

# AUDLEM PARISH PLAN – 2010

## Draft Copy for consultation – October 2010

**If you wish to make a comment about anything in this draft parish plan, please contact any member of the steering group (see Acknowledgements for Members) or leave a written comment at Audlem Post Office or Williams' Newsagents or email: [editor@audlem.org](mailto:editor@audlem.org)**

### Introduction

Audlem produced its last Parish Plan in 2005. The project was generally deemed a success - indeed many other communities across Cheshire sought advice from Audlem when starting their own parish plans.

Since 2005, a number of the working groups plus the Steering Committee have continued their work to ensure as many of the actions as possible detailed in the Parish Plan were implemented. All too many Plans fail because work slows or stops as soon as they are printed. Our view was that printing and distributing the plan was simply the end of the first stage of the project.

In 2009, Audlem Parish Council asked the Parish Plan team to take on two new tasks. The first was to consider the issue of 'Sustainability' for Audlem and secondly, five years on from the first plan, to produce a 2010 Audlem Parish Plan.

The Steering Committee, which has gained two new members since 2005, soon agreed that 'Sustainability' was a difficult concept to summarise in a few words and had contrasting meanings to different people. It was also clear that there would be so much overlap between a 'Sustainability' project and a new Parish Plan that the two projects should be tackled together as one exercise.

The result is that everything in this new Parish Plan has been tested against the sustainability of our community. The definition we have used, indeed created, is:

*"A well balanced, pro-active caring community which is making the best of local opportunities, enhancing and protecting the local environment, services and facilities, and ensuring a better quality of life for all its inhabitants without compromising the future."*

That is a pretty broad definition but hopefully covers views that may range from 'sustaining jobs and businesses' to 'sustaining our environment and ecology.'

Other groups in Audlem and district are working on community activities such as ADAPT (Audlem &

District Acting Positively for Transition) and the Wildlife & Ecology group, the latter being formed as a result of this Parish Plan. ADAS, the Audlem District Amenities Society, and ASET, the Audlem Special Events Team, amongst others are well established groups. In this Parish Plan, we have tried to avoid duplicating the efforts of these organisations and trust, where necessary, we have acknowledged and reflected their work and aims appropriately.

A major task of the 2010 Parish Plan was to assess the achievements of the 2005 Plan and to tackle any outstanding issues that were still considered important.

Sections of this Plan are devoted to that assessment so little detail is needed here. Several achievements, however, stand out:

- The major issue of tackling the long-distance heavy goods vehicle (HGV) problem has recently seen (March 2010) the removal of the A525 through Audlem from the Primary Route Network.
- The Planning Group has completed Audlem's Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment, important documents that could influence future planning decisions affecting the village.
- The website Audlem Online has become both popular and widely read and also influential in local campaigns while the new-style Parish Newsletters have been warmly welcomed by residents.

There have been other changes since 2005 with many new businesses opening and significant investment in others. Audlem has seen an unprecedented expansion of its retail provision. Eight new shops opened in the past twelve months, possibly the fastest ever expansion of shops in Audlem's history - and a remarkable contrast with most villages and market towns.

In addition, recent years have seen the opening of the new Co-operative foodstore; a revamped Boots chemist; a new Coffee Lounge; the re-opening of the Mill Shop and major investments at the village's pubs, all adding significantly to Audlem's range of shops and food and drink facilities.

Just outside Audlem, the new OverWater marina is one of the most significant investments in the area for many years which, research into inland marinas suggests, could bring major economic benefit to the local area.

Other facilities such as the Post Office, the fire tender, ambulance services and day care for elderly residents have been under threat at various times but have been saved, or are in the process of being saved, with the help of active campaigning.

Since the publication of the 2005 Plan, Audlem has won a host of awards - the national award from Defra for the best village in the whole of England for its Community Spirit; numerous awards for Best Kept Village and winner of the Calor Northern Village of the Year competition. A welcome plethora of plaques are now displayed in the Square.

All that's happened since 2005 has meant that Audlem was able to start its 2010 Plan in a very positive mode. Much has been achieved and, hopefully without tempting fate, the village appears to be riding high. This meant 'sustainability' could, to a considerable extent, mean ensuring we keep all that has been gained. That is so much more encouraging that producing a plan to rescue a community from decline.

Many people have worked on this plan - please see the acknowledgements - and we hope their work reflects what the wider community wants for Audlem. We leave you to judge from the following pages.

## **2010 PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE**

The number of responses to the 2010 Parish Plan Questionnaire was 237, representing approximately 30% of households. In addition, 88 senior school students responded to a similar questionnaire. Many thanks to Margaret Roberts for her analysis of the former and Danny Yates for all his work on the latter.

In both surveys, the most gratifying answer was to the first question: "Do you like living/working in Audlem?" A remarkable 99% of adults and 95% of pupils said "Yes". Any discussion about Audlem should, it seems, start from this remarkably positive sentiment.

The responses to the two surveys are detailed later in this Parish Plan but a summary of the main findings may be useful at this point. We will deal with the 'Senior' responses first.

### **'SENIOR' QUESTIONNAIRE**

'Senior' is a reasonable description as those responding were predominantly from older age groups. The response rate is, however, high enough to give reasonable statistical validity given that national opinion surveys often poll a little over a thousand people to represent the views of the entire country.

The majority (65%) want to see Audlem expand residentially to a small extent with 15% in addition happy for a moderate expansion. Only 12% do not want small-scale industrial/commercial development encouraged to increase local employment while hardly any (2.5%) are opposed to any development of tourism - most are in favour of 'moderate' tourism development.

The great majority (97%) think Audlem's shops are improving and a smaller proportion (65%) believe the same of the pubs with 14% saying they are a little poorer or worse. Eating facilities have improved or are unchanged for most.

Education facilities were considered good by 40.5% and reasonable by 36% but Health services saw greater backing with 64% believing them good and 31.5% reasonable.

A significant minority (34%) thought sport facilities were poor and only 5% rated them good while an even larger proportion were critical of facilities for younger people with 48% rating them poor or very poor against 38% considering them good or reasonable. Questions were also raised when asked about facilities for people with disabilities although 82% thought facilities for the elderly were good or reasonable.

The conditions of the roads - and the survey was conducted before the potholes arrived after the severe winter of 2009/10 - attracted much criticism with only 1% considering them good and 73% rating them poor or very poor. 37% were critical of parking facilities. Local footpaths and cycleways received a mixed response - 29% thought they were poor or very poor - and many asked: "What cycleways?"

Policing saw 71% rating the level good or reasonable but a sizeable minority of 29% rated it poor or very poor.

As in 2005, the question arousing most passion was: "Do you think heavy long-distance goods vehicles should be discouraged from driving through Audlem?" 97% said 'Yes'.

Over 95% thought Audlem Parish Council was providing a good or reasonable service but 28.5% were dissatisfied with the services of Cheshire East while a further 26% thought it was too early to assess.

When asked: "If there was one thing you would change in Audlem, what would it be?", the majority of answers focused on roads - fewer HGVs; parking issues and speed limits.

### **'YOUTH' QUESTIONNAIRE**

To most questions, the Brine Leas pupils' responses echoed the 'Senior' survey. Of particular interest, 17%

rated educational facilities as good and 52% as reasonable. The views on Sports facilities and those for younger people were very similar to the Senior group also. They were somewhat less concerned by the HGVs driving through the village although an overwhelming majority did want the lorries to be discouraged from Audlem.

## **ACTION PLANS**

All too many Parish Plans end their life at the moment of printing. The 2005 Audlem Parish Plan managed, by and large, to avoid this trap through Action Plans, each detailing the deadlines for Action, and the group responsible for implementation, for each of the working groups. The Steering Committee and a number of the Working Groups continued to meet regularly since 2005 to make sure as much was implemented as possible.

The same process has been followed for this 2010 Plan with Action Plans detailed at the back of this report. It is also expected that many Working Groups will continue to work over the coming years to ensure those Actions are implemented and new ideas are also developed.

## **WORKING GROUPS**

Most of the work involved in this Parish Plan has been conducted by Working Groups who have each looked at an aspect of life in the community, studied the issues and residents' responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire and developed an appropriate commentary and Action Plan. The following pages represent the views of the Working Groups and have been endorsed by the Parish Plan's Steering Committee.

## **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

Since the 2005 Plan the Community Projects Group has been co-ordinating the projects that have evolved. We have a number of successes in areas such as cinema and bingo both linked to the upgrading of the Public Hall; support for Music, Art, Drama, and Cultural Activities; the production of walks leaflets; Village Information Dioramas and Canal Interpretation Boards located on towpath have been produced and installed; and Audlem designated as part of the Weaver Valley Regional Park. It has also played its part in pursuing the de-priming of the A525

A major project was to provide improved Sport and Youth Recreational facilities for the Village and a detailed topographical survey was undertaken and draft outline plans produced by Architects. Limited funding was obtained but, in 2009 with the downturn in the economy, it became clear that a project with costs in excess of half a million pounds would be even more difficult to fund than anticipated. We have therefore

focussed more on achievable targets such as Changing Rooms, perhaps linked to replacement Public Toilets and improved storage at the Public Hall and a new outdoor Multi Games Area.

The group has also been a forum for developing a number of other ideas including the purchase of Audlem Vale for the Village's beneficial recreational use; the development of a Thomas Telford Museum; exploring the feasibility of generating electricity from water flow through Canal Locks; increased participation in Weaver Valley Regional Park and focussing on the performance of the North West Ambulance Service. More recently the establishing of Allotments for villagers has been discussed and monitored (although this is led by the Parish Council and the local allotments society, DAHLIA).

