues

Responses to the questionnaire indicate concern about recent changes to the weekend and out-of-hours service. The Practice Manager points out that these changes have resulted from the Trust's recent implementation of central government requirements. It is too early yet to assess the overall effect, but the situation will be closely monitored by the surgery.





In general, questionnaire respondents were satisfied with Health provision. A few were concerned about increasing demand on the doctors' time and would like to see better physiotherapy and chiropody services. Some would like a female doctor. It is anticipated that physiotherapy services will improve when a new surgery opens in Wrenbury.

The questionnaire shows significant demand for an NHS dentist to be located in the village.

The Practice Manager implied that there was not a significant number of drug and alcohol case referrals which she felt indicated that there is no particular drug or alcohol problem in the village. There are, in the Practice's view adequate referral and outreach services available from Crewe and the surroundings. There is, however, concern about the level of vandalism in and around the surgery's grounds and the Practice would like to see better definition of the disabled car parking bays.

When considering vocational services, particularly to the elderly, the Working Group came to the conclusion that the village has a wealth of varied clubs and interest groups. Some could be better publicised. The questionnaire reveals a desire for a Senior Citizen Centre as a meeting place and a focus for regular activities.

Access for the disabled is poor in places. Some pavements are too narrow, there is no pedestrian crossing and no disabled access to a number of shops, notably the Co-op.

Education

St. James' C.E. Primary School, situated within the village, provides primary school education for children who live within the catchment area. The school is busy and thriving, offering single year group classes throughout the school. The recent OFSTED report praises the school for its good management and links with parents and the church, after which it is named. The school also offers a rural nursery scheme each afternoon for those children who are eligible and both currently, and in recent years, this has been fully subscribed. This facility allows the younger ones to

adjust to the school environment whilst enjoying the company of others of their own age. Attached to the school is Audlem Tree House, which offers Mother and Toddler groups twice a week, Playgroup facilities each morning with a lunch club as well as a complete 'wrap around' Breakfast and After School service. The 'wrap around' service is available to all school-aged children and has enabled many parents to return to work, a vital lifeline to many families!

Secondary school children are transported by bus to Nantwich where most children attend Brine Leas School. This currently has the prestigious title of 'Specialist College of Technology' and an excellent reputation in the local area.

Issues

The Primary School is capable of meeting the community's present demand although there is a slight concern that class sizes would not be able to accommodate further housing expansion in the village. There are a total of 9 spare places within the school's current 'bandwidth'. These however are not evenly spread and certain classes are currently at capacity or oversubscribed. Should there be any expansion to the village then this would place a huge stress upon the school – resulting in applications for places being turned down. The school does not have any plans to build extra classrooms at this point as it would not be a viable or desirable option.

The Playgroup has places for 26 children and operates a points based allocation system. Both the school and Playgroup are OFSTED registered. They receive excellent reports.

Currently Crewe & Nantwich Borough Library provides a weekly service to various points in the village. There is some evidence from the questionnaire to suggest that this could be better publicised.

A few respondents to the questionnaire suggested adult education classes could be made available in the village but possible subjects were not defined.



PLANNING

Reference has already been made in “Audlem – Then and Now” to housing developments within the settlement boundary (see map) during the past forty or so years. The situation now is that with the recent conversion to housing of the two former paddocks off Church View, the addition of affordable housing to Weaver View, and the impending redevelopment of both Canalside Yard and the former garden of the derelict Moorsfield House, the opportunities for further infill are severely limited. It should be noted that the settlement boundary is tightly drawn around existing developed areas.

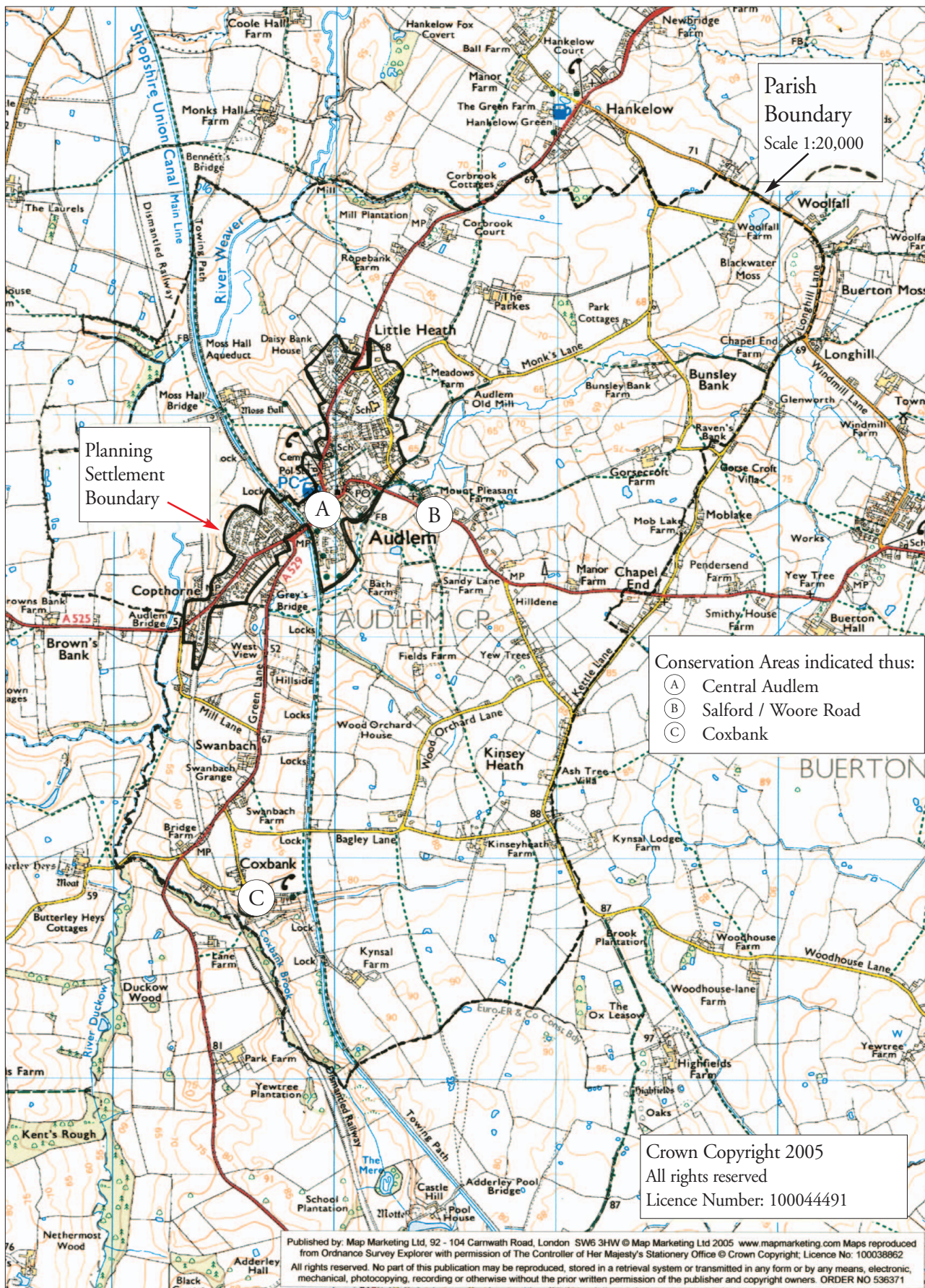
Many of the fields immediately surrounding the village have also been the subject of planning applications for housing, though these have all been refused because they are contrary to the planning policies of the Borough and higher authorities. These policies are likely to remain in force because sufficient land, with allowance for expected “windfall sites”, has already been allocated to meet the Borough’s housing targets

for at least the next ten years. The emphasis now is on new urban housing in Crewe which will assist the regeneration of the town, and provide homes close to public transport and good amenities in the interests of sustainability.

This situation has effectively been supported by an overwhelming majority of the respondents to the questionnaire, who do not wish to see any significant expansion of the village. However, two thirds were not averse to minor infilling, and there was good support for new affordable housing.

The only remaining sites with space and access for new housing are a handful of larger private gardens both within and outside the conservation areas. Outside the settlement boundary, the only policy exceptions which could allow small developments are those for agricultural dwellings, affordable housing and, possibly, the conversion of farm buildings to dwellings.







Many think it unfortunate that the government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 considers domestic gardens to be "previously-developed land" and therefore on first call for new building. As a result of pressure from developers and speculators, as well as genuine housing needs, this is resulting in the progressive loss of larger gardens from towns and villages. Moreover, because of government pressure to build at higher densities, new houses have very small gardens, if any, with consequently little or no space for larger trees. However it may be possible to limit the conversion of gardens to housing by reference to their individual:

- value to the street scene by providing an attractive break between more densely built areas. This could be a strong argument in conservation areas.
- possession of large mature trees and relatively undisturbed space for wildlife in an area otherwise short of such amenities.
- value to the community as a space for such local events as charity fairs, "open gardens" weekends etc.

It is recommended that the community should look very critically at any applications to build on the remaining green spaces if we are to limit further damage to the character and amenities of the village.

