



Audlem Parish Council

Business summary, January 2013

Public consultation on Local Plan

Cheshire East Council is giving people the opportunity to get involved in the next stage of consultation on its draft Local Plan to shape and protect the future growth of the Borough. The new Local Plan will aim to promote economic growth, improve connectivity and protect our countryside from unplanned development for the next 20 years.

Cheshire East Council Leader Councillor Michael Jones said, 'I take very seriously my responsibility to protect the people of Cheshire East from unwanted and unplanned development. The Development Strategy will deliver 27,000 new houses and 20,000 new jobs, and the infrastructure needed for this to happen. It will also continue to support Cheshire East's position both as the economic powerhouse of the North West and as a beautiful place to live.

'This is a sustainable, plan-led Development Strategy, which sends a strong message to the developers besieging our towns, inviting them to work with us to strengthen our towns and deliver positive outcomes for the people of Cheshire East.'

Although the Local Plan does not specifically cover Audlem, it is the important framework on which planning strategies for villages and rural areas will be built. It includes proposals for both Nantwich and Crewe which could influence future planning strategies for our area, so please take the opportunity to look at these and have your say.

The Local Plan strategy document can be found on-line at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/PDF/En-LDF-Development-Strategy.pdf. The consultation closes on 26 February 2013.

Electricity supply upgrades

Some major upgrades to the local electricity supply are to be carried out in the Kinsey Heath, Chapel End and

Whitchurch Road areas between late January and early March 2013. This will involve some road closures and diversions, traffic lights and electricity being switched off for periods in affected areas. However, residents will receive written notification of how and when they are to be affected at least 10 days before the work is due to start in their particular area.

Scottish Power apologises for any inconvenience this may cause but maintains that the work is essential.

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Kate Down, Chair – 811160

Phillip Johnson, Vice Chair – 811774

Frances Christie – 811340 Richard Furber – 811598

David Higham – 812069 Mike Hill – 811843

Heather Jones – 811836 John Langston – 812395

Geoff Seddon – 811282 Pam Seddon – 811282

David Siddons – 811012

Your Parish Clerk is **Kirstin Dixon** – 01630 658456 or email audlemparishclerk@gmail.com.

Audlem Parish Council meeting dates for 2013:

4 February 2 September

4 March 7 October

15 April 4 November

13 May, AGM 25 November, Finance Meeting

10 June 2 December

15 July

Community power scheme

The Parish Council is looking into the feasibility of a setting up a Community Power scheme.

This has already been successfully done by South Lakeland Council which, working alongside a specialist organisation, arranged for a group of over 500 residents to switch their energy supplier and make savings of between £200 and £750 each on their energy bills.

The scheme will require individual residents to register their interest in joining such a scheme. Further details will be made available should the scheme prove to be practicable.

Rural Housing Needs Survey

The Parish Council and Audlem & District Community Action [ADCA] have been working with Cheshire East Council and Wulvern Housing to collect up-to-date evidence of local housing needs for both affordable housing and supported housing within Audlem.

In addition, Wulvern Housing plans to replace the supported housing facility, Thornton House on Cheshire Street, with a modern, fit-for-purpose complex at some point within the next two to three years. ADCA currently uses Thornton House's communal lounge and kitchen to run its Day and Coffee Clubs, and has plans to expand its services there.

It is therefore important to gather the views of local people, find out about the need generally for affordable housing in the village, and establish the exact type and size of any future proposed building on the Thornton House site to ensure that these vital community facilities continue.

It is five years since the last Rural Housing Survey was undertaken locally so the Parish Council, with the help of ADCA and Cheshire East Council, has decided to undertake a new survey. Confidential questionnaires will be distributed to each household in Audlem at the end of January 2013 and will be collected by Parish Councillors and ADCA volunteers in early February 2013.

Cheshire East Council will collate the results and the Parish Council will ensure they are made available within the village. **This is an important opportunity for your voice to be heard so please do take the time to study the questionnaire and give your views.**

Calling 101 to report incidents

Please remember to call the police on 101 to report an incident or suspicious activity that does not warrant a 999 emergency call. By doing this the incident will be officially recorded which, in turn, will help to ensure that police resources are deployed appropriately in the Audlem area.

For example, you should call 101 if:

- Your car has been stolen.
- Your property has been damaged.
- You suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood.

Or to:

- Report a minor traffic collision.

- Give the police information about crime in your area.
- Speak to the police about a general enquiry.