Taking into account the views expressed in the responses to the Questionnaire for the 2010 Parish Review, it is intended to include the following in the Community Projects Action Plan:

- To continue to develop the concept of a Thomas Telford Museum, initially with a Computer Program/Desk Top in Audlem Mill Shop.
- Support for the British Waterways request for Volunteer Guides to create an Information Desk
- In view of British Waterways decision not to back the generation of electricity from the flow of water through the locks it has been decided not to include this in the present review - this idea was progressed in detail with a feasibility study and funding bids but BW's total support was necessary.
- To develop and actively support the Audlem Community Big Walk as an annual village event to raise money for local groups eg Audlem First Responders
- Encourage, co-ordinate and monitor where necessary the successful establishment of Allotments.
- Provide Changing Rooms for all users of sport/recreation/entertainment facilities. This, ideally, to be linked to designated Youth premises - see 'Youth & Education' section below.
- Improve equipment storage for Music, Art, Drama and Cultural Activities.
- Consider major improvement/relocation of Audlem's Public Toilets - if feasible link to the Changing Rooms provision.
- Continue support for Audlem Public Hall.
- Establish a modern outdoor Multi Games Area particularly aimed at the younger groups including football, basketball and other marked games as appropriate

Though we have doubts that in the current economic climate a major Sports Centre will be possible and it is not included in this Plan, it is felt we should try to ensure that any of the smaller proposals do not prohibit its development if circumstances change.

All the actions planned will be subject to a continual test of 'Sustainability' as defined in the introduction to this Parish Plan Review and it is felt they will have a positive effect. The most obvious one perhaps would be the establishment of allotments but better facilities for sport, recreation, music and drama and the continuous development of projects linked to the Canal will play a part in sustaining jobs and businesses, our well-being and the environment and ecology.

While funding will never be easy, the projects outlined are relatively modest in cost and with the village's record of fund raising for worthy causes, coupled with the financial support given in the past from, say WREN (waste recycling) and the potential from sports organisations, e.g. the Football Foundation, they should be achievable.

## **LOCAL BUSINESSES & TOURISM**

There are now more shops than in several generations in Audlem with the business base expanding rapidly in marked contrast to most villages and market towns as the country is increasingly dominated by national brands.

2,000 local residents are not, however, sufficient to support all the shops, as was shown all too dramatically by the Shropshire Union canal closure in 2009 when retail businesses in Audlem saw a sharp decline in trade - there's around 50,000 visitors a year from the canal. There is a continuing need to attract visitors to shop and enjoy pubs and cafes - all the village's shops, pubs and cafes need visitors.

Audlem received a massive potential boost with the opening of the Overwater marina in 2010 with its 200 permanent moorings plus visitor moorings. A campaign led by Audlem Parish Council also saved the twenty permanent canal moorings in Audlem itself. These are important for village 'character' as well as the local business they generate.

The British Marine Federation has undertaken a major study (Economic Benefits of Inland Marinas in the UK, October 2008) which looked at 16 marinas across the UK and evaluated the economic benefits. Swanley Bridge Marina, which is approximately 4-5 hours cruising hours and about 15 miles from Overwater Marina, was one of the case study marinas in this report. The survey at this marina found that there were over 12,000 visits per year to the site, of which 9,400 were visits to moorings, 400 to hire boats, 676 to visitor moorers (including overnights) and the remainder for

non-active leisure visits, for example to the boat brokerage and workshop.

This brought in £760,000, of which 33% was a result of the main core marina business and 67% was generated within the local economy. 22 new jobs (Full Time Equivalents) were created within the local area. Swanley has 317 berths, Overwater Marina has 227 which indicates around £500,000 will come into the local economy in terms of both money and jobs.

It may be higher than this for Audlem as the Overwater site is much closer to Audlem, a very active village, compared with other marinas in the study, and with potentially easy access along the canal towpath from Bridge No 80 which is at the northern point of the site.

Improved access from the marina to the village is now vital with improvements to the towpath being worked on through a partnership with British Waterways and for visitors by road, better access to Audlem Wharf from the car park/playing field.

Spending money in locally owned businesses provides a particularly large boost to the local economy. It is estimated that £10 spent locally generates £25 to the economy because of re-circulation whereas money spent in national supermarkets largely disappears from the local economy, except, of course, through employment.

Audlem's reputation for its events is second to none and they bring large numbers of visitors to the village. Events such as the Music Festival boosted pub business significantly.

The Music & Arts Festival, Midsummer Music on the Park, Transport Festival, Bonfire & Fireworks bring in large crowds and help promote the village. These and other events such as the Cancer Research Open Garden; Carols in the Square; the Panto and Methodist Production, create publicity for the village and develop a reputation for vibrancy which also attracts visitors at other times of the year.

An additional event has emerged from discussions for this section of the 2010 Parish Plan - an annual Audlem Beer Festival in, hopefully, each August - this means major activity in May, June, July, August, all attracting visitors as well as encouraging local spending by residents.

Residents are, judging by responses to the Parish Plan survey, generally in favour of tourism, although traffic and parking are issues. Could the main car park be marked out to accommodate more vehicles (but it's felt, it must remain free); would a 1 hour parking limit on Shropshire Street help shoppers and maybe parking could take place at Methodist Church (Pray & Display!) for a voluntary contribution when not needed for Church events. All these ideas would improve access to the shops.

Audlem's tourism is based to a large extent on the canal; cycling; walking; pubs and events. Maintaining the highest standards, building a reputation which Audlem has as a lively, welcoming destination are so important in attracting repeat visits.

Visitor information through walks leaflets, cycling route maps, shopping leaflets etc will encourage many to visit or stay longer. Dioramas at the Wharf and Car Park have been installed successfully since being suggested in the 2005 Plan. Now, local shops are funding additional signage from the canal to the village centre. Other facilities could also do with more signs eg to the Post Office.

A camping/caravanning facility near to village centre would also help for big events - land-based equivalent of the visitor moorings. This was introduced for the 2010 Beer Festival.

The village's Public Toilets are in need of improvement - they need rebuilding or a complete revamp and do not provide the best welcome.

A Canal guide (BW is seeking volunteers at present) to direct visitors around village facilities could also help build a positive reputation and help guide visitors to a wider range of attractions.

There's over a hundred businesses in the village and most are not retail or Food & Drink. The more businesses use each other for services, the more money remains in the local economy. Details on the majority of these are available on Audlem Online and could be used to promote more usage by residents and between businesses.

### **Business & Tourism Strategy:**

1. Encourage more visitors through events; PR; leaflets with great photography; county and tourist guides and websites; develop the tourist section on Audlem Online for the area (Audlem, Hankelow, Buerton, Burleydam etc); improve access from Overwater Marina; improve access to Audlem Wharf from the car park.
2. Encourage local shopping, eating out etc - local campaigns, shop displays, Audlem Online, Newsletter, promote local products - locally produced food (sustainability) as well as Audlem gifts; perhaps a delivery service for those that can't get out (which could create a job if a small delivery charge were made). Plus shopping events such as the Christmas Late Night event - maybe a special 'Local Shopping' week when all put in an extra effort with offers, hospitality etc. Ensure a regular flow of stories from shops, pubs etc for Audlem Online.

3. Encourage businesses to use each other as much as possible - keeps the money going round. Perhaps mail-outs using current information on Audlem Online to all local businesses; encourage other businesses to promote themselves, perhaps with a 'Local Businesses' listing displayed in village.

### **TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT**

In the 136 individual comments responding to the survey question: "If there was one thing you could change about Audlem what would it be?", the top three most popular responses were:

- 84 – do something about the HGVs
- 27 – control parking/provide more parking
- 7 – control speeding through the village

### **Heavy Goods Vehicles**

HGVs driving through the village was highlighted in the 2005 Plan, and repeated in the 2010 survey, as the biggest single issue facing the village. One of the major recommendations for action in the 2005 Plan was to concentrate on the de-priming of the A525 as a first step towards the eventual alleviation of the problem. Many years of effort by many people were at last rewarded in early 2010 when the Ministry of Transport formally put through the de-priming.

It is accepted that this, in itself, will have only a minimal impact on the problem. So the recommendation of the 2010 Plan is that this de-priming should be implemented in two major ways:

1. Ordnance Survey and the providers of the satellite navigation systems that are used by many of the HGVs should be encouraged to ensure that the change of status of the A525 is reflected in their systems which guide the vehicles.

Cheshire East should be continually pestered to ensure that every opportunity is taken to change the signage for the A525 to show the revised status of the road.

2. The logical next move in reducing HGV traffic would be to implement a weight limit on vehicles passing through the centre of the village. This need only, in fact, apply to the section of the A525 between the Church and the junction of the A525 and Green Lane (A529) to effectively control such vehicles in the entire village area. It is accepted that such a weight limit could not apply to local farm machinery vehicles, nor to HGVs which require local access. A survey is required to establish what proportion of HGVs would in practice be affected by a weight limit – this survey is the job of the Area Traffic Engineer for Cheshire East, and we understand that such a survey is already in hand. The recommendation is therefore:

Maintain pressure on the Area Traffic Engineer's department to complete such a survey and then to consider whether the results justify a weight limit being imposed.

### **Traffic speeds**

Speed of traffic through the village was not explicitly considered in the 2005 Plan, but it has emerged since as a concern to many residents. The Working Group considers that a 20mph speed restriction through the village is unlikely to get the support required for implementation and in any case would be very difficult to enforce. The speeds of vehicles in the roads leading into the village is currently a source of some concern and two recommendations are being made:

1. Restart the Speedwatch scheme which was briefly tried in Spring 2010, and this time ensure that is properly managed and understood by village residents.
2. Create traffic calming "pinch points" at the Weaver bridge on the Whitchurch Road, the canal bridge and the "New" bridge on Stafford Street/Woore Road. In addition one more such "pinch point" should be created on Cheshire Street, possibly by Little Heath.

### **Condition of roads**

This emerged strongly as a point of concern in the 2010 survey - 75% of responders regarded the state of local roads as "poor" or "very poor". The survey took place before a period of extremely difficult weather conditions. However, following pressure subsequently applied to the various authorities, the Working Group consider that steps are being taken, albeit slowly, to remedy the situation. The Group have therefore no specific recommendations on this subject.