Explanation of Planning Actions

Short Term Planning Actions (next 12 months)

The village will continue to look critically but constructively at applications for development, particularly Canalside Yard, which is unresolved at the time of writing. Aspects which should in general be considered include but are not limited to:-

- the provision of affordable housing.
- the retention or creation of local employment whether in specialised retail or small business activities.
- the avoidance of additional parking or highway problems.
- the need to retain some green spaces and mature trees.
- the need to respect our architectural heritage and local distinctiveness by attention to good design, the thoughtful selection of good quality materials, and appropriate scale. These criteria do not necessarily exclude good modern designs. The imposition of repetitive pastiches of Victorian and Edwardian styles favoured by many of the mass builders, which are now to be found countrywide, should be resisted.

There is an urgent need for developers making significant planning applications, as defined by the borough's senior planning officer, to consult the people of Audlem and respond to our objections and suggestions.

The mechanisms for discussing and responding to

planning applications are already in place since all applications are notified to the Parish Council and the Audlem District Amenities Society (ADAS), and the former organises open meetings with the display of plans when appropriate. For important developments Williams' newsagents has been prepared to display plans for public viewing. Open meetings with developers and planning officials should be encouraged. This is arguably in the spirit of the Statement of Community Involvement which is part of the incoming planning system. Planning applications are also listed weekly in the Nantwich Chronicle.

Medium Term Planning Actions (1 to 3 years)

The Planning Working Group will initiate the drafting of a Village Design Statement, a scheme devised by the Countryside Agency to define in detail the appreciated aspects of the village's built environment. This will assist the preservation of the best of our heritage and will encourage sympathetic developments which provide for the future of the village without damaging the existing character.

During this period the Audlem conservation areas will be subjected to an appraisal by the Borough Council. The village will need to be actively involved in this process. The Audlem Nature Conservation Area, off Churchfields, needs to be shown in green, protected by policy RT1, on the map accompanying the Replacement Local Plan 2011. This will be possible in 2008 when the borough's Nature Conservation Plan is prepared.



Long Term Planning Actions (3 to 10 years)

In the longer term, pressures to develop open countryside by pushing out Audlem's settlement boundary could return. There is no absolute defence against this, but another Countryside Agency scheme, Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), could be used to limit or mitigate building in surrounding green fields. The gently rolling nature of our farmland has given us fine views from all sides of the village, and

valued gaps between Audlem and the adjacent villages. The Weaver valley and the canal corridor are particularly worthy of protection.

LCA is at an early stage of development and we shall need help from borough and county advisers to complete this exercise. Such assistance is at present in short supply but in a few years' time should be more readily available.

YOUTH

Based on wide-ranging consultations with the age groups concerned, the Youth Working Group is confident that the Action Plans from this Group are meaningful, well researched, achievable and supported by the children and youth of the village. It is important to remember that the under-18s represent a significant proportion of the population of the Audlem area.

- informal consultation among sixth formers at South Cheshire College.
- minutes from the Youth and Community Meeting held on 18 January 2005.

Table: Figures for the Audlem Ward*

	Male	Female	Total
0-15	329	278	607
16-19	74	68	142
Total	403	346	749

Source: Census 2001 (*The Ward covers a larger area than Audlem Parish)

The research and consultation carried out by the Youth Working Group for this Plan include:

- a questionnaire adapted from the main village questionnaire, returned by 15 secondary school age students and 36 primary school pupils.
- a simple questionnaire issued to parents at Toddler Group and Playgroup asking about their children's needs.
- consultations carried out by teachers at Audlem School with all pupils using a variety of methods – drawings, essays, discussions.
- a consultation with a sample of Audlem students at Brine Leas High School, led by a worker from the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation.
- a photography exercise done by some members of Audlem Youth Club.

Why all high priority?

The objectives for the pre-teens and teens are high priority as few facilities exist for these age groups. Teenagers hanging about with nothing to do are a major concern to the village's adults and children alike.

While playground equipment does exist, improving it and adding to it, including a water feature of some description, is clearly a high priority for many under 13s and for the parents of pre-school children.

All age groups attach high importance to outdoor seating and sports facilities. In the case of sports facilities it is particularly about making them more accessible and appropriate for children and young people.

It should be emphasised that Audlem's children and young people have many opinions in common with the adults:

- a lot of interest in water (pond, lake, fountain and swimming pool repeatedly mentioned in the surveys);
- a strong interest in nature and bike trails, flowers and an interest in the environment generally;
- film/cinema is also high on the children's wish list.
- they dislike the amount of traffic in the village
- they consider the public toilets an eyesore.



The Youth Working Group has not put these forward as Action Plans being aware that other Groups are dealing with them. It will, however, help the other Working Groups in that they can say in grant applications that the village's children and young people have been consulted and support these ideas.

Children and young people need to be consulted when these facilities are being designed. They have strong views on many village issues. Different age groups, and

girls and boys should be consulted separately – they have different perspectives on what needs to be included in the design of their facilities.

Designs and locations for the playground, outdoor seating, the Teen Zone and sports facilities will have to be integrated with plans for related sports and recreational facilities envisaged by the Community Involvement Working Group.



'Could it be possible - is this the Village you would like?'



TRAFFIC & ENVIRONMENT

Heavy Goods Vehicles

The biggest traffic issue that the Parish Plan survey in February highlighted was the number of heavy goods vehicles using the A525 as a through route. Audlem's historic road layout, which is tortuous and narrow, intensifies the problem of heavy goods vehicles within the village. The Traffic & Environment Working Group took advice from Cheshire County Council and reviewed the work undertaken by the Parish Council over the past 30 years. One of the options that the 1976 plan proposed was a bypass - this proposal was never developed and in today's society and within the timescale of the current plan, is not a viable option.

Similarly the suggestion that a weight limit be imposed to prevent through-running traffic does not appear to be a viable alternative. It would not gain support from the County Council or the Police and it would also be opposed by adjoining County Councils. Therefore the Working Group did not feel it would be appropriate to pursue this line if it is unlikely to gain support from these essential bodies.

The Working Group acknowledges that over the past 30 years the Parish Council has striven to reduce the number of lorries, but the continuing growth in national and international road transport has meant that the issue has gone from bad to worse. In addition,

there is no hard information regarding the origin and destination of the through lorries. Neither is there any information on what could be termed locally generated traffic; there needs to be some hard evidence in order to put together a definitive case.

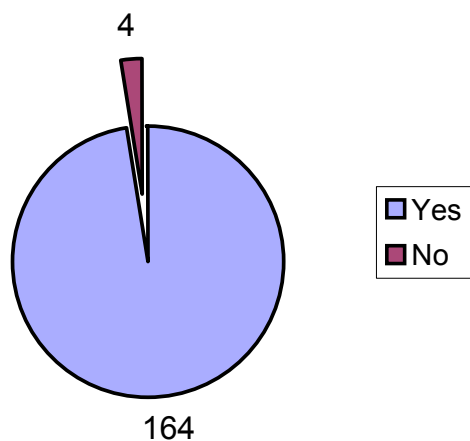
Over the last 30 years there have been significant changes, both in the road network and in the signposting and routing information, and vehicle weight limits have increased and might be heavier again in the future. These changes must also be considered as they could hold the key to reducing the number of through-running heavy goods vehicles in Audlem.

Recommendations

That the Parish Council and other local authorities renew their efforts to have the A525 de-primed, and that they adopt the following tactics to emphasise the problem:

- a) A renewed letter campaign to local, national and European politicians with special emphasis on the historic nature of Audlem, lack of footpaths, congestion, public safety and the improvement to surrounding roads which make them a more suitable alternative.
- b) That the Parish Council writes to all local industries in Wrexham, Whitchurch and Market Drayton, requesting routing via the A53. A similar letter should be dispatched to the manufacturers of navigational systems.
- c) That a petition be raised within the village and surrounding area, to support the letter campaign and any other civil action deemed necessary.
- d) Requests are made to Cheshire County Council to conduct an origin and destination survey of all East/West heavy goods vehicle traffic, and at the same time distribute leaflets with alternative routes indicated. These leaflets should be in English, French and German.
- e) That a survey is carried out using a Heavy Goods Vehicle to demonstrate that alternative routes via the A53 to the south and the A500 to the north are faster and more fuel-efficient routes than the shorter East/West route via Audlem. A similar survey in 1976 demonstrated this clearly and it is likely that with the improvements to the alternative routes since then that the arguments are now even more clear cut.

Do you think that heavy through traffic should be prohibited from Audlem to the greatest possible extent?



Taken from Audlem Parish Plan Survey 2005



Public Transport

The issue of public transport raised a number of different points within the survey. The Working Group was mindful that in a rural community it was important to maintain the current services, but that with increasing pressure to reduce the car dependence and the community's different journey requirements, it would be necessary to expand public transport within the timescale of the plan.

A survey was carried out by the Working Group relating to the timetables and current bus stop locations within the village. It was agreed that better displayed information using modern technology would benefit the future usage of the bus service. The Group feels the current locations of bus stops needs to be reviewed and, if possible, a bus stop created within the current car park. This should incorporate all the technology relating to bus availability and also allow for the creation of park and ride facilities.