101 has been introduced as part of the Government's wider work to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999, and help to tackle crime and disorder efficiently and effectively.

Citizen's Advice Bureau

Are you affected by the welfare reforms to benefits? The CAB has a rural service that visits Buerton School playing fields on Fridays from 9.30am to 10.00am. It then moves on to Audlem public car park from 10.15am to 12.15pm. Finally, it visits Thornton House from 12.30pm to 1.00pm.

We offer a free, confidential and impartial advice service and can offer help with how these reforms may affect you and your family, and with many other problems too.

Parish Council meetings will be held at Thornton House on Mondays: 4 February, 4 March and 15 April. At the beginning of each meeting, residents have the opportunity to bring matters of particular concern to the attention of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to stay and listen for the rest of the meeting.

ADAPT



If you are interested in finding ways to live more simply and sustainably, why not come along and join us at our monthly ADAPT (Audlem & District Acting Positively for Transition) meeting? Over the past few years, the group has arranged information exhibitions, undertaken a local energy survey, encouraged 'grow your own' with 'Up The Garden Path' events and Saturday stalls, and prepared transport and local information. See the Diary on page four for details or email [Adrian Leighton at adrianleighton@btinternet.com](mailto:Adrian.Leighton@btinternet.com).

Audlem Methodist Church

This year's Audlem Methodist Church musical is entitled *The Story So Far...* and will be performed at the chapel from **19 to 23 February at 7.30pm**.

Combining music, dance and drama, *The Story So Far...* tells the tale of Audlem Methodist Church in Shropshire Street during 150 momentous years in the history of the world, since local farmer William Hill gave a field on which a chapel could be built in 1863. It will be performed by a large all-age company, and will inform and entertain everyone with an interest in the village and its Church. **Entry is by programme, priced £6, available from the chapel or Julia Parton at programmes@audlemethodistchurch.org.uk.**

ADAS

The awards that ADAS has received over the **past three consecutive years** will soon be recorded in a permanent manner. The 2013 plaque is being donated by Oxley's of Crewe once again and will be placed by the Lord Combermere flowerbed.

We have planted tulips and daffodils in the tubs, troughs and flowerbeds in readiness for spring. Some shrubs did not recover from the extreme cold weather last winter and we have taken action to put this right. New shrubbery is planned for the Lord Combermere bed, which ADAS arranged for young offenders to build as community work many years ago.

The Public Hall has a new entrance area with a new floral bed we planted last year for a good display. This will become one of the tasks we undertake each year.

The annual collection through our ADAS envelopes will be underway soon and we hope that residents will give us the support that is vital if we are to continue to do all that we do for Audlem & District. No aid at all from Cheshire East means we have to run so much faster to do all we can for the area. **Please do remember to leave your ADAS contribution envelopes at Williams Newsagent or the Post Office. For queries, contact Ralph Warburton on 812125 or another committee member.**

ASET

Audlem Special Events Team is planning a series of events that will eclipse even last year's amazing efforts:

6 July – Party on the Park featuring The Bee Gees Experience & Fake That. Tickets on sale shortly.

28 July – Festival of Transport.

2 November – Bonfire & Fireworks.

7-8 December – Santa's Float.

Please visit the ASET website for more information – www.audlem-aset.org.

Tales of The White Lion

Bon viveurs will be pleased to note that The White Lion public house in Hankelow has reopened following a spell as an Indian restaurant. The landlord is currently seeking an experienced chef and plans to start serving fine food towards the end of February.



A public house has stood on the site for more than 300 years. Audlem resident, Ray Smith, recalls some characters who frequented the bar in the mid-1900s:

'George Dutton had a wooden leg and in The White Lion they liked to trick strangers by getting him to sing 'The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God of Kathmandu'. When the line came up about the knife he would stab himself in his wooden leg much to the visitors' horror.

'The present Hankelow Chapel was built on land donated by Chris Williamson and everyone contributed. The bricklayers were father and son known as "Major" Shenton and "Jack the lad". As they spent the lunchtime from 11.00am to 2.00pm in The White Lion the chapel became known as the "Drunken Chapel".'

'Joby Buckley was the postman up there and he had a dog he would take into The White Lion. If he clicked his fingers at the dog, then anyone that moved, he'd have their leg off. Joby did this one day and when Reg Banks entered, the dog snarled at him. Reg went back round to the house (he lived with Ma Cartwright) and came back with his shotgun. He cocked it and wafted it round the room, everyone ducked their heads and Reg said, "Right now, click him, Joby, if you dare". It was like the Wild West.'