### **Local signage**

The Working Group does not recommend expensive "brown" signs to the village from nearby road junctions. However, the Group does think there is room for considerable improvement in local signage within the village, aimed at pedestrian rather than vehicle traffic. These could be relatively low-cost DIY signs attached to the sides of buildings and walls. The Group recommends:

Signage of local services and facilities be provided in a low-cost form aimed primarily at pedestrians.

### **Parking**

The 2005 Plan recommended that proper marking of parking bays in the main car park should be carried out. The Working Group note that this has not been done, apart from an over-provision of disabled parking bays (since partly reversed). Since the 2005 Plan there has been some more explicit marking of parking bays along Shropshire Street, especially opposite the new Co-op store.

Response to the 2010 survey suggested that the parking situation was regarded as "good" or "reasonable" by 63% of responders. There was, however, marked criticism about the lack of parking outside the Co-op store. The recommendations of the Working Group are:

1. The parking bays in the main car park should be properly marked out, including provision for cars parked in the centre of the main area.
2. The marked parking spaces on Shropshire Street should be moved to the other side of the road (i.e. immediately outside the Co-op store) partly to create a natural "chicané" to slow down traffic and partly to protect shoppers (and especially children) emerging onto the pavement outside the store.

### **Footpaths**

In the 2010 survey 70% of responders regarded the local footpaths as "good" or "reasonable", although it was noted that there is almost no cycleway provision. The 2005 Plan highlighted the necessity to improve the footpath leading from the playing field down to the Shroppie Fly area. This has not happened, and in the view of the Working Group, has now become an important issue.

A new development since the 2005 Plan is the Overwater Marina, and the towpath/footpath between it and the village has become an important recreational and economic factor for the Village. 90% of 2010 survey responders thought that this needs improving, ideally with the additional provision of a footbridge over the canal to shorten the walking distance to the Marina. The Working Party recommends:

1. The playing field to Shroppie Fly footpath be upgraded with signs provided. It is felt that this could be achieved using local resources very cheaply.
2. As a matter of urgency the path between the village and new Marina must be made easy and safe in all weathers, and a new footbridge should be provided over the canal.

### **Public transport**

Of the 2010 survey responders, 40% thought the bus services were "good", and 40% thought them "poor". The 2005 recommendation that a proper bus stop should be provided in the car park has not been carried out. The Working Group identified a need for bus services to stop at Thornton House for the benefit of older residents there, and it is understood that this is going to happen in the near future. The Group recommends:

The provision of bus services for shopping, especially for older residents, should be monitored.

## **Pedestrian access**

The Working Group noted that a major recommendation in the 2005 report under “road safety” was the provision of six pedestrian crossings at various defined points within the Village. When this project was pursued by the Parish Council following the adoption of the 2005 plan, it quickly became apparent that the crossings would be prohibitively expensive to install and would in any case be unlikely to meet the Highways Department’s criteria.

The Working Group accepts that this situation still persists, but it does recommend:

Further consideration be given to improving the pedestrian routes used by children and elderly residents to get from the East and West ends of the village to the village centre.

## **AUDLEM PLANNING GROUP**

All of the tasks in the 2005 Parish Plan have been achieved with the exception of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to reinforce the Village Design Statement (VDS). Cheshire East has so far declined to provide the SPD on the grounds that it has more urgent tasks and that it has already endorsed the VDS to the effect that it will be “given due weight as a material planning consideration when planning applications are to be considered within the parish of Audlem”. In this context the VDS includes the Landscape Character Assessment which is part of the same document. Nonetheless we shall continue to press for an SPD since the latter would carry greater weight at, say, a public planning inquiry. This is because the SPD, unlike the VDS, has to be subjected to consultation with selected developers and landowners domiciled outside the parish boundary.

In regard to the three conservation areas (central village, Salford and Coxbank) the Group, in consultation with the Parish Council and other community bodies, has made suggestions to Cheshire East for boundary changes and the clarification of “permitted development rights”. The major boundary change suggested is that the whole of the flight of canal locks from Bridge 74 in the South to the old canal stables just below Bridge 79 should be made a single conservation area. The existing canal conservation area – part of the central village area – extends only from lock12, just above Town Bridge, to lock 13 just below the Shroppie Fly. Cheshire East has indicated that any such changes are unlikely to be made before 2011 – 2013.

Day to day planning applications will continue to be reviewed by the Parish Council and the Amenities Society. The Planning Group will only assist at the request of these bodies if a major application seems likely to change significantly the character or amenities of the village.

## **HEALTH**

### **Audlem Medical Practice**

Audlem has a well established Medical Practice situated in the centre of the village. It is contracted with the Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust to provide front-line medical services to the area. There are 5 doctors and all work part-time. They have appropriate nursing and auxiliary support, housed together in a modern building – but there are concerns about the lack of space in the Medical Practice which may limit its ability to provide additional services in the future.

Patient satisfaction levels demonstrated by the 2010 Parish Plan questionnaire remain generally high, although concern was expressed by a number of people about the lack of an out-of-hours and weekend health service.

### **Successes since 2005**

Of the issues raised in the 2005 Parish Plan two have now been dealt with and can be crossed off the original Action Plan ie:

- There has been a female doctor working at the Medical Practice.
- The disabled parking bays outside the Practice have been properly marked out.

Since 2005 there have been other notable successes in the area of health:

### **The Patient Participation Group**

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) has been set up involving 7 patient volunteers who meet with representatives from the Practice on a regular basis. The PPG passes on information from patients to the Practice and receives feedback from the doctors and staff. New services proposed by the Practice are discussed with the Panel before they are implemented and the PPG supports the Practice. All patients registered at the Practice are entitled to raise issues of concern and can contact any member of the PPG by email or phone. Leaflets about the PPG and its remit are available at the surgery.

### **Audlem Community First Responders**

Audlem First Responders were set up in 2008. A village survey carried out in August 2009 demonstrated the level of support for them, and Audlem now has a trained group of volunteers who provide emergency first aid within the village for those suffering from cardiac arrest. They have dedicated transport, provided by a lottery grant but the quest for a full service is not yet over. The volunteers are limited, by the level of training they have received, to attending cardiac arrest victims only. We need to continue the fight with the North West Ambulance Service to enable Responders to receive the highest level of training so that they can

attend other types of emergency in the village. Also, depending on NHS developments as the result of the new government, it may be necessary to look at the scope and coverage of this vital service.

### **Defibrillators**

There are now 4 defibrillators, placed around the village. Staff in three shops have been fully trained to use them if someone suffers cardiac arrest in the village. The defibrillators are located in the co-operative food shop, the Mill Shop, AudlemCycleSport and the First Responders also carry one.

### **LINK**

In December 2009 Cheshire East launched LINK (a Local Information Network) which is an independent network of volunteers and organisations who want to improve health and social care services in East Cheshire. Cheshire East publicity material states that: "By expressing their comments, criticisms, concerns or compliments, groups and individuals can help influence changes in local care services." Audlem has representatives who attend local LINK meetings where they raise issues of local concern. They then feed back to various groups in the village eg the Carers' Support Group and the PPG.

### **Issues in 2010**

With the formation of the new Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government, health policies may change. Priorities for NHS services will therefore need to be monitored locally and MPs involved as appropriate.

A full list of current issues is contained in the Action Plan but it might be useful to highlight some of the main ones:

### **Ambulance Response Times**

A survey carried out in Audlem and the neighbouring villages of Buerton, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley and Hankelow during August 2009 asked for people's views on ambulance response times and the response overwhelmingly showed high levels of dissatisfaction. In addition, there has been a long-running campaign to highlight the deficiencies of the current service and to encourage NWAS (North West Ambulance Service) to improve its service to rural areas. As a result of this pressure, we now have an ambulance based at Nantwich covering Nantwich and rural South Cheshire, specifically Audlem and district. This improved service started on the 1st March 2010 and is on duty 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. The ambulance service is still being monitored to check whether response times have improved to within the targets set out by NWAS.

### **Elderly Population**

A recent patient survey carried out by Western Cheshire PCT indicates that Audlem has a relatively high concentration of elderly people with attendant health problems such as dementia, heart disease, pulmonary problems, chronic kidney disease etc. This high concentration is partly explained by the presence of nursing and residential homes in the area, notably Corbrook Court and Audlem Country Nursing Home. This means that it is particularly important to monitor the services available to patients with long-term illnesses and to ensure that elderly people continue to receive the high priority level of services that their needs demand.

### **Flexible GP surgery opening hours**

This issue was raised in the last Parish Plan. The 2009 questionnaire showed that local people wanted extended opening hours to help those who work and cannot easily attend surgery during the current opening hours. The flexibility of GP surgery opening hours may become a higher government priority.

### **PCT (Primary Care Trust)**

Shortly after Cheshire was split into East and West, with Audlem in the Cheshire East borough, the health authorities, with no public consultation, decreed that Audlem Medical Practice would be transferred back to Western Cheshire PCT. For some years previously, while funding had been provided for historical reasons by Western Cheshire, treatment and services were via the Central & Eastern Cheshire PCT.

Assurances were given that the transfer in early 2010 would not affect services but it is hardly simplifying local governance if politically Audlem is in the East and medically in the West. The Government's recent announcement that the PCTs are to be abolished may mean this could be a short-term issue and services currently commissioned in Chester will be commissioned more locally by GPs.

Doubts remain about future funding. There have been strong suggestions in the press that large cuts are to be made to PCT funding in the immediate future and we need to ensure that this does not mean a poorer service for the people of Audlem, with trips further and further afield to obtain treatment.

### **Enhanced Provision of Services**

The aim is to enhance the provision of local GP and community health services based in Audlem, or within easy travelling distance, which will reduce the need to attend local hospital out-patients or as an in-patient. In this way it should be possible to provide services such as podiatry, counselling and physiotherapy within the area. For these to be accessible to all, however,

schemes such as the volunteer car service which takes people to hospital appointments at Leighton Hospital, would probably need to expand considerably.

## **AUDLEM WILDLIFE & ECOLOGY GROUP**

This Group has been formed recently (April 2010) to record, study and safeguard the wildlife of the parish in all its forms. This is an aspect of environmental protection and improvement which complements the activities of the Planning Group (topography and landscape value) and ADAPT (community sustainability). The Weaver Valley Park study (2008) has incidentally drawn attention to local areas of biological interest.