Recommendations

- a) The Parish Council continues to support the current level of subsidies, and endeavours to persuade the County Council to subsidise bus services to towns outside Cheshire, in particular Market Drayton and the Potteries.
- b) A new bus stop is developed in the car park with a shelter and an electronic information system capable of providing real time information on bus arrival and departure times.
- c) That defined bus stops are established and signed with clear timetables displayed.

Road Safety

The Working Group considered the question of road safety within the village, and also discussed the issues with a representative from Cheshire County Council. Members of the Working Group also undertook a survey of the village to highlight areas of concern relating to road safety issues. From the information available from the County Council relating to road traffic accidents involving personal injuries (the criteria used by councils to determine where to invest in order to reduce road traffic accidents), Audlem does not have any sites of concern. Nevertheless, the Working Group felt that there were areas relating to pedestrian safety that could be improved, and in an age that is encouraging more pedestrian activity, that provision should be made within Audlem to encourage the safe movement of pedestrians.

Recommendations

- a) That six pedestrian crossing points be established within the village as listed below. Pavements need to be modified and the crossings need to be properly lit, signed and in keeping with the character of the village.
 1. Stafford Street at bridge over Audlem brook.
 2. Whitchurch Road at the end of Coptborne Drive.
 3. At the Bearstone in the market place to Vicarage Lane.
 4. Cheshire Street car park to the chip shop.
 5. Cheshire Street between Daisy Bank Crescent and Little Heath Close.
 6. Old Vicarage Garden to the proposed new development at Canalside Yard.
- b) Further action needs to be taken to enforce speed limits on approach roads and the Parish Council needs to ensure that additional suitable signs are provided to achieve compliance.
- c) That the Parish Council work towards achieving a 20mph zone in the centre of the village.
- d) That grass verges on narrow pavements be reduced to provide safer and wider pedestrian facilities. Hedges need to be maintained to maximise footpath widths and driver visibility.
- e) Establish a 'safe routes to school' scheme.
- f) The footpath behind the Lord Combermere to be improved for disabled access.

Traffic management

Although not high on the public survey results, the issues of car parking and the general maintenance of the road network were raised. The Working Group felt that it was important to maintain the current car parking facilities both on and off-street. If we are to maximise the use of the car park it needs to be properly marked out, and this would be helpful to encourage the development of park and ride facilities. The maintenance of the road network was an issue, but as there are only limited resources available at local level it is necessary to ensure local residents have an easy and efficient method of reporting problems so that remedial work can be undertaken.



Recommendations

- a) Existing car parking is maintained on street but the main car park needs to be properly lined out to maximise space with the correct number of properly-sized disabled bays.
- b) During the lifetime of the plan, free car parking should be maintained.
- c) A central telephone number be provided and publicised so that potholes and road surface problems can be reported quickly and repaired.
- d) If a 20mph speed limit is imposed then consideration should be given to the establishment of a pedestrianised central area stretching from the Post Office on Stafford Street to the Methodist Church on Shropshire Street. This pedestrianised area would ensure that the speed limit is adhered to, would be a deterrent to heavy lorries and would result in a safer, more pleasant central village area. Any pedestrianised area should be based on the Continental approach of clearly giving priority to pedestrians.

LAW and ORDER

Two major concerns dominated the questionnaire responses – traffic and vandalism. Many commented about small groups of youths and their anti-social behaviour, petty crimes and the apparent lack of a police presence. This situation intensified in the Spring of 2005 with three major crimes committed, two involving assaults on totally innocent individuals and one a fire above Beaman's shop, said to have been started deliberately, which led to the death of a pet and almost of the resident.

Initially, it was decided this Parish Plan was not to include Law and Order issues, largely because most of the Plan was concentrating on issues the village could tackle itself. In addition, the police had introduced Community Action Meetings, giving residents the opportunity to raise policing issues at a regular public meeting. With the various incidents attracting much comment, however, it became clear that a Parish Plan with no mention of Law and Order would be seriously flawed.

Policing appears to have improved. PC Ken Maple is now in the village regularly. It is however, because of stretched resources, a largely daytime presence and most problems occur in the evening or at night. In effect, Audlem has one policeman for 2,000 residents. London, albeit a very different community, has almost ten times as many officers with approximately one for every 250 residents.

With crimes other than vandalism on the increase, the police cover, while improved, is still very limited. Recent months have also seen robberies allegedly

involving professional thieves from the West Midlands and burglars from Crewe have been seen by the police in the village. Professional crooks are said to be targeting rural communities because they are so thinly policed and offer tempting targets.

CCTV has been installed on the car park and that has had, it appears, some success. More, however, needs to be done. Political pressure by the Parish Council and local Borough and County Councillors will help. Calls to the police by residents having problems will also help. It is understood that a recent reorganisation within the Police means that the nearest available patrol to Audlem could be as far away as Macclesfield. If the police fail to respond to a call in a reasonable time, let Councillors and the police know so that pressure for a much improved service can be made.

The Police themselves want crimes recorded. Only then can they assess the true scale of problems in the Audlem area. They recognise that many crimes are not reported because people don't expect anything to happen and in particular, no successful prosecution to result. But keeping quiet means that as far as the police and the funding providers are concerned, Audlem only needs minimal policing.

With vandalism, while it may be a vain hope with some of the perpetrators, other proposals in this Parish Plan such as improved sports facilities, might help. Regular naming of those responsible and calls to the Police might also have an effect. It is, however, an issue that needs to be addressed regularly by the Parish Council and our Borough and County Councillors.



COMMUNICATIONS

Feedback from the questionnaire highlighted a few key issues and considerable progress has been made on these. The need for a village website, supported by 86% of respondents to the questionnaire, was a priority and www.audlem.org has now been designed and launched. This contains a mass of information for residents and visitors as well as items of educational and general interest on, for example, local history, geography and wildlife.

Improved local newsletters were another key aim and a new editorial team has been appointed to edit the Parish Council Newsletter. It is hoped other local groups with newsletters may join this facility to ensure that fewer but more comprehensive newsletters are distributed in the village.

Other initiatives include improved tourist information. Work has already started on planning detailed and colourful village maps to be displayed on the car park, by the canal and possibly in the village centre. Colour coded finger signposts for a series of walks in the Audlem area are also being planned. We would also like Brown Tourist signs on nearby roads pointing to Audlem Locks to help attract more visitors. As less prestigious sets of locks and other attractions nearby

have these signs in place, this initiative will be pursued with vigour.

The questionnaire responses indicated some dissatisfaction with Notice Boards in the village. Some commented there were too many and they were confusing or out of date. This situation has already improved with the Tourist Information and Village Information Boards already updated but further changes will help. Some boards will also promote the website as it is expected that many will use this as their primary source of local information.

Regular press releases about village affairs are now being produced and circulated to local media. It is planned that at least one release a month be distributed to help raise Audlem's profile and keep local residents informed via local newspapers and radio.

The Communications Group has also proposed that an Annual Village Meeting be arranged. This should not be a typical dry AGM but a lively conference style event with speakers on a range of local issues. This event would also be useful to ensure progress is made each year on the Actions in this Parish Plan.

ACTION PLANS

The Action Plans on the following pages will form the basis of future work to ensure the actions detailed in this Parish Plan are carried out wherever possible. Those members of the Working Groups that have

produced the recommendations in this Plan who are happy to continue working, plus any new volunteers who will be very welcome, will manage the Action Plans and the associated work.



ACTION PLAN for the COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT including SPORT & LEISURE(CS&L) WORKING GROUP

Short term up to 12 months	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
1. Produce comprehensive details of all village activities	Working Group will issue to specified notice boards and website	High	Village Clubs etc	Completed September 2005	Pam Seddon	Minimal costs
2. In conjunction with Parish Council, review 'Welcome to Audlem' (for residents leaflet) with 1 above as insert NB leaflet for visitors to be produced by Tourism.	As above	High	Parish Council, Village Clubs etc	Completed September 2005	Tourism Working Group & Parish Council	Minimal costs
Medium term one to three years						
1. Research idea of Public Hall use as a Cinema, including tiered seating (also for 2 below). Consider Bingo facility	Obtain information from other locations where shown/held	Medium	Public Hall/ 'REELS on WHEELS'	June 2006	May Hunter, CS&L Working Group and Chair Public Hall	Costs to be established
2. Continue and expand support for Music, Art, Drama and Cultural Activities in Audlem	Encourage all groups to specify needs & coordinate approach/seek funding	Medium	Residents & groups eg ASET, ADAS, 5As, Festival Cttee TAVA	Ongoing	CS&L Working Group & Group representatives	Variable plus support 'in kind'
3. Proposals and leaflets etc for improved footpaths/cycleways/way-marked walks/ nature reserve for residents	Joint effort with Tourism Working group	Medium	All residents young and old!	September 2007	Joint CS&L and Tourism Working Groups	Costs to be established
Long term up to ten years						
1. Investigate feasibility of Sports /Fitness Centre/Changing Rooms linked to Public Hall as Social Club. Study to include emphasis on Youth needs- possibility of Astroturf 5-a-side/sports pitch, Skateboard park.	Initial appraisal of existing site to see what is possible by reconsidering present uses and their locations	High	The whole village – this would be centre of Community	Stage 1 March 2006. Stage 2 Funding Sept 2007 Stage 3 Completion September 2012	Steering Group/ Parish Council	Costs will be major as will planning/design and impact on existing users and neighbours Need to identify funding
2. As interim to 1 above investigate possibility of 'satellite gym' & other fitness classes in existing premises in village	Identify costs/premises/ management	Medium	The health of village residents	September 2007	Carol Chamberlain CS&L Working Group	Costs/premises Equipment £6000+. Re use in Sports Centre

