

**Audlem Parish Council**  
**Notes of the Turnpike Field Working Group (TFWG) Open Meeting**  
**held in Audlem Town Hall on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

TFWG members present: Steve Boyes, Michael Cookson, Steve Elliott, Judy Evans, Neil Goodyear, Nigel Mottershead, Ralph Warburton

There were 49 members of the public attending the meeting.

Geoff Seddon opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending despite the poor weather. He then handed over to Steve Boyes, the Chairman of the TFWG.

After the members of the TFWG present introduced themselves, Steve Boyes outlined the progress made so far:

- Car Park
  - visit made to the Gladstone Museum at Hawarden to look at the surface
  - bid submitted to Cheshire East Council (CEC) for a New Homes Bonus grant
  - planning permission still required
- Access
  - temporary gate installed in Shropshire Street
  - signs asking users to respect the environment to be erected
  - 'dog poo' bin to be installed near entrance
- Field
  - CEC's Nature Conservation Officer and a representative of Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) have visited the site to look at the fauna and flora. The intention is to commission CWT to carry out a survey
  - tree survey carried out and follow-up action will be put out to quotation
  - volunteers will be sought to clear the Himalayan Balsam by hand, alleviating the need to use chemicals

He further went on to say that the TFWG would like to engage the public in determining the hours of usage of the field and any other issues that may affect local residents. This would need a few local residents to volunteer.

He explained that the TFWG makes recommendations to the Parish Council, which makes all the decisions.

He then asked for questions, which were:

- **What is a Green Car Park?** Grass growing through plastic Probably will have to be a tarmac strip at the entrance from Green Lane.
- **Can the existing access be used for the car park?** This was checked by the Parish Council prior to submitting a bid, but is subject to planning permission
- **Will trees and the hedgerow be taken out to form the access and would this set a precedent?** The planning application will determine what is required, but it is unlikely that the trees will be affected, but a short distance of hedgerow will need to be taken out. Any removed hedgerow would be replaced by new planting.
- **Will there be a height restriction?** Yes
- **Will there be a barrier to stop cars parking on the rest of the field?** Yes
- **Is there an acceptance that the car park will happen? Has there been a mandate?** Overwhelming vote at previous meetings that a car park is required.

Comments from the floor confirmed that there are strong views in favour of the car park being sited on the field. The only other place would be the Fire Station, which we don't want to lose. Need to bear in mind that there should be no overnight parking. A sign to that effect will be necessary.

- **Can something be done about the 'bridge' between the two fields, as it's a morass when it rains?** It was stated that many country parks protect the ground by using logs. Otherwise people walk round the mud, creating more of it.
- **Is there an option to do nothing with the field? Does it have to be developed?** This is an option.
- **Who will 'police' the use of the field? In the past this was the owner.** It will be the Parish Council as it is the owner.
- **Will it be a charging car park?** No
- **Why have the 'begging letters' been sent out before decisions have been made?** The letters were sent out to those who indicated that they would be willing to make a donation for the 'development' of the field. Many of these people have already made a donation, but others haven't done yet.

Geoff Seddon thanked the TFWG members for their efforts in the work they were doing. He also mentioned that if there were any others in the audience who wished to consider making a donation, could they see him.

GS

02.03.19