Group membership is at present small and resources limited, but longer term objectives (see Action Plan) should be achievable by further recruitment, training and the advice and practical assistance of other bodies, particularly Cheshire Wildlife Trust. While the attractive landscape and network of good footpaths are in themselves important amenities in the parish, biodiversity has diminished as a result of more intensive farming, a problem prevalent throughout the country. Fortunately our canal, stream and river corridors still offer valuable habitats, together with the remaining hedgerows and a few semi- or unimproved grasslands. Through discussions with the farming community the Group hopes to gain a greater understanding of the challenges facing modern farming and to assess the ways in which the protection or improvement of biodiversity could be achieved. Encouragement will also be given to the development of wildlife habitats in domestic gardens.

## **YOUTH & EDUCATION**

The Youth and Education working group set about its brief by taking into account feedback from the following sources:-

### **The Parish Plan questionnaire**

The Parish Plan questionnaire as completed by pupils at Brine Leas School

Consultations with Y6, Y3 and Y1 pupils at St James Primary School

### **Youth**

In a trawl through the list of completed Parish Plans in Cheshire, it was interesting that only 4 of the first 20 parishes on the list have any facilities of note for young people. Some of these communities may be small and have few youngsters living amongst them, others have exemplary provision for their young people. The spectrum is broad but the pattern is undeniable - provision for young people in rural communities is scant.

Looking back at the 2005 Parish Plan there are a number of objectives that have since been met successfully. A basketball net was erected on the car park; the play area was considerably upgraded; and a teen shelter was located adjacent to the playing fields and car park, all welcome progress. Coming back to present day, one of the key wishes expressed in both this and the 2005 plan is that of an indoor meeting venue for young people. As a goal it remains elusive due, primarily, to the absence of capital for such a project.

In the course of producing an action plan for 2010, the Youth & Education working group considered many ways in which one might enhance the experience of growing up in Audlem and arrived at this conclusion. Young people depend more than adults on their immediate neighbourhood for their social life and much of what was being expressed through both the questionnaires and anecdotally could be tackled by giving our young people a permanent place to call their own. From this deceptively simple premise, 'Operation Hut' was born and the notion of focusing energetically on a single issue was conceived.

The proposed project aims to provide a modest, functional, sustainable and attractive structure, within 2 years if possible, to be used as a Youth Drop-In/Club for Y6 (age 10/11) and upwards. Entitled 'Operation Hut' because it is believed that a 'hut' like structure could successfully meet the needs of a Youth Club and be delivered at a price that the community could realistically target through fund raising initiatives. It is suggested that additional funding be sought for running costs and, the key to the success of this project, a professional Youth Worker.

In addition, great emphasis would be placed on sourcing a sustainable building, indeed, one which may even lend itself to a self-build involving the community at large. The project is entirely in tune with the 'Big Society' values of the current coalition government and as such would hope to enlist the support of local MP Stephen O'Brien.

With proposed sofas, internet access and kitchenette facility the building might have a second life during the school day as a meeting place for local groups; a sometime resource for St James' Primary school; a place to encourage educational visits from neighbouring primary schools or a base for adult education in the village. The possibilities are many and it has the potential to generate income through what it might uniquely offer.

At the moment 'Operation Hut' is just a proposal that grew out of a collective wish. If the village chooses to embrace the idea it stands the chance of becoming a reality.

## Education

The Youth and Education working group liaised with the Acting Chair of School Governors, Hilary Wymer, for an update on progress at the school. Her comments are published below:

“Over the recent academic year the Governing Body instructed an independent report into Teaching and Learning and Leadership and Management. From those reports an Action Plan has been put into place to move the school from a ‘satisfactory’ Ofsted mark to a ‘good’ mark, through improvements to the quality of teaching and the leadership and management of the school, thereby raising pupil attainment and pupil progress.

“The school will continue to have support from the local authority throughout the next academic year and the Governing Body will be continuously monitoring the progress and improvements to ensure the school is on the right track.

“It has been a very challenging year for the school, but the Governing Body now feel confident that the school is moving forward with the continued help of the local authority, the teachers, and the parents.”

On a separate matter and worthy of note is an interest in the provision of adult education in Audlem, although respondents feedback produced no clear indication of topic areas. Further research would need to be undertaken to establish the true scale of demand.

## ACCESS and INCLUSION

The remit of this group was to:

- Look at the ways services and businesses in Audlem meet the needs of the whole community.
- Evaluate how far related proposals in the 2005 Parish Plan had been implemented.
- Draw up proposals to enhance access and inclusion in the next five years and beyond.
- Potentially vulnerable groups such as older residents, people with disabilities, those with mental health problems and single parents were particular foci. The needs of children are being considered by the Youth and Education Group.

The group met monthly from February to July 2010. They had access to supporting documents such as the 2005 Parish Plan, the 2010 Parish Plan Questionnaire outcomes and demographic data from the 2001 census.

A major conclusion from the discussions was that a structure had to be put in place to ensure that the proposals were monitored and evaluated. It was clear that Audlem is a vibrant and friendly village but we

should accept that some residents are less able to participate in village life than others. A sign of a truly caring community is the way in which the most vulnerable members are considered and included. We are all vulnerable at some stage in our lives and action to promote better access will benefit everyone. Members agreed that the group should become a permanent Access and Inclusion Group which would meet quarterly to:

- Ensure that proposals were being put into action
- Keep a ‘watching brief’ on future developments in the village to promote the inclusion of the whole community into village life.

The group found that of the proposals from the 2005 plan, some had not been implemented and others had been fully or partially put into place. The Parish Newsletter, village noticeboards and Audlem Online publicise local groups and events very successfully.

Physical access to the village, however, still remains problematical. Although the Co-op and the newsagents are now more accessible other problems remain: limited disabled access at local shops, particularly the chemist; no pedestrian crossings; poor pavement width on Whitchurch Road and Stafford Street and speed limits not adhered to. The Transport group will also be looking at some of these issues.

Key areas for development identified by the group were:

- Community Care
- Physical and sensory access to local services and facilities.
- Disability awareness
- Isolation
- The inclusivity of local services, clubs and societies

The concept of ‘Sustainability’ must run through future developments in our village and beyond. Providing better services for residents helps to address the need to localise our daily life. A sustainable way forward is to provide most services locally in a way that is accessible to all. If most food and leisure activities are available within the village there is much less need for non-sustainable travel and transport of goods.

The action plan has addressed the issues.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Working Group has reviewed the action plans from the 2005 Parish Plan and concluded, that with one exception, all had been fully achieved.

## **Audlem Online**

The website has been developed over the five years to the extent that it was read widely in the local area; by the local media resulting in Audlem attracting significant coverage; and by the wider Audlem 'population' with readers with an interest in the village checking out the website from all over the world. Daily news has been published every day since the website's launch, some 5,000 news stories to date.

Approaching 700 readers a day, or nearly 20,000 a month, now read the website, a huge increase since the publication of the 2005 Plan, when a daily readership of 100 was still to be achieved. New features, many unique to Audlem, continue to be added by the four-strong webteam. A Buy/Sell/Free service is a recent addition to the website.

In September 2010, Audlem Online was awarded the 'Best website in Cheshire' award by Cheshire Community Action.

## **Audlem Parish Newsletter**

The Audlem Parish Newsletter has been another significant success. Since Margaret Roberts assumed editorship in 2005, the number of editions has doubled to four a year; all had been produced to a high quality and on schedule; and feedback indicated the publication is widely read and appreciated.

The Communications Group confirmed in their discussions that, to meet the needs of as large a proportion of the local population as possible, a printed newsletter was a necessity even if the Audlem Online website continued to grow in popularity.

## **Maps and Information**

Other actions met successfully included the design and installation of the canalside and car park village maps and information boards (dioramas); the introduction of annual village meetings with five already having taken place; and an improvement to village notice boards. Both the Parish Council and ADAS now have splendid new notice boards in the village centre while two of the notice boards that had been considered superfluous by some in the 2005 Parish Plan questionnaire has now been removed from outside the Public Hall and Public Toilets.

## **Public Relations**

The 2005 Plan had recommended a public relations campaign to promote the village and its attraction and events. The village has since appeared regularly in Cheshire Life and Local Life magazines; has featured in national and regional TV and radio programmes;

regularly attracts prominent front page coverage in newspapers in all three local counties and has even attracted extensive coverage in a number of national newspapers.

## **Other opportunities**

Other communications achievements include a walks leaflet that is now widely available featuring six local walks while plans are in hand to produce a leaflet publicising the village's attractions and local retail business, pubs and cafés.

The one action from 2005 not yet completed was to establish an historic barge as a Canal/Village Information/Tourist Attraction. There has been partial success on the canal, however, with the installation in 2008 of six interpretation boards alongside the towpath which were researched, written and designed under the supervision of members of the Communications group. A village tourist information centre was also launched at Williams' newsagents as a result of the 2005 Plan.

Feedback from the 2010 Parish Plan questionnaire indicated a high level of satisfaction with village communications with many compliments about the website and newsletter.

The Communications group considered what more should be done to ensure good quality communication within and about Audlem over the coming years. With internet access widespread at over 80% of the population meaning Audlem Online was available to most; regular newsletters; well-maintained notice boards and extensive coverage in local mainstream media, it was felt that, in effect, more of the same would suffice. All of the current communications activity entails considerable effort and, with constrained national and local finances, it was unrealistic to expect much more.

The group did feel, however, that efforts should be made to publish the Audlem promotional leaflet in large quantities and funding has now been gained. Also, as a second stage on from the canalside interpretation boards, funding should also be found, if possible, for an interactive computer programme to be installed in the Mill Shop with details of the canal and its history and attractions in the village of Audlem and the surrounding area.

In addition, it was agreed that responsibility for any future development of a tourist attraction such as a historic barge and/or Thomas Telford museum facility would be transferred to the Parish Plan Community Projects group.