September 12 2005



ACTION PLAN for the BUSINESS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP

BUSINESS						
Short term up to 12 months	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
1. Produce list of village traders	Village trade directory/ website	High	Traders	Completed September 2005	Judy Benson	Minimal
2. Opposition to further retail units in Canalside Yard redevelopment – support for office use (with parking)	Lobby Crewe & Nantwich Planning Office	High	Traders & Village residents	Ongoing	Parish Council Village Residents	Minimal
3. Promotion of local shops, tradesmen, tourist accommodation providers	Advertising on audlem.org website and in Audlem Tourist Office	Medium	Traders	Ongoing	Judy Benson	Costs recovered by private sponsorship
Medium term one to three years						
1. Form Audlem Traders' Association	Canvas existing traders	Medium	Traders	September 2006	Judy Benson	Minimal
2. Organised, cohesive advertising and promotion of village traders	Liaise Traders' Association	Medium	Traders	Ongoing	Traders' Association	Minimal
3. Safeguard Audlem Post Office and other businesses	Canvas village support	Medium	Audlem Traders and Village Residents	Ongoing	Traders' Association	Minimal
TOURISM						
Short term up to 12 months						
1a. Improve signage for canal & roads 1b. Improved tourist notice boards	Liaison Parish and Borough Councils and Waterways Board	High	Audlem traders & tourists	Completed September 2005	Chris & Rodney Cottrell	Small budget for additional canalside planting & notice boards
2. Improved tourist information facilities	Liaison Nantwich Tourist Office & Village Newsagents	High	Audlem traders & tourists	Completed September 2005	Judy Benson	£200-300. Private funding
3a. Promotion of Audlem within Upper Weaver Valley Tourist Scheme 3b. Include Brown Tourist signs	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	High	Audlem traders & tourists	3a Completed August 2005 3b Sept 2006	Crewe & Nantwich Tourist Officer, Parish Council. Working Groups	Borough Council funded



ACTION PLAN for the BUSINESS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP - *Continued*

Continued	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
4.Promotion of Audlem tourist attractions, events, on audlem.org website	Communications Working Group	High	Audlem traders & tourists	Completed September 2005	Judy Benson & Communications Working group	Costs recovered through sponsorship
5.Update/improve information & promotion of Audlem to tourists	Direct contact with publishers of popular guide books	Medium	Audlem traders & tourists	Completed August 2005	Judy Benson	Minimal costs
6.Reduce litter problems in village to improve impact	Paper boys to be paid to tidy village centre at week ends	High	Audlem traders & tourists & residents	Completed June 2005	Judy Benson	£1-200 joint private/Parish Council sponsorship
7. Republish Parish Paths Walking Guide & History Society Walking Trail	Parish Council & History Society	High	Audlem traders & tourists & residents	Completed May 2005	Parish Council	Costs met by Parish Council & History Society
Medium term one to three years						
Publication of: 1a Audlem Village Promotional Leaflet 1b Local guides for leisure activities	Liaison Parish Council & traders	Medium	Audlem traders & tourists & residents	June 2006	Judy Benson & Parish Council	Costs recovered by sponsorship
2a.Update Parish Paths walking guide 2b.to develop small network of Colour Coded footpath signs	Liaison Parish Council and other Working Groups	High	Audlem traders & tourists & residents	2a.End of 2006 2b.September 2007	2a Judy Benson & Parish Council 2b Working Groups to liaise	Funded by Parish Council
3 Encourage new attractions and events for the village	Support ASET	Medium/Low	Audlem traders, tourists & residents	Ongoing	ASET team & other organisations	Self funding
Encourage village support to organize & attend village events	Use audlem.org website, volunteers and notice boards	Medium	Audlem traders, tourists & residents	Ongoing	Communications Working group and ASET/ADAS/ Festival C'tee	Minimal
Long term up to ten years						
Secure a new small/medium scale tourist attraction project	Consult Parish Council	Low	Audlem traders tourists and village residents	By 2015 latest	Parish Council, Working Groups	Private Funding

September 12 2005



ACTION PLAN for the HEALTH & EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Short term up to 12 months	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
<i>Chiropody – Determine and suggest improvements to existing services</i>	<i>Working Group will publish details in Parish Newsletter and on the web site</i>	<i>High Annual Review</i>	<i>Infirm and house-bound residents</i>	<i>Publication of next newsletter and web site</i>	<i>Sheila Jones Working Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Female Doctor</i>	<i>Write to Medical Centre</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Female patients</i>	<i>September 2005</i>	<i>Sheila Jones Working Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Vandalism in vicinity of Medical Centre</i>	<i>Reduce the possibility with CCTV</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Residents and Medical Centre</i>	<i>March 2006</i>	<i>Steering Group Parish Council</i>	<i>Cost to be established</i>
<i>Improve disabled car park facilities</i>	<i>Have parking bays outside Medical Centre relined</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Disabled patients</i>	<i>December 2005</i>	<i>Campbell Ward, Working Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Improve awareness of local activities and library service</i>	<i>Promote village clubs and interest groups and route of mobile Library</i>	<i>High Annual Review</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Publication of next news letter & website</i>	<i>Sheila Jones Steering Group Parish Council</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
Medium term one to three years						
<i>Physiotherapy – Improve</i>	<i>Monitor services when new Medical Centre opens in Wrenbury</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Annual review</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Dentist</i>	<i>Maintain awareness of need for dental care in the village</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Annual review</i>	<i>Working Group Steering Group Parish Council</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Improve access for the disabled</i>	<i>Lobby shops to provide disabled access and Borough Council for pedestrian crossings</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Annual review</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Adult Education</i>	<i>Research demand and provide classes where appropriate; eg computer studies</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Use Parish Newsletter and web site to determine demand</i>	<i>Working Group Parish Council</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
Long Term up to ten years						
<i>Weekend and out-of-hours health service</i>	<i>Monitor recent change to the service with Medical Practice and village residents</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Annual review</i>	<i>Working Group Steering Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Senior Citizen Centre</i>	<i>Encourage provision of a drop-in or day-care centre with Corbrook Court and the Nursing Home</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Elderly residents</i>	<i>Annual review</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>
<i>Monitor School and Tree House to ensure facilities are in-line with village demand</i>	<i>Annual review of local Planning Applications against projected pupil numbers</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Local children and parents</i>	<i>Annual review</i>	<i>Gwen West Working Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>

September 12 2005



ACTION PLAN for the PLANNING WORKING GROUP

Short term up to one year	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
<i>Continue to respond to planning applications and appeals, particularly Canalside Yard</i>	<i>Coordinated by Parish Council, Amenities Society and Working Group</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>All residents</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Small</i>
Medium term one to three years						
<i>1. Draft, obtain approval for and publish Village Design Statement</i>	<i>Working Group in Consultation with Parish Council and Amenities Society</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>All residents</i>	<i>12 – 18 Months</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>To be established, but mainly publication costs</i>
<i>2. Assist in Borough Council's review of Conservation Areas</i>	<i>All above bodies</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>All residents</i>	<i>Not known</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Small</i>
<i>3. Obtain Council's backing for Design Statement in the form of a Supplementary Planning Document</i>	<i>Working Group in consultation with Parish Council and Amenities Society</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>All residents</i>	<i>Not known</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Small</i>
Long term- up to ten years						
<i>Carry out and obtain approval for Landscape Character Assessment of green land outside the settlement boundaries</i>	<i>Working Group in Consultation with Parish Council and Amenities Society</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>All residents</i>	<i>Not known</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>To be established</i>

September 12 2005



ACTION PLAN for the YOUTH WORKING GROUP

Short term up to 12 months	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
1 Basketball post / net transferred from school to car park.	Parish Council to organise while other works being carried out.	High.	Pre-teens and teens (10 – 17 years).	Completed July 2005.	Parish Council.	Minimal. Community effort.
2 Teen shelter in Public Hall, car park, playing field area.	Already agreed by Audlem Parish Council. Site proposed is around the area where the recycling banks are – status of planning permission needs confirming.	High.	Pre-teens and teens (10 – 17 years).	December 2005.	Parish Council.	Funds from the Borough Council. £2,800.00 raised by Audlem Action for Youth for the failed skate/BMX bike park project could be available.
Medium term one to three years						
1 Improvements to, and new, playground equipment in the park with water feature	Designs, costing and money will be needed to upgrade and add new playground equipment. Include in any redesign of public park areas	High.	Under 13s.	Depends on linking with Community Sport & Leisure's plan	Community Sport & Leisure / Youth Working Groups.	Money.
2 Outdoor seating.	When outdoor seating is being included in new plans, e.g. for a nature trail, take children into account.	High.	All children and young people under 18 years.	Depends on links with paths and nature reserve plans in other Working Groups	Business & Tourism / Community Sport & Leisure / Youth Working Groups.	Designs and money will be needed.
Long term up to ten years						
1 Teen Zone – chill out room/s, internet café, graffiti wall, skate/BMX bike park.	First hurdle for this is to have a village agreement about location. If a suitable building could be identified, the Teen Zone could be brought forward to Medium term. Depending on plans of other Working Groups, long term the chill out room/s, internet café might be parts of a multi-purpose community facility.	High.	Pre-teens and teens (10 – 17 years).	Linked to Community Sport & Leisure's plan for Sports / Fitness Centre etc.	Community Sport & Leisure / Youth Working Groups.	Allocation of space, money. Might need qualified youth worker-possible arrangement with Cheshire Youth Services.
2 Sports facilities. Children and youth would like goal posts all year round, access to tennis courts; smaller pitches, courts etc.	Links directly to the proposal of Community Sports & Leisure Working Group for Sports / Fitness Centre / Changing Rooms / Social Club / Astro turf pitch / Skateboard Park. Children and young people need to be consulted in the design.	High.	All children and young people under 18 years.	Linked to Community Sport & Leisure's plan for Sports / Fitness Centre etc.	Community Sport & Leisure / Youth Working Groups.	Money.