Audlem charity shop

Happy New Year to all our supporters and a big thank you to our donors, customers and helpers for making last year so successful. Our AGM will be held on Wednesday, 27 March at 2.00pm at the Bridge Inn, Shropshire Street and anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. The funds raised during the past year will be presented to St Luke's Hospice and the Donna Louise Children's Hospice.

Audlem History Society

Audlem District History Society ended 2012 with over 30 members and guests enjoying a most informative visit to St Chad's Church in Norton-in-Hales, followed by an excellent lunch at The Hind's Head opposite.

Our 2013 programme promises to be one of great interest. As previously, our emphasis is on local history and we begin the year with several well-known local residents as speakers.

All History Society talks take place at the Scout & Guide Hall and start at 7.30 pm. Visitors are welcome, £2 on the door (students free). Please see the Diary below for details of forthcoming talks, or **contact Dorothy Jones on 811814**.

Diary dates

Monthly

ADCA Day Club every Tuesday at Thornton House, Emberton Place on Tuesdays from 10.30am to 3.30pm, including lunch and an afternoon of entertainment. Volunteer transport provided.

ADCA drop-in Coffee Club every Friday at Thornton House from 10.00am to 12.00pm for anyone who enjoys friendly conversation and talks by local speakers.

February

- 6 **ADAPT meeting** on energy conservation, Baptist Chapel, 7.30pm.
- 12 **Cheshire Carers Coffee Morning**, Audlem Public Hall, 10.30am. All welcome.
- 16 **Audlem Ramblers Walk**, 10 miles from Craven Arms over Wenlock Edge. Starts from Audlem car park, usually at 9.00am.
- 21 **'Previous Presidents of the USA'**, History Society talk by Bob Cartwright, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 25 **Short Audlem Ramblers Walk** from Tushingham, including a visit to a church in the middle of fields. Starts from Audlem car park, 9.30am.

March

- 6 **ADAPT meeting** on energy conservation, Baptist Chapel, 7.30pm.
- 9 **Audlem Ramblers Walk**, 10-mile walk through the Clent Hills, south west of Birmingham. Starts from Audlem car park, usually at 9.00am.

Audlem WI

The first meeting of the New Year was held on 3 January 2013. Following the usual agenda items, local resident Roger Wickson gave a very interesting talk about his early life with 'the Boat People' when his grandmother kept a canal-side public house. He described life aboard a narrow boat, and showed examples of traditional lace and boat painting.

Lin Nicholas, who, with her husband, has a narrow boat, thanked him. She then explained about our A.C.W.W. Charity monthly collection of small coins, which go to projects overseas helping needy woman.

Our next meeting is on 7 February when we will have a Social Afternoon. Visitors and new members are always welcome. **Contact Kath Disley on 812332**.

- 12 **Cheshire Carers Coffee Morning**, Audlem Public Hall, 10.30am. All welcome.
- 16 **Audlem Charity Shop Spring Fair**, Methodist Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
- 17 **Canal Art Exhibition**, Mill Shop, until 13 April.
- 21 **'History & Records of Audlem Cemetery'**, History Society talk by Ralph Warburton, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 27 **Audlem Charity Shop AGM**, Bridge Inn, 2.00pm.
- 31 **Short Audlem Ramblers Walk** to Kinsey Heath, Chapel End, Bunsley Bank and back to Audlem. Starts from Audlem car park, 9.30am.

April

- 3 **ADAPT meeting** on energy conservation, Baptist Chapel, 7.30pm.
- 4 **'Through The Eyes Of A Magician'**, WI talk by Peter Turner, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 9 **Cheshire Carers Coffee Morning**, Audlem Public Hall, 10.30am. All welcome.
- 13 **Audlem Ramblers Walk**, 10-mile circular walk from Cilcain, taking in Moel Arthur, Moel Dywyll and Moel Famau. Details TBC.
- 16 **NSPCC Fashion Show & Sale**, Brookfield Golf Club, 7.00pm. Tickets from Williams Newsagents.
- 18 **'Memories of Audlem in the 1950s'**, History Society talk by Derek McKelvey, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 28 **Audlem Ramblers Walk**, 6-mile circuit from Betley taking in Wrinehill and Betley Mere. Starts from Audlem car park, 9.30am.

The closing date for items for the autumn issue is 10 April 2013 for distribution during the first week of May. Please contact Editor Kira Nicholls on 812485 or at newsletter@audlem.org, or post your submission in the box in the Post Office. All items will be carefully considered.