This concludes the sections of the Plan written by the Working Groups. Action Plans for each group follow the sections on Local Governance and Law & Order. The former has been written in conjunction with three Audlem Parish Councillors working on the Parish Plan, the latter by the Steering Committee chairman in consultation with Cheshire Police.

## **LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

### **Audlem Parish Council**

There was little criticism and much support for the Parish Council by the Parish Plan's questionnaire respondents. Over 95% rated the Parish Council as 'Good' or 'Reasonable'. There were relatively few suggestions as to how they could improve their service - those few detailed focused on communicating more and traffic issues.

As a result of the 2005 Parish Plan, the Parish Council now holds an annual Parish meeting and the number of issues of the Parish Newsletter have been doubled to four. Agendas, Minutes and other Parish Council business are more widely available now via Audlem Online which carries a detailed Parish Council section prominently advertised and accessed from the Homepage.

Audlem Parish Council (PC) is made up of 12 unpaid elected councillors, assisted by a part-time Parish Clerk and a part-time Financial Officer (both paid). All seats on the PC are up for election every 4 years.

In April 2009 the Parish Council adopted the following Mission Statement:

"The role of Audlem Parish Council is to promote and manage the smooth running and sustainable development of our community in a democratic, prudent and non-discriminatory way, achieving this by adherence to the requirements of Quality Parish Council status. Further, it should represent the views and aims of the parish in external affairs, directly or via devolved bodies."

The PC raises money from the village via the precept, a tax levied by the PC to fund local expenditure, and spends it on items such as street cleaning, repairs and maintenance, burial board and insurance. Much of the remainder is then allocated to the various organisations in the village. For example, money goes to ASET (Audlem Special Events Team); ADAS (Audlem District Amenities Society); the Public Hall; the Music Festival; 5As; the Saints Football Team etc.

### **Cheshire East Council**

The Parish Plan survey was carried out in November 2009, just seven months after the transfer of local government responsibility from Cheshire County and Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council to the new unitary authority, Cheshire East.

Despite the fact that there had been virtually no enthusiasm across the county for splitting Cheshire into two unitary authorities by the national government, over a quarter of Audlem respondents thought it was still too early to assess the new council and its services. Almost 45% did say they were 'Satisfied' or 'Reasonably Satisfied', while almost 30% were dissatisfied with Cheshire East.

Since the survey, criticism of the authority's large (and expensive) redundancy programme and possibly excessive expenditure on signage and branding, while seemingly unable to fund many local projects, has resulted in questions about the authority's priorities, particularly amongst those dealing with the council on issues requiring financial support or, simply, a decision.

In addition, many of those councillors from the south of the new authority, in effect the old Crewe & Nantwich Borough area, have been removed or have resigned from key positions. The result is the authority appears to be somewhat 'Macclesfield' orientated. At the time of writing, amongst 'South' Cheshire councillors, only Rachel Bailey, Audlem's local councillor, is in a position of influence at Cabinet level.

It is particularly disappointing that Cheshire East's planners cannot find the time or resource, despite many requests, to give the Audlem Landscape Character Assessment and Village Design Statement full approval by means of a Supplementary Planning Document. These documents were produced with great care by the Audlem Parish Plan Planning Group from 2005 - 2009 and could be an important consideration in the event of a major planning application, for example for a wind farm or major housing development, in the locality.

It is also disappointing that, at the time of writing, and over eighteen months since singling out Audlem in the local press as a place she must visit, Cheshire East's chief executive has still not been to the village in an official capacity.

The Parish Plan group agrees with the proposal to return to having an Audlem councillor representing the parish and others relatively near to Audlem rather than the current arrangement of three councillors representing a much larger Cholmondeley ward. One councillor for the ward means a closer link between the elected representative and the electorate.

### **Future Governance**

One of the stated policies of Cheshire East is to devolve functions to local parishes and to encourage the local delivery of services, with the aim of reducing the overall expenditure on services by the borough council.

Audlem PC is considering taking on the management of some services such as: street cleaning, including clearing

gullies; public conveniences; maintenance of highway verges, open spaces, footways and footpaths; off-street parking; playing fields and tennis courts; day care facilities (eg the Thornton House Lunch Club and possibly the Tea Club) and allotments.

It might be of considerable benefit to the village if the PC were to take on some of these services in terms of making them more responsive to local needs. It would, however, require an appropriate transfer of funds raised in taxation from Cheshire East to the Parish Council. The danger of double taxation must be avoided to ensure that residents don't pay for a service twice ie at local level and again at borough level.

It is likely that significant savings would be made. For example, in 2010 Cheshire East indicated that improvements to an Audlem footpath between the playing field and the Shroppie Fly car park would cost over £25,000. Local contractors have told parish councillors it will cost approximately £2,000. As well as cost savings, local employment will be boosted by using more local companies following any devolvement of responsibilities.

The PC would need to check this thoroughly and assess all other financial and staffing implications. They would also need to consider, for example, whether they have the necessary capacity or skills to take on the tasks. Parish councillors working on this Parish Plan believe continuing to work with members of the Parish Plan working groups may boost that capacity and help spread the workload between councillors and the many other residents who are willing to be involved in local projects.

Those councillors believe the Parish Council's effectiveness and responsiveness might involve individual councillors taking lead responsibility for particular activities - traffic; the elderly; youth; recreation; council assets; tourism; planning and so on. Residents and businesses would then know which councillor deals with which issue.

The expertise of councillors would become more focused and each councillor could use other local expertise. For example, the 'traffic councillor' could work closely with the Traffic & Transport working group for this Parish Plan. This would increase significantly the level of engagement of other residents, particularly those that do not wish to take on the legal duties of being a councillor but wish to be involved in community activity.

In addition, Audlem PC should consider joining with other nearby parish councils, and/or Nantwich Town Council, working in a cluster to achieve savings through sharing staff and/or expertise and costs. The joint work of local Parish Councils and Nantwich Town Council in improving the NWS ambulance response times shows what can be achieved through co-operation.

Whatever route it takes, Audlem Parish Council is likely to increase its area of influence and its levels of responsibility over the next few years, so it is vital that committed and experienced people continue to put themselves forward as parish councillors.

## **LAPS**

Audlem Parish Council, as part of a group of ten local parish councils, along with representatives from the police, the fire service, local housing associations and others, now meet within the Nantwich Local Area Partnership (LAP).

Cheshire East has seven such LAPS, centred on Nantwich, Crewe, Poynton, Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield and Wilmslow. Their role, according to the Cheshire East website is to: "bring together the key agencies within localities to ensure engagement with communities, provide empowerment opportunities and improve service delivery through the development of robust, evidence based Area Delivery Plans."

These seven LAPs in turn relate to "Thematic Groups" and through them to the Cheshire East Strategic Partnership Executive, known as PACE (Partnerships for Action in Cheshire East).

The jargon alone raises serious questions! A number of attendees at these LAP meetings have also asked whether this additional level of local governance will help or hinder local services or decision making. With relatively infrequent meetings scheduled, they have the potential to delay decision making, already complex enough, while the geographical spread of the areas covered will inevitably impact on local knowledge.

Cheshire East should be asked to reconsider if LAPS really are a step in the right direction or whether their aims may be better met by devolvement to those parish councils which wish to take on more responsibilities, possibly working in a cluster of parishes with common interests.

## **LAW & ORDER**

When Audlem had 'Community Action Meetings' where residents met with the police, the concerns focussed almost entirely on three issues; speeding, parking and nuisance youths. The police confirm that this pattern is reflected right across the country.

Parking issues are now largely out of the hands of the police and responsibility has passed to the local authority. The Traffic & Transport section of this Plan has some suggestions which will be presented to the local authority.

The 'youth problems', it is generally agreed, have diminished considerably, possibly as much the result of demographics, but the lack of facilities, for teenagers in

particular, is an issue that still needs to be addressed. The Youth & Education section of this Parish Plan does so.

On speeding, the police have an ongoing programme of speed enforcement, although many residents complain that it's being done in the wrong location or at the wrong time. A Speedwatch team was established for a short period in 2010 but is currently on hold. Efforts, led by the Parish Council, are underway to rebuild a team.

Statistics indicate that Audlem is generally a law abiding community. Recently, there was an outbreak of farm machinery thefts but the police had a major success in dealing with those and they tailed off. Heating oil thefts have also been reported.

Litter has been an issue but appears to be under control and complaints have dropped. Indeed, Audlem has won the Best Kept Village award for Cheshire for many years in a row.

It was noted in the 2005 Parish Plan that Audlem has one policeman for 2,000 residents while London, albeit a very different community, has almost ten times as many officers with approximately one for every 250 residents. Since 2005, a Police Community Support Officer is also seen frequently in Audlem. Perhaps one positive conclusion that can be drawn is that it's good to live in a relatively crime-free and peaceful community that doesn't require the level of policing the citizens of London seem to need!

Responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire saw 71% rating the level of policing as good or reasonable with the bulk opting for 'reasonable'. A significant minority, 29%, rated it poor or very poor, which is an issue Cheshire Police should address.

There have been reports over recent years of lengthy waits following calls for police assistance. 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. Similar pressure has been applied to the ambulance service resulting in the deployment of an additional ambulance dedicated to Nantwich and Audlem and district.

Inspector R Hassall of Cheshire Police says: "In relation to response times we have recently (10/5/10) re-located full 24-hour response function to Nantwich Police Station from Crewe therefore at times reducing the distances that we travel with the Nantwich team responsible for around 140sq. miles.

"The Government sets a 20 minute response time target for rural areas although Cheshire Constabulary apply the 15 minute target that is set for urban areas. Although we

are only a few months into the new arrangements, we have seen an 8% improvement on the same period last year with 9 out of 10 calls responded to within this target."

"In relation to the Speeding issue a significant amount of work has been done in this area with this year seeing the first joint Engagement day run with our Fire service partners at Audlem with issues around speeding not only being enforcement but also education and engineering as seen with the de-priming of the A525.