September 12 2005



ACTION PLAN for TRAFFIC & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Short term- up to 12 months	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
HGVs 1.Re routing A525 traffic	Letter campaign & petition	High	Village Residents & Parish Council	October 2006	Parish Council Working Group	Minimal
2.Survey alternative routes	Monitor HGV fuel/time/miles	High	Council	November 2005	Working group	Fuel costs
Public Transport Support for existing & new bus services	Lobby Parish & County Council	High	Village Residents	Ongoing	Working Group	Minimal
Road Safety 1.Improve pavements & disabled access	Lobby Parish & County Council	High	Village Residents	Ongoing	Working Group Parish Council	From Council Tax
2.Establish 'safe routes to school'	Lobby Parish & County Council	High	Village residents	Ongoing	Working Group Parish Council	From Council Tax
Traffic Management 1.Re mark Public Car Park & ensure Free of charge	Liaise local authority	High	Residents & Visitors	October 2006	Working Group, Parish, Borough & County Council	From Council Tax
2.Publicise Telephone Number for reporting pot holes etc	Lobby Highways Authority	High	Residents & Visitors	October 2006		Minimal
Medium term one to three years						
HGVs Remove through traffic from Historic Audlem	Lobby Politicians/ County Council	High	Village Residents	Ongoing	Working Group	Support from village
Public Transport Define Bus Stops inc Timetables. New stop in Car Park	Lobby Authorities and Bus Companies	High	Residents and Visitors	September 2007	Working Group with Parish Council	Costs to be established
Road Safety 1.Establish six Pedestrian Crossings	Liaise Police & Highways	High	Residents and visitors	September 2007	Working group Parish Council	Funds from Local Auth'y
2.Improvements to street lighting, pavements & visibility	Liaise Parish Council	High	Residents	September 2007	Working group Parish Council	Funds from Local Auth'y
3.Reduce speeding inc 20 mph limit in Village Centre	Liaise Police & Highways Authorities	High	Village residents	Ongoing	Working Group	Minimal costs
Long term- up to ten years						
HGVs Continue to seek depriving of A525 Traffic Management	Lobby Parish and County Council and MP	High	The Village	Ongoing	Working Group	Minimal
Establish Pedestrianised Village Centre	Lobby Parish and other Authorities	High	The Village	September 2010	Working Group	Costs to be established



ACTION PLAN for LAW & ORDER

Short term up to 12 months	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
1.Promote support for Community Action Meetings held by Cheshire Constabulary	Ensure all residents aware of achievements eg use audlem.org website	High	Parish Council, Village Residents, Cheshire Police	Ongoing	Cheshire Constabulary and Parish Council,	Minimal
2.Support email database to issue relevant information on local crime direct to residents	Audlem & District police officer to establish voluntary register ken.maple@cheshire.pnn.police.uk	High	Police and Residents	Completed September 2005	Ken Maple, Audlem & District Police Officer	Funded by Cheshire Constabulary
3.Promote reporting of all suspicious activities and crime to police and monitor response times	Use all available means of contact – telephone, email, letters etc	High	Residents	Ongoing	Parish Council, Residents	Minimal costs
4.Consider naming of individuals known to be responsible for crime and vandalism	Raise issue at relevant meetings and debate on website	Medium	Residents	March 2006	Village Residents	Minimal
Medium term one to three years						
1.Maintain pressure for adequate policing of village	Monitor police presence at weekends/evenings and publicise shortcomings in media and website	High	Residents	Ongoing	Village Residents, Parish Council, website management	Minimal cost
2.Ensure authorities are aware of policing issues for Audlem	Contact with Parish, Borough and County Councils and Councillors	High	Residents, Businesses and Visitors	Ongoing	Village residents audlem.org website management	Minimal costs
Long term- up to ten years						
Support initiatives for improved sport and youth recreational facilities	Highlight benefits and effect it could have on reducing crime, vandalism and anti social behaviour	High	All residents, but particularly the youth	Ongoing	Parish Council and Cheshire Constabulary	Minimal costs

September 12 2005



ACTION PLAN for the COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Short term up to 12 months	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications
1. Create fund, launch & ensure long term success of www.audlem.org village website	Communications Working Group with JMG Computing	High	Village Residents, Businesses, Organisations & Parish Council	Completed August 2005	Parish Council, Working Group and John Gunstone	Funded by Parish Council and Commercial Sponsors
2. Initiate Annual Village Meeting	Working Group liaise with Parish Council	High	Parish Council, residents	First meeting April 2006	Parish Council	Minimal costs
3. Public Relations Campaign promoting Audlem attractions/events	Regular media news releases produced	High	Parish Council, Village Organisations & Events	Commence July 2005	Parish Council and Bob Cartwright	Minimal costs
Medium term - one to three years						
1. Encourage improved Newsletters (including possibility of amalgamation)	Improved copy flow via website and look at examples of other newsletters	Medium	Parish Council and Village Organisations	Ongoing	Working group	Minimal costs
2. Review Canalside and Car Park Village Maps and Information boards for both quality and content	Explore Parish and Borough Council funding. Design & copy joint with Tourism	Medium	Residents, Visitors and local Businesses	September 2007	Communications and Tourism Working groups with Parish Council	Costs to be established
3. Improve Village Notice Boards	Encourage amalgamation of village boards	Medium	Residents	September 2007	Working Group & Parish Council	Minimal Costs
Long term- up to ten years						
1. Establish Historic Barge as Canal/Village Information/Tourist attraction eg Exhibits of Shropshire Union Canal, Thomas Telford, locks, barges, canal network etc	Explore availability of suitable barge and possible use as educational facility.	High	Village Residents and Businesses	September 2010	Mike Hill and Communications Working Group	Costs to be established and identify funding

September 28 2005



The Parish Plan Questionnaire March - April 2005

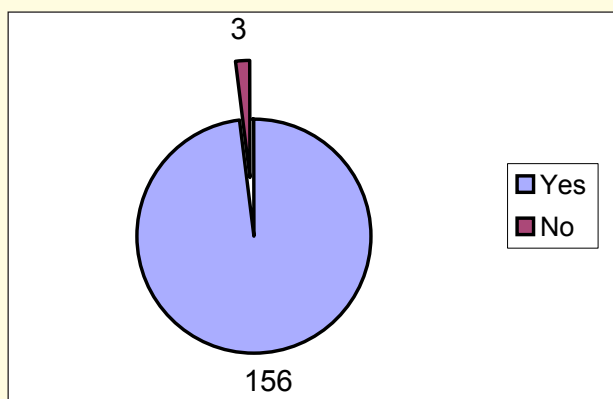
The following pages summarise the results of the questionnaire that was sent to residents.

The pie charts graphically represent the proportion of (and show the actual number of) answers given to the questions posed.

Where relevant, the pages also list the comments and/or suggestions gathered from the completed questionnaires.

For reasons of space, comments received from only one person have been excluded.

Q1 Do you like living/working in Audlem?



Why do you like living/working in Audlem?

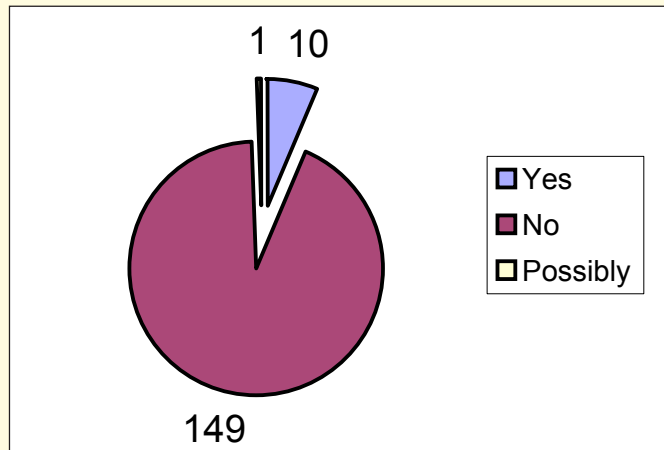
Friendly people/community spirit/ quality of life	104	Active community/events/festivals/clubs	25
Rural/village environment/attractive/clean/ canal/walks	84	Ease of access to major routes/towns/cities	6
Good services/shops/schools/medical practice	35	It's a nice size/not too developed	4
		Churches/active Methodist Church	3
		Never known anywhere else	2

What don't you like about living/working in Audlem?

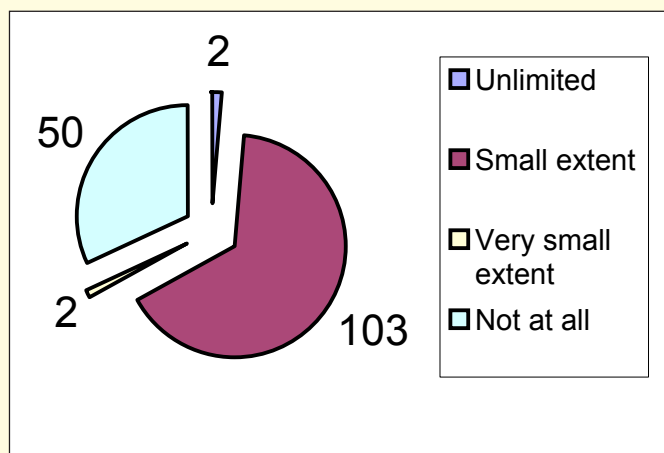
Vandalism/gangs of youths/anti-social behaviour/lack of police presence	53	Loss of services (petrol station)/ diminishing services	6
Traffic/heavy goods vehicles/too big for narrow roads/A525	44	Speeding traffic	4
Parking restrictions ignored/ parking on yellow lines	9	Narrow or no pavements to walk to centre	3
Concerns re new development/Muller development/villagers' views ignored	9	Lack of affordable housing	3
Litter	7	Distance to Pym's Lane/distance to recycle rubbish	3
Rubbish pubs/nowhere good to eat/ no nice tea rooms	7	Ramp needed at Co-op for pushchairs/less able	2
Poor quality bus service/access to Leighton/ over-reliance on car travel	6	People who don't take part	2
		Lack of facilities for young people	2
		No mains gas supply	2



Q2 Are you likely to move from Audlem because of employment or employment prospects?



Q3 To what extent do you think Audlem should be allowed to expand residentially?



Expansion would lose character/identity/ become another Nantwich or Crewe	24	All price ranges/policy based on demographic balance	4
Must be sympathetic developments/ only in keeping with surroundings	14	Good quality housing	2
Already large village/right size now	5	Infrastructure not in place to support expansion	8
Not current proposal for Moseley's yard	4	More traffic problems/too many vehicles already	5
No ribbon development	3		
Only for affordable housing/first time buyers/ so young people can stay in the village	21		



Q4 Are there any particular buildings or features of Audlem which you like and would wish to be preserved?

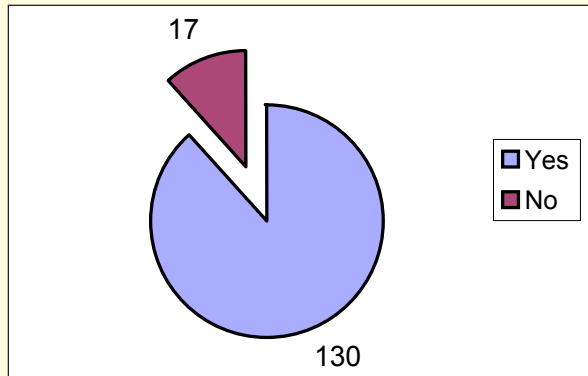
Church	49	Older properties	5
Village Centre/The Square	43	Old Grammar School	5
Canalside/canal shop/buildings/the Mill	28	All of it/all in conservation area	5
Village/Public Hall	18	Village monument	4
Butter Market	17	Moseley's Yard as economic community space not residential	4
Chapels	12	Scout Hall	4
Rural aspect/playing fields and tennis courts/greens	10	George Beaman's cottage	4
Lord Combermere - improved	8	Shroppie Fly	3
Priest House	8	Mill	3
Shops	6	Fire Station	2
Cemetery/Cemetery building	5	Salford	2
Floral displays	5	Moss Hall	2

Q5 Which buildings or features do you dislike and wish to see improved or demolished?

Moseley's Yard/Old garage - but not current proposal	24	Shops between The Bridge and Combermere	2
Public Hall improved	17	Medical Centre - too modern	2
The Lord Combermere - improved	7	Telephone exchange	2
Toilets in car park	5	Tidy up Old Grammar School grounds	2
Moorsfield House - improved	4	Scout Hall improved	2
Pizza parlour looks dirty	3	Park area/Improve children's playground	2
Linden Homes	2		

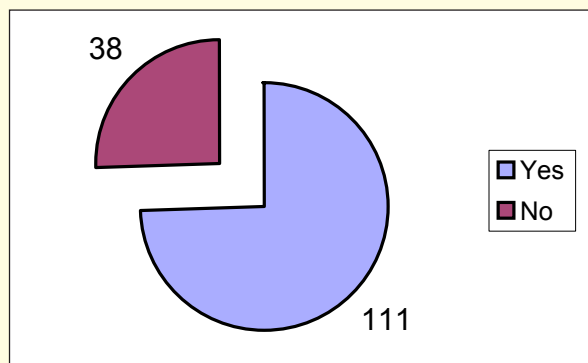


Q6 Do you think any small industries and crafts should be encouraged under careful control?



Craft shops/tea rooms/café/art studio/crafts along canal/rural crafts	39	Walking	3
Build on agricultural roots/agriculture/light engineering/light industrial	16	Office uses/professional offices - solicitors, accountants	3
Replace those lost from Moseley's Yard	10	Workshop for small repairs/boat repairs	3
Very controlled/acceptable to community	5	Food processing/bakery	2
Farmers' Market	3	I.T. Firms	2
Any which bring employment	3	Gym	2

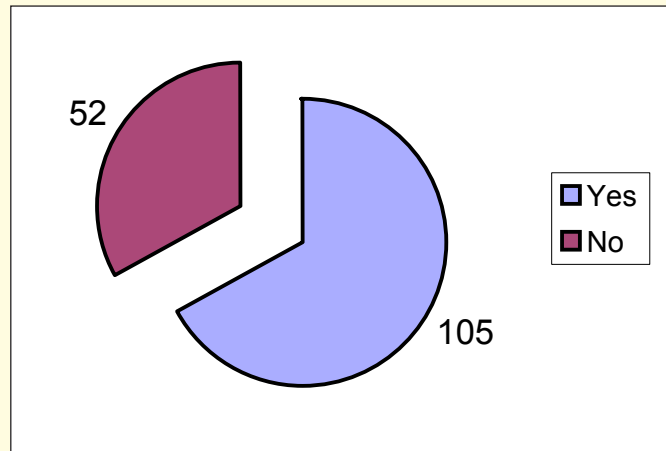
Q7 Do you think tourism in Audlem should be developed?



Maximise the canal/needs to be more information about the village along Canalside	19	Advertise monthly walking tour/guided walks	4
It brings money into the village/may increase employment/may improve facilities for locals	18	Only along canal	3
Potential traffic/parking problems - only with care	17	No caravan parks	2
Big enough volume already/about right	12	New developments may discourage visitors	2
Better food in pubs/tea room/bistro/ would encourage more visitors	6	Need places for people to stay/B & Bs/ small hotel	2
		Need up-to-date Notice Boards, tourist information points	2

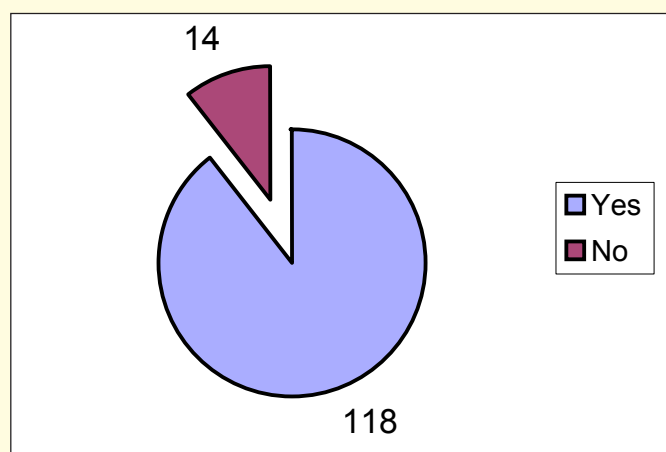


Q8 Do you think there are sufficient shops, pubs and eating places?