"In relation to residents concerns about time and location of our enforcement we now have a series of 'Parish cluster meetings' with local councillors. These meetings allow Councillors to influence local policing priorities of which Speeding is normally one and information about times and locations should be passed to us so that we can focus our activity."

## SUSTAINABILITY

All the Working Groups were asked to take into account the issue of sustainability in their considerations. Clearly, sustainability can mean many things. Support for local shops and businesses; encouraging re-cycling through the new Audlem Online Buy/Sell and 'Free to a good home' facility; launching new events; establishing the Audlem Wildlife & Ecology Group; saving the threatened Day Care facilities for elderly residents; the work and contribution to Audlem's sense of community by ADAS, ASET, ADAPT and many other organisations and individuals - all are aspects of 'sustainability, as defined by:

*"A well balanced, pro-active caring community which is making the best of local opportunities, enhancing and protecting the local environment, services and facilities, and ensuring a better quality of life for all its inhabitants without compromising the future."*

## ACTION PLAN for COMMUNITY PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
<i>Develop concept of Thomas Telford Museum</i>	<i>Through British Waterways, Mill Shop, Local tourism</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Village residents and businesses</i>	<i>Community Projects Group/Bob Cartwright</i>	<i>Minimal, subject to grants/British Waterways</i>	
<i>Support for BW Volunteer Canal Guides</i>	<i>Local promotion/encouragement/create Information Desk</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Local residents and business, schools</i>	<i>Parish Council, Community Projects</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	
<i>Develop and support the Audlem Community 'Big Walk' as an annual village event</i>	<i>Through Audlem Medical Practice and Patients Participation Group</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents of all ages</i>	<i>Patients Participation Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	<i>Inaugural walk September 2010</i>
<i>Continue ongoing support for Public Hall</i>	<i>Promotion of value of Public Hall to all concerned. Seek grants for funding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Public Hall</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
<i>Encourage, co-ordinate and monitor establishment of allotments</i>	<i>Joint Working Group Parish Council/DAHLIA</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Parish Council/DAHLIA</i>	<i>To be established but self financing</i>	
<i>Provide changing rooms for all sports, Recreation, entertainment</i>	<i>Local Sports Clubs/Sports Foundations/Cheshire East/Public Hall</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village sports organisations</i>	<i>Community Projects Group</i>	<i>To be established, but grant aided</i>	<i>This to be linked to Youth proposals</i>
<i>Improve Storage for Music, Art, Drama &amp; Cultural activities</i>	<i>Local groups, Public Hall</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Village Music, Arts, Drama etc</i>	<i>Community Projects/ Public Hall</i>	<i>To be established (possible link to above)</i>	<i>See above</i>
<i>Improvements/relocation of Public Toilets</i>	<i>Lobby Cheshire East/Parish Council/ Public Hall</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Community Projects/Parish Council</i>	<i>To be established</i>	<i>See above</i>
<i>Establish modern outdoor Multi Games Area for younger groups</i>	<i>Agree size/location/style with potential users</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents, particularly young people</i>	<i>Community Projects group</i>	<i>£35000 but hopefully significant external funding</i>	

### Notes

It is emphasised that the changing rooms/storage/relocation of toilets will be considered along with the proposals for a dedicated indoor youth area

## ACTION PLAN for LOCAL TOURISM & BUSINESS WORKING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
Promote village business from canal	Signage on canal bridge –liaison with British Waterways	High	All village traders	Audlem Traders Association	Sponsorship direct from business	
Promote village business from the canal	Improved links with Overwater Marina – physical footpath, leaflet & notice boards	High	All village traders	Audlem Traders Association, Parish Council	Private and public sector funding	See Transport & Comm'n's Plans
Promote the canal side business from the village	Brown tourist signs – liaison with Parish Council, Cheshire East	High	All village traders	Parish Council	Public sector funding	See Transport Plan
Promotion of village as a visitor attraction and desirable residential area	Visit Audlem Leaflet	High	All village traders and residents	Audlem Traders Association	Private and public sector funding	See Comm'n's Plan
Promotion of village as a visitor attraction and desirable residential area	Magazine features; general and specialist publications; other websites	Medium	All village traders and residents	Audlem Traders Association	No cost	
Promotion of village as a visitor attraction and desirable residential area	New Village Events	Medium	All village traders and residents	Audlem Traders Association/ A.S.E.T.	Self funding	
<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
Promotion of village as an 'Activity' destination	Improved written information for walkers, cyclists etc	Medium	All village traders and residents	Audlem Traders Association/ A.S.E.T.	Self funding and grants where applicable	
Promotion of the village as an 'Activity' destination	Yearly village events guide	High	All village traders and residents	Audlem Traders Association / A.S.E.T.	Self funding	
Retain and increase local businesses support with local community	'Shop and Support' local campaigns	High	All village traders and businesses	Audlem Traders Association/ ADAPT	Self funding	
Retain and increase local businesses support with local community	'New Resident' information leaflet for incoming residents	Medium	All village traders and businesses	Audlem Traders Association	Self funding	
Retain and increase local businesses support with local community	Increased use of internet communication	Medium	All village traders and businesses	Audlem Traders and businesses/ Audlem online	minimal	See Comm'n's Plan
<b>Long term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 3 to 10 years)</b>						
Promotion of village as a visitor attraction	Improving overnight accommodation facilities and communication of services available	Medium	All village traders and potential accommodation providers	Audlem Traders Association/ A.S.E.T.	Private sector funding	
Promotion of village as visitor attraction	Improving parking- On Street and Car Parks	Medium	All Village Traders	Audlem Traders Association/ Parish Council	Public Sector Funding	See Transport Plan

## ACTION PLAN for TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
<i>A525 depriming – signage and Sat Navs</i>	<i>Pressure on Area Traffic Engineer and Sat Nav providers</i>	<i>On-going</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Just keep on asking.</i>
<i>Enforce existing speed restrictions through village</i>	<i>Speedwatch project and local Police</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Speedwatch co-ordinator Police</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	<i>Get Speedwatch restarted with better organisation</i>
<i>Footpath to new marina</i>	<i>Hard core along footpath and footbridge over the canal</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village businesses and residents</i>	<i>Transport Group and BWB</i>	<i>Significant</i>	
<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
<i>HGV weight limits through village</i>	<i>Area Traffic Engineer survey then find funding through Ward Councillor</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Parish Council, Ward Councillor</i>	<i>Minimal for survey, then East Cheshire funding</i>	<i>Keep up pressure to get survey done</i>
<i>Traffic calming</i>	<i>Pinch points at critical points, especially bridges</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Transport Group with Area Traffic Engineer</i>	<i>Needs East Cheshire funding</i>	
<i>Local signage</i>	<i>Create and erect local signs for Car Park, Canal etc</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Businesses and tourists</i>	<i>Transport Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	<i>Get signs made ourselves</i>
<i>Parking on Shropshire Street</i>	<i>Consider moving parking spaces on Shropshire Street from Methodist Chapel side to Co-op side.</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>Transport Group with Area Traffic Engineer</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	
<i>Footpath playing field to Shroppe Fly</i>	<i>Repair, upgrade and sign existing footpath</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Village residents, businesses and tourists</i>	<i>Transport Group and BWB</i>	<i>Minor with some DIY</i>	
<i>Car Park layout and marking</i>	<i>Agree marking layout with East Cheshire authority</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Village residents and tourists</i>	<i>Transport Group/Parish Council</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	
<b>Long term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 3 to 10 years)</b>						
<i>Bus Transport</i>	<i>Monitor provision of transport for shopping</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Village residents and businesses</i>	<i>Transport Group/Parish Council</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	<i>May require Parish Council action if service inadequate</i>
<i>Pedestrian access to Village Centre</i>	<i>Consideration be given to improving the pedestrian routes used by children and elderly residents to get from the East and West ends of the village to the village centre</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Village residents and businesses</i>	<i>Transport Group/Parish Council</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	

## ACTION PLAN for PLANNING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
<i>Review and comment on Cheshire East Core Strategy</i>	<i>Read critically and discuss in context of Village Design Statement</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Group, Parish Council, ADAS</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<i>List all public green spaces in parish and ensure protection from Development</i>	<i>Survey all spaces and discuss with Cheshire East</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Group, Parish Council, ADAS</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
<i>Persuade Cheshire East to reinforce Village Design Statement with Supplementary Planning Document</i>	<i>Lobbying</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Group, Parish Council, ADAS</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<i>Conservation Areas – work with Cheshire East to review boundaries and development rights</i>	<i>Keep in touch with progress by Conservation Officer</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group, Parish Council, ADAS</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	

## ACTION PLAN for WILDLIFE and ECOLOGY WORKING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
<i>Initial report on Parish Wildlife</i>	<i>Search of internet and other records plus members observations</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<i>Build group Expertise</i>	<i>Recruitment, external advice and courses</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group with external assistance</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
<i>Habitats Survey</i>	<i>List locations by type and quality</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group with external assistance,</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<i>Gain cooperation of local farmers and landowners</i>	<i>Discussions to develop understanding of how to maintain/improve biodiversity in agriculture</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group, Parish Council, Landowners</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<i>Create systematic and ongoing wildlife records</i>	<i>Develop format enabling data to be shared with external bodies</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Small</i>	
<i>Identify land worth protecting by designations such as SBI etc</i>	<i>Work with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Cheshire East</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group, Parish Council, Landowners</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>To be established</i>	
<b>Long term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 3 to 10 years)</b>						
<i>Improve Habitat Quality</i>	<i>Volunteer work to improve hedgerows, remove invasive species, tree planting etc. Some external assistance available</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Group, Parish Council, Landowners</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>To be established</i>	