Very poor eating out facilities/pubs with good food/ good restaurant / bistro/tea shoppe	50	Petrol station	3
More shops - greengrocer/baker/fishmonger/ gift shop/hardware	9	Non smoking eating places	3
Mobile bank on Saturdays/small bank	7	Re-open Priest House	2
Look at schemes which enable local shops to compete with supermarkets/improve Co-op/better range of foods	3	Need to keep the ones we've got	2
		If viable/economics will determine this	2
		Dentist	2
		Book Shop	2

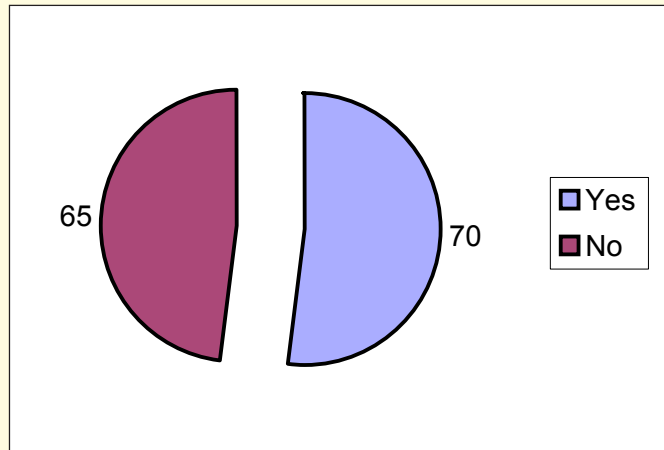
Q9 Do you think the present educational facilities in Audlem are adequate?



More for adults/adult classes/evening classes	10	Youth facilities/activities during school holidays	2
Better library	2	Current class sizes suggest school may need to expand/villagers have to send their children to Buerton	2
Basic I.T. skills for all ages/computer classes	2		



Q10 Do you think that the present sport/recreational/social facilities for children and adults are adequate?



Youth centre/more for teenagers/café bar for young/involve young more	29	New playground/wooden adventure playground/upgrade park	5
Skate park/skate boarding area	16	A gym	5
Multi-purpose cultural (film/theatre)/sports/social centre/sports hall	16	Better facilities for cyclists/cycling club	3
A pool/possibly attached to the school	9	Running club	2
Changing facilities for football/better pitch/pavilion	6	Tennis courts available for children at a nominal charge/more tennis courts	2

Q11 Are you involved in any sport, including cycling, locally?

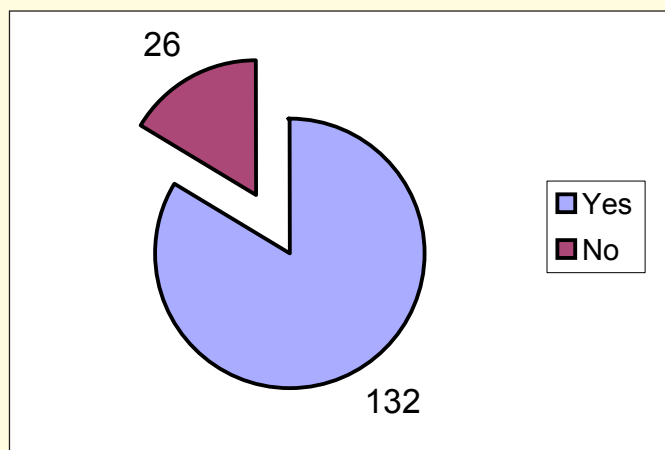
Walking/Rambling	22	Yoga	2
Cycling	10	Table tennis	2
Golf	4	Swimming	2
Jogging	3	Aerobics	2
Tennis	3	Snooker	2
Bowls	3	Gym	2
Football club(Audlem Saints)/football/5 a side	2	Running	2



Q12 Do you think the present facilities for senior citizens and the less able in Audlem are adequate?

Ramps for less able - i.e. Co-op/kerbside/wheelchair access to shops	13	Poor public transport/direct service to Leighton Hospital	5
More social events/Fortnightly bingo session/drop in centre	10	Taxi service would be helpful/volunteer taxi service	4
Better and more pavements/wider pavements	7	More carers need locally/Day care facility 2-3 days/week/befrienders scheme	3
Pedestrian Crossing for children/elderly/less able	5	More seating/benches	2

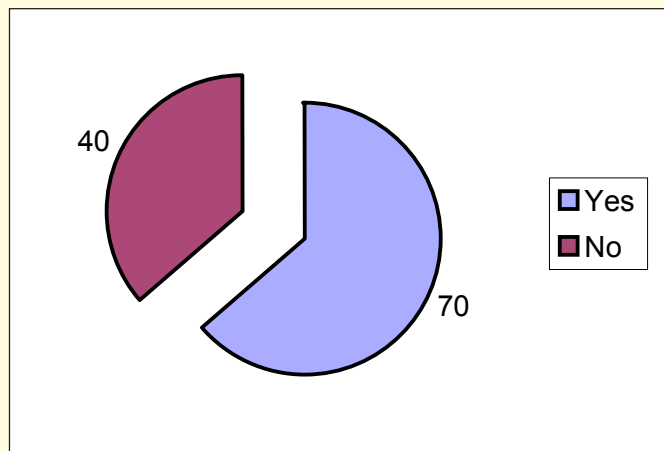
Q13 Do you think the current health services in the village are satisfactory?



NHS Dentist	24	Optician	2
W/E cover/out of hours cover/drop in for emergencies	15	Chiropodist	2
More doctors and nurses/seems to be overstretched	3		

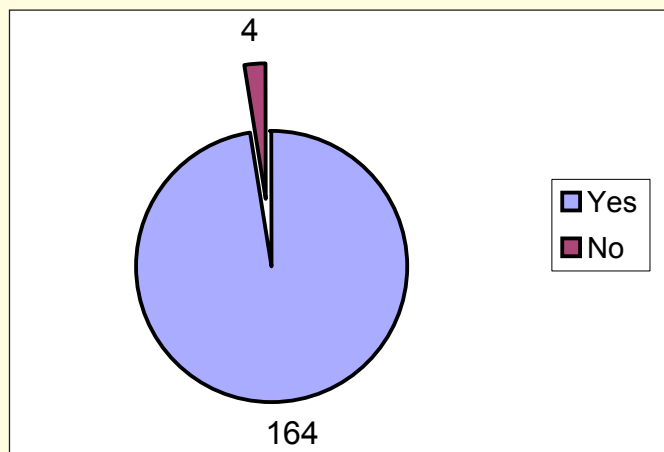


Q14 Are the present bus services convenient for your needs?



Need more buses/more regular service/ later in evenings	24	Clearer timetables/more easily-understood timetables/there are no timetables	6
Service to Market Drayton/Whitchurch/ wider service	12	Direct service to Chester/Shrewsbury	2

Q15 Do you think that heavy through traffic should be prohibited from Audlem to the greatest possible extent?



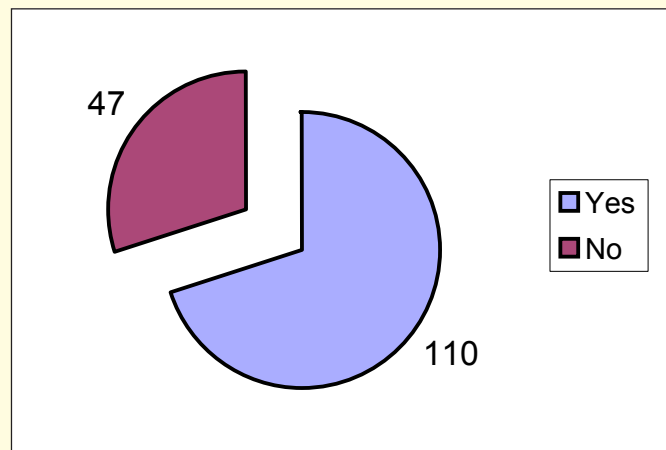
Stop heavy goods traffic/should be a weight restriction/roads too narrow/a sit-down in the square	47	Speed bumps/reduce speed/tractors go too fast	8
Declassify A525/East West traffic made to use A53 or A500/use alternative routes	32	Parking on streets leaves no room for larger vehicles/stop parking in streets, aggravates situation	5
I'm not going to die in my bed but in crossing from Church Fields to Post Office/it's a serious accident waiting to happen/do we have to wait for a death first?	14	Not all through traffic - it brings trade	4
By-pass/by-pass is a pipe dream	10	It's not possible to stop/difficult to see how this would work	3



Q16 Where do you work/shop/go for recreation and leisure outside Audlem?

Places of work outside Audlem		Place(s) you shop		Places of recreation outside Audlem	
		Nantwich	120		
Crewe	13	Market Drayton	56	Nantwich	31
Nantwich	10	Crewe	48	Crewe	28
Stoke/Hanley/Potteries/ Newcastle	10	Chester	21	Potteries	16
Manchester, Runcorn and Redcar	3	Whitchurch	20	Market Drayton	16
Cheshire	2	Hanley/Potteries	15	Newcastle	9
Staffs	2	Shrewsbury	10	Whitchurch	5
Market Drayton	2	Manchester	3	Manchester	4
Shropshire	2	Cheadle	2	Shropshire/Shrewsbury	3
Keele	2	Birmingham	2	Burleydam	3
		Wrexham	2	Hankelow	3

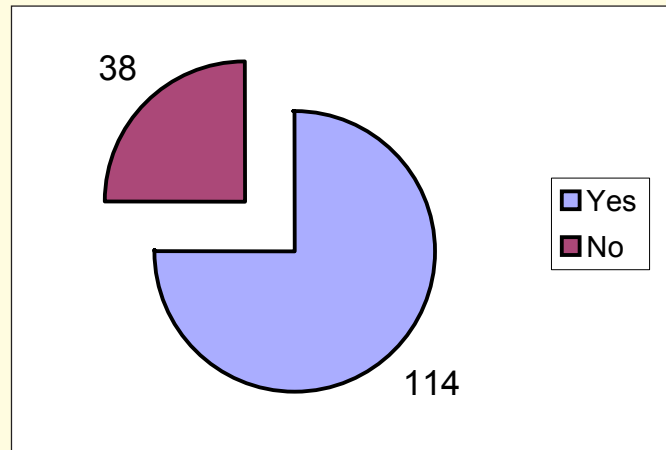
Q17 Do you think the recreational footpaths and cycleways are adequate?



No cycle paths/better cycleways/ what cycleways?	22	Use old railway line with guide leaflets/maps	4
More gates not stiles/some stiles not dog friendly/paths and stiles need constant maintenance	18	Canal path to Nantwich/less mud on path towards Nantwich/better maintained to Nantwich	3
Improve path in Audlem Vale for year-round use	8	A signed/guided walk within the village	3
More clearly defined footpaths/map and marked trails	8	More bridleways	2



Q18 Are the present methods for communication (of information) in the village adequate?



Consolidate notice boards/centrally displayed notice board/better notice boards/up-to-date 20

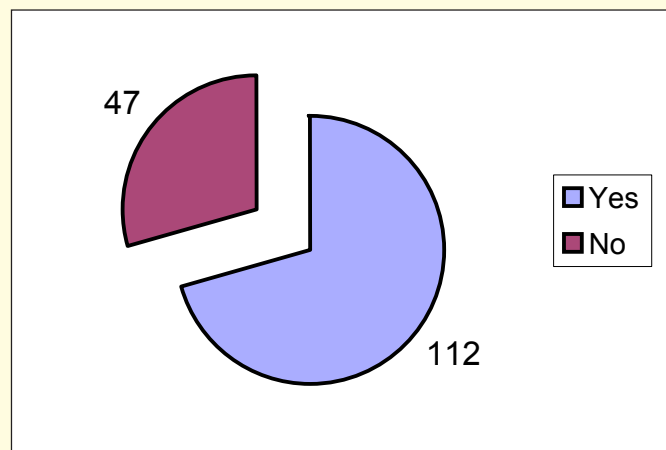
Website/use e-mail/parish e-mails 17

More frequent newsletter/monthly/quarterly 11

Parish and village news under one banner/ lots of info at present but very dispersed 5

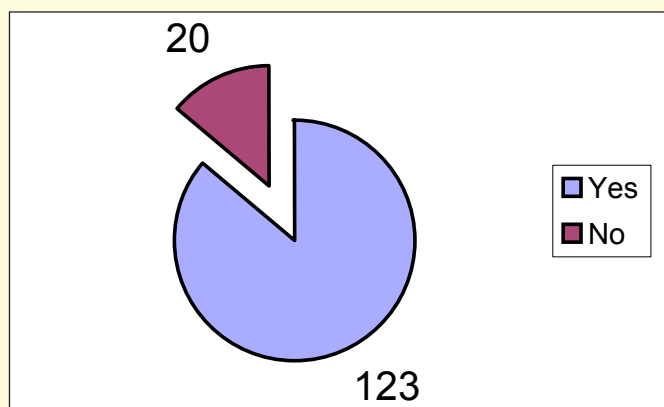
More flyers for people on outskirts/we are the forgotten Audlem rate payers 3

Q19 Do you have access to the Internet and use it on a regular basis?





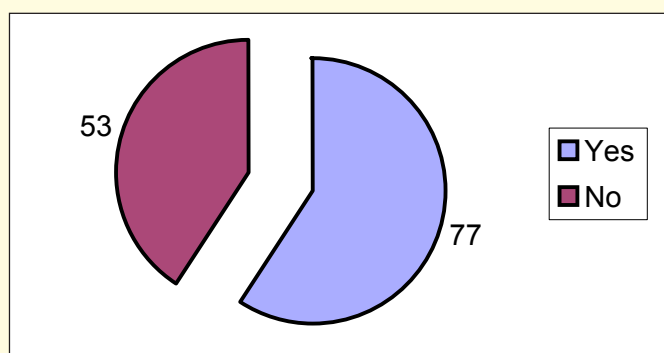
Q20 Do you think an Audlem Village Website would be beneficial?



Q21 Have you any ideas for improving the quality of life in Audlem?

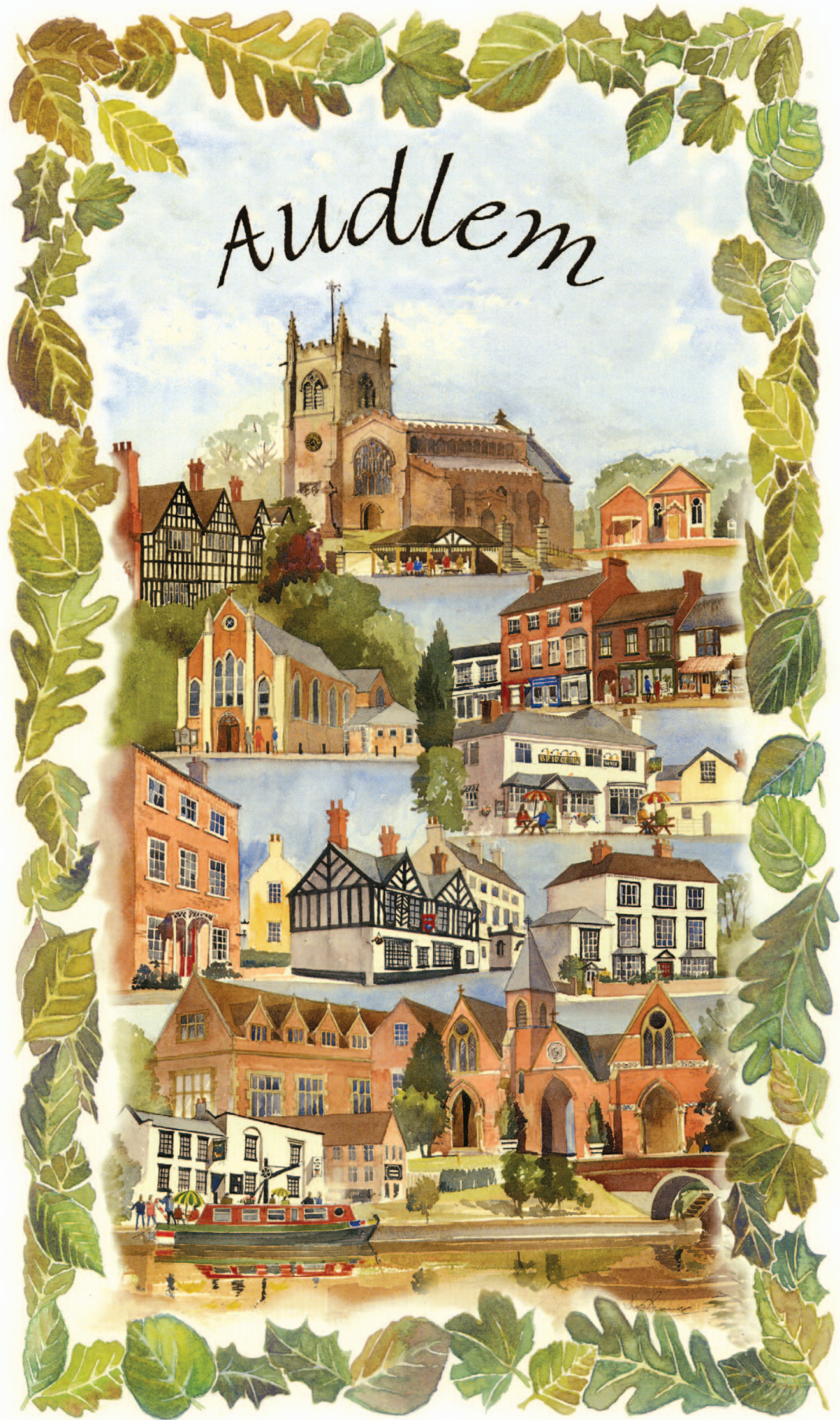
Modern multi purpose hall/improve the Public Hall	19	Better eating places/pubs	3
A police presence/cut anti social behaviour/CCTV	17	Better bus services	2
Traffic decrease	10	Show films in Public Hall	2
Supervised facilities for teens/meeting place	6	Improve pedestrian access to village	2
Use public car park/ease parking problems/enforce parking restrictions	5	Regular music/dance nights	2
More public meeting/groups/people working for the village	4	Mains gas supply	2
		Stop speeding	2
		Greeting new families/encourage new people to join in	2
		Pizza closure/no late nights	2

Q22 Are you prepared to help in any way (not financial) with your time and experience?



Q23 Do you think any points of importance have been overlooked in this questionnaire?

Policing/security/control of vandalism	26	Composting/garden waste/recycling aspects	5
Representation of the young in the questionnaire and other aspects of village life	5	The role of the churches/religious aspects	4



Artwork from Audlemania by the late Roger Pearce



www.audlem.org