## ACTION PLAN for the HEALTH WORKING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
Health advice for young people	Connexions, "Youth Bus", leaflets, website, Youth Leaders, Scouts, Guides, schools	High	Village residents - under 21s	PPG/Youth Leaders	Minimal (printing costs to be established)	
Higher level of 1 <sup>st</sup> responder training	Discussions with NWAS	High	Village residents	Mike Hill (Parish Council)	Minimal (costs to be met by NWAS)	
Improve communications between medical practice and public	Website, notices, newsletter	High	Village residents	PPG	Minimal	
<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
Monitor effect of PCT changes	Regular meetings of PPG	High	Village residents	PPG	Minimal	
Podiatry – local provision	Discussions with GPs	Med	Patients	PPG	Minimal	
Counselling – local provision	Discussions with GPs	Med	Patients	PPG	Minimal	
Physiotherapy service – local provision	Discussions with GPs	Med	Patients	PPG	Minimal	
Health advice and fitness promotion	Leaflets, referrals from GPs/practice nurses, contacts with village organisations	High	Village residents	PPG	Minimal (printing costs to be established)	
Monitor health care services for people with long-term conditions	Analyse data from the Medical Practice	Low	Residents with long-term illnesses	PPG	Minimal	
Weekend and out-of- hours health service	Discussions with GPs	High	Village residents	PPG	Minimal	
Monitor health care services for ageing population	Analyse data from the Medical Practice	Low	Elderly residents	PPG	Minimal	
Monitor effect of part-time doctors on continuity of care	Regular meetings of PPG	Med	Village residents and doctors	PPG	Minimal	
Monitor service quality at local hospitals	Analyse data on readmission rates, length of stay, death rates etc from the relevant PCT	Med	Village residents	PPG	Minimal	
Monitor and Improve ambulance response times (review figures from NWAS)	Discussions with NWAS	High	Village residents	Mike Hill (Parish Council)	Minimal (costs to be met by NWAS)	
<b>Long term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 3 to 10 years)</b>						
Visiting dental facility	Discussions with PCT	Low	Village residents	PPG	Minimal	

### Notes

PCT: Primary Care Trust (NB Audlem is in Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust)  
 PPG: Patient Participation Group  
 NWAS: North West Ambulance Service

## ACTION PLAN for YOUTH & EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
<i>Create a modest, sustainable and sympathetic building to serve as a permanent meeting place, drop in, hive of activities, café and general place to hang out for Audlems young people. With the emphasis on Year 6 and upwards</i>	<i>Seek Parish Council and Cheshire East endorsement and mobilise the support of Audlem's under 18s and the community at large to launch a massive fundraising initiative. Working Party 'Operation Hut' already in existence. All comers welcome with open arms. A possible self build project considered, enlisting young people, to make this truly hands on and create a genuine sense of ownership</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Audlems young people, Y6 and up, village residents, Audlem Medical Practice, Connexions, Audlem St James Primary School, Village Clubs and Societies</i>	<i>'Operation Hut' working party, Audlems young people, Community volunteers, The Community</i>	<i>Costings are incomplete as yet but there is a clear stated intent to keep them within reach of community fundraising initiatives so that the project remains, therefore attainable. Supporting funding would be sought from the appropriate Charitable Trusts and Foundations. Funds would need to cover construction and ongoing running costs and include recruitment of a professional youth worker</i>	<i>Dialogue maintained with Community Projects Group to see if joint action appropriate e.g changing rooms</i>

## ACTION PLAN for COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
<i>Launch Audlem online Buy/Sell (Abuy)</i>	<i>Promote sustainability through local sales and recycling</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Audlem residents</i>	<i>Audlem Webteam</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	<i>Working well so far</i>
<i>Provide direction signs to businesses</i>	<i>Promote sustainability through sales to visitors</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Audlem Traders</i>	<i>Working group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	<i>Funds now raised</i>
<i>Produce new Audlem Leaflet</i>	<i>Promote sustainability by attracting visitors</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Audlem residents and businesses</i>	<i>Communications Group</i>	<i>Funding identified and quotes received</i>	<i>Design underway</i>
<i>Media coverage through newspapers and magazines</i>	<i>Promote sustainability by attracting visitors</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Audlem Village</i>	<i>Communications Group</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	
<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
<i>Develop interactive Tourism Computer program</i>	<i>Aim to Entertain and inform visitors</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Local business</i>	<i>Communications Group</i>	<i>Finance required</i>	<i>Skills available locally</i>
<b>Long term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 3 to 10 years)</b>						
<i>To establish new major tourist attraction- a historic Narrow Boat</i>	<i>Promote sustainability by attracting visitors</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Audlem residents, businesses and tourists</i>	<i>Community Projects Group</i>	<i>To be established</i>	

**ACTION PLAN for ACCESS and INCLUSION WORKING GROUP**

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Stakeholders	Lead Responsibility	Resource Implications	Comments
<b>Short term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 12 months)</b>						
Set up an Access and Inclusion Group to monitor proposals and promote access and inclusion in future village developments	Formulate the aims of the existing group.  Schedule meetings for the next year  Publicize the group and extend membership	High	Access Group Community	Access group	Time	
Continue to provide day care facilities for the elderly in the village	Campaign with other groups to retain the service	High	Whole community	Community	Time	
Undertake an Access Audit of the village as a whole to identify areas for development	Petition Parish Council to fund an audit via local disability organisation	High	Access Group Parish Council Disability Group	Access group	Funding Time	
Develop a 5 year Village Access Plan based on results of the audit	See above Access group to work with PC and other identified bodies e.g British Waterways, breweries.	High	Parish Council Access group Other bodies	Access group	Time Funding	
Essential and other shops to provide a delivery service for residents with mobility problems	Approach chemist and other business directly and through the Traders Association	High	Access group Traders Association Local businesses	Access Group & Traders Association	Time	
Improve awareness of disability issues to promote inclusion	Disseminate information via school , Audlem Online, Parish Newsletter and Traders Association	Medium	Access group Traders Association School	Access group	Time	
Improve access to local clubs and societies by setting up a register of contacts who will support new members where necessary	Set up a register Make the register available through AOL and paper copy at the Information Point in the newsagents and Audlem Medical Practice	Low	Access group AOL Information Point Audlem Medical Practice	Access Group	Time Printing Costs	
Set up a register of local support groups and services including carers	Work with other groups in South Cheshire to setup a register. Publicise via AOL, Parish Newsletter,	Low	Access Group, Health group,AOL, Parish Newsletter	Access Group	Time Printing Costs	

**ACTION PLAN for ACCESS and INCLUSION WORKING GROUP**

<b>Medium term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 1 to 3 years)</b>						
<b>Action</b>	<b>How it will be tackled</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Lead Responsibility</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Develop a local award for groups and businesses who have taken steps to improve inclusion</i>	<i>Design award system &amp; criteria  Produce Award Certificates</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Access group Parish Council</i>	<i>Access group</i>	<i>Time</i>	
<i>Achieve a national quality standard for good practice on access and inclusion in the community</i>	<i>Identify an appropriate scheme  Action plan on achieving the award</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Access group Parish council Community</i>	<i>Access group</i>	<i>Funding Time</i>	
<i>Develop an Emergency Plan to assist those with mobility problems during extreme weather conditions</i>	<i>Work with PC to develop a plan.  Recruit village volunteers</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Access group Parish council Community AOL Parish newsletter</i>	<i>Access group</i>	<i>Time</i>	
<i>Encourage local groups and businesses to consider the needs of the whole community when planning activities</i>	<i>See Disability Awareness and Local Award</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Whole community</i>	<i>Access Group</i>	<i>Time</i>	
<b>Long term issues (starting in 2011, aim to be operational within 3 to 10 years)</b>						
<i>Provide pedestrian crossing on Cheshire Street</i>	<i>Approach Transport Group &amp; Parish Council  Parish Council to work with Cheshire East</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Access group Transport Group Parish Council Cheshire East</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Funding</i>	
<i>Improve pavement width on Whitchurch Road and Stafford Street</i>	<i>Approach Transport Group &amp; Parish Council  Parish Council to work with Cheshire East</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Access group Transport Group Parish Council Cheshire East</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Funding</i>	

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

(percentages may not add up to exactly 100% because of rounding)

### 1. Do you like living in Audlem?

Senior survey: Yes 99% No 1%

Pupils survey: Yes 95% No 5%

Most commented on good community/thriving village/good social life/good for children

### 2. To what extent do you think Audlem should be allowed to expand residentially?

Senior survey: Unlimited 0%  
Moderate extent 15%  
Small extent 65.5%  
Not at all 19.5%

Pupils survey: Unlimited 8%  
Moderate extent 37%  
Small extent 37%  
Not at all 18%

Comments focused on preserving boundaries, no urban sprawl, prefer infilling and cheaper start up housing and social housing for elderly

### 3. Are there any particular buildings or features which you like in Audlem?

Most named the centre of the village, the churches, Buttermarket and the canal.

### 4. Do you think small scale industrial/commercial development should be encouraged to increase employment?

Senior survey: Unlimited 2%  
Moderate extent 27%  
Small extent 59%  
Not at all 12%

Pupils survey: Unlimited 9%  
Moderate extent 26%  
Small extent 39%  
Not at all 25%

Comments included outside village, unobtrusive locations and former farm buildings.

### 5. Do you think tourism in Audlem should be developed?

Senior survey: Unlimited 16%  
Moderate 52%  
Small small 29.5%  
Not at all 2.5%

Pupils survey: Unlimited 13%  
Moderate 20%  
Small extent 47%  
Not at all 20%

Comments included 'lifeline for traders' and 'keeping Audlem alive'.

### 6. Do you think the shops in Audlem are improving?

Senior survey: Very much 63%  
A little 34%  
Unchanged 3%  
Little poorer 0%  
Much worse 0%

Pupils survey: Very much 39%  
A little 51%  
Unchanged 7%  
A little poorer 1%  
Much worse 2%

There were comments about how the old Co-op site improved and people hoped the new shops are successful/supported

### 7. Do you think the pubs in Audlem are improving?

Senior survey: Very much 20%  
A little 45%  
Unchanged 21%  
A Little poorer 11%  
Much worse 3%

Pupils survey: Very much 36%  
A little 27%  
Unchanged 22%  
A little poorer 13%  
Much worse 2%

Inconsistency was commented upon mainly but recent improvements were welcomed.

### 8. Do you think eating facilities in Audlem are improving?

Senior survey: Very much 23.5%  
A little 42%  
Unchanged 26%  
Little poorer 5%  
Much worse 1.5%  
Don't know 2%

Pupils survey: Very much 25%  
A little 39%  
Unchanged 28%  
Little poorer 5%  
Much worse 2%

Comments were largely that the Coffee shops were very good

### 9. Do you think education facilities in Audlem are:

Senior survey: Good 40.5%  
Reasonable 36%  
Poor 3%  
Very poor 0.5%  
Don't Know 20%

Pupils survey: Good 18%  
Reasonable 54%  
Poor 20%  
Very poor 8%

Comments focused on no adult education facilities and cyber café needed

**10. Do you think Audlem's Health Services are:**

Senior survey:	Good	64%
	Reasonable	31.5%
	Poor	4%
	Very poor	0.5%
Pupils survey:	Good	47%
	Reasonable	41%
	Poor	9%
	Very poor	2%

Comments were that it was getting more difficult to get appointments and the lack of dentist, physio and chiropody

**11. Would you support a new building combined with the Public Hall providing a specialist Sports Hall with:**

Badminton Yes 89% (Pupils 67%)  
No 11% (Pupils 33%)

**Changing rooms and showers**

Yes 90% (Pupils 76%)  
No 10% (Pupils 24%)

Storage Yes 90.5% (Pupils 89%)  
No 9.5% (Pupils 11%)

**Designated fitness room**

Yes 85% (Pupils 81%)  
No 15% (Pupils 9%)

**Entertainment, film, functions, music, arts, theatre**

Yes 95% (Pupils 79%)  
No 5% (11%)

**Indoor sports such as bowls, table tennis etc**

Yes 89.5% (Pupils 85%)  
No 10.5% (Pupils 11%)

**External 5 a side football area**

Yes 85.5% (Pupils 80%)  
No 14.5% (Pupils 20%)

What else would you like to see provided - Most suggestions were a swimming pool or gym

**12. Do you think we should continue to improve facilities in the Public Hall?**

Senior survey: Yes 95% No 5%

Pupils survey: Yes 88.5% No 11.5%

Comments were mainly positive about recent improvements

**13. Do you think present sports facilities in Audlem are:**

Senior survey:	Good	5%
	Reasonable	56%
	Poor	33%
	Very poor	1%
Pupils survey:	Good	24%
	Reasonable	46%
	Poor	25%
	Very poor	5%

**14. Do you think the recreational and social facilities (excluding sport) are:**

Senior survey:	Good	25%
	Reasonable	64%
	Poor	10%
	Very poor	1%
Pupils survey:	Good	23%
	Reasonable	57%
	Poor	19%
	Very poor	1%

**15. Do you think the facilities for younger people in Audlem are:**

Senior survey:	Good	3%
	Reasonable	35%
	Poor	40%
	Very poor	8%
	Don't Know	14%
Pupils survey:	Good	18%
	Reasonable	50%
	Poor	25%
	Very poor	6%

Most comments were 'Poor for teenagers' or 'youth club needs developing' or 'nowhere for them to go'

**16. Do you think facilities for the elderly in Audlem are:**

Senior survey:	Good	17%
	Reasonable	65%
	Poor	11%
	Very poor	1%
	Don't know	6%
Pupils survey:	Good	24%
	Reasonable	49%
	Poor	19%
	Very poor	8%

Comments included the poor state of the pavements

**17. Do you think facilities for people with disabilities in Audlem are:**

Senior survey:	Good	5%
	Reasonable	45%
	Poor	25%
	Very poor	5%
	Don't know	20%
Pupils survey:	Good	13%
	Reasonable	49%
	Poor	30%
	Very poor	7%

Most comments were about roads and pavements

**18. If you use, or would like to use local bus services, are they:**

Senior survey:	Good	3%
	Reasonable	39%
	Poor	38%
	Very poor	10%
	Don't Know	10.00%
Pupils survey:	Good	33.5%
	Reasonable	40%
	Poor	18%
	Very poor	8.5%

Comments were that they finish too early and are not frequent enough

**19. Are the conditions of the roads:**

Senior survey:	Good	1%
	Reasonable	26%
	Poor	45%
	Very poor	28%
Pupils survey:	Good	14%
	Reasonable	59%
	Poor	19%
	Very poor	7%

Comments were mainly about badly maintained and overused roads, too many potholes and being splashed outside Co-op very bad

**20. Are the parking facilities in Audlem:**

Senior survey:	Good	15%
	Reasonable	48%
	Poor	28%
	Very poor	9%
Pupils survey:	Good	27%
	Reasonable	47%
	Poor	23%
	Very poor	3%

Comments included that all Roadside parking should be time limited/restricted

**21. Are local footpaths and cycleways:**

Senior survey:	Good	14%
	Reasonable	57%
	Poor	21%
	Very poor	8%
Pupils survey:	Good	23%
	Reasonable	58%
	Poor	17%
	Very poor	2%

'What cycleways?' asked many.

**22. Is the level of policing in Audlem:**

Senior survey:	Good	14%
	Reasonable	57%
	Poor	24%
	Very poor	5%
Pupils survey:	Good	27%
	Reasonable	50%
	Poor	18%
	Very poor	5%

PC Ken Maple was praised but level of policing was criticised.

**23. Do you think long-distance goods vehicles should be discouraged from driving through Audlem?**

Senior survey:	Yes	97%	No	3%
Pupils survey:	Yes	74%	No	26%

Many said HGVs were the only downside of living in Audlem and 'A Disaster waiting to happen'

**24. Do you support the following possible projects going forward?**

- A: Encouraging Br. Waterways to provide a surface suitable for walking and cycling to Nantwich on the canal towpath  
Yes 90% (Pupils 84%) No 10% (Pupils 16%)
- B: Developing a Thomas Telford Museum as a new tourist attraction  
Yes 73% (Pupils 44%) No 27% (Pupils 56%)
- C: Installing a small hydro-electric plant on the canal providing electricity for about 50 homes  
Yes 79% (Pupils 62%) No 27% (Pupils 38%)

**25. Should Audlem explore ways to be a more self sufficient community?**

Senior survey:	Yes	92%	No	6%	Don't know	2%
Pupils survey:	Yes	70%	No	30%		

Comments were that locally produced food and allotments would help.

**26. Are the present methods of communication of information in the village?:**

Senior survey:	Good	63%
	Reasonable	32%
	Poor	3.5%
	Very poor	0.5%
Pupils survey:	Good	27%
	Reasonable	66%
	Poor	5%
	Very poor	1%

The website and newsletter were praised in comments

**27. Do you have access to the internet?:**

Senior survey:	Yes	86%	No	14%
Pupils survey:	Yes	95%	No	5%

**28. Do you read Audlem Online?**

Senior survey:	Regularly	44.5%
	Occasionally	38.5%
	Never	17%
Pupils survey:	Regularly	17%
	Occasionally	41.5%
	Never	41.5%

**29. Is Audlem Parish Council providing a good service to the local community?**

Senior survey:	Good	55%
	Reasonable	40.5%
	Poor	4%
	Very poor	0.5%
Pupils survey:	Good	27%
	Reasonable	58%
	Poor	13%
	Very poor	2%

**30. What can the Parish Council do to improve their service?**

Comments were mainly define remit of Parish Council and communicate with residents more

**31. Are you satisfied with the services of Cheshire East Council?**

Senior survey:	Satisfied	4%
	Reasonably satisfied	40.5%
	Somewhat dissatisfied	27%
	Very dissatisfied	2.5%
	Too early to assess	26%

(No pupils data)

State of the roads and pavements were mentioned in comments

**32. What would you like Cheshire East Council do to improve their service?**

Senior comments were to improve transport, roads and bus services were most frequent comments.

**33. If there was one thing you could change about Audlem what would it be?**

Sorting out the A525 and HGVs was overwhelmingly the main comment followed by control parking and provide more parking.

**34. Are there any community events/clubs/ activities you would like introduced/ reintroduced?**

Youth club; mum and baby club; holiday club for children; children's sports; garden club; flower show; allotment and community orchard were most frequently mentioned while some miss the raft race.

**35. Would like to comment on any issues raised in this questionnaire, or any other issues:**

Senior survey: Retaining the character of the village was the most frequent comment followed by improving walks for winter use and stopping parking on double yellow lines.

## **Acknowledgements:**

Steering Committee: Judy Benson; Bob Cartwright (chair); Roland Hall; Mike Hill; Susan James; Kate Parkes; Pam Seddon; Greville Watts

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## **How the Plan has been produced**

The 2010 Audlem Parish Plan follows up a 2005 Plan. In 2009, Audlem Parish Council asked the Parish Plan Steering Committee to assess the actions arising from the earlier survey and to conduct a new survey to be published in late 2010. They also asked that 'Sustainability' be a key part of the new Plan.

The 2010 Plan has been produced following a similar method to 2005. Questionnaires were distributed to all households and also to Audlem pupils at Brine Leas school as the views of younger residents were considered to be very important.

The eight-strong Steering Committee established a series of Working Groups, as detailed in the report, to assess the results from the 2005 Plan; to consider the feedback of residents and pupils from the Questionnaires; to consider ideas and actions for the future and to publish Action Plans so there was a clear programme of activity for the next five years. The actions published are short term, medium term and, in the case of some larger projects, longer term.

Almost fifty volunteers were involved in the Working Groups - as detailed in the Acknowledgements - who met and discussed issues from February to August 2010. All the contributions were published as a draft document in October 2010 and put out for public consultation in print and on Audlem Online.

A grant was provided by Cheshire Community Action to pay for the printing of the draft and final versions of the 2010 Parish Plan for publication. Copies are being distributed to all households in the Parish.

Printing the Plan is, however, simply the end of the first stage of the Parish Plan process. The work of making the plan actions happen now starts and, in some instances, is well underway. Many of the Working Groups will continue to meet in order to carry out the actions detailed in this publication. Working Groups and the Steering Committee also met throughout the period from 2005 until 2010 to ensure that actions in the earlier Parish Plan were tackled effectively.

## Notes