

GREAT BOUGHTON PARISH PLAN



Picture by pupils from Dee Banks School

October 2014



Great Boughton
Vicars Cross

Acknowledgements

The preparation of this Parish Plan would not have been possible without the dedicated effort and time given by the members of the Steering Group that has been formed to prepare this plan. The current members of the Steering Group are:

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	Jo Evans
	Parish Councillor Nigel Haslock
	Andrew Pannell
	Jonathan Pannell
	Emma Pickett
	Parish Councillor Keith Scargill
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The plan has also been supported by funding and professional advice given by Cheshire Community Action, with special thanks to Sarah Baron for all her guidance and support. We are also very grateful to Keith Board and Pamela Hall, Ward Councillors for Great Boughton, for advice and financial support, and to Great Boughton Parish Council for developing the project and providing funding.

Special thanks are owed to The Peacock and The Centurion for hosting meetings of the Steering Group.

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Foreword

Welcome to the Great Boughton Parish Plan, which is based on the views and the comments of households in the Parish of Great Boughton arising from the most extensive surveys of residents' opinions ever carried out in the Parish.

During the last two years, a small group of volunteers – under the direction of the Steering Group – has carried out surveys, gathered and analysed your views on the issues affecting life in the Parish. This document represents the culmination of that hard work. Our Plan sets out the findings of all the consultations, a vision for the future of the Parish, and an Action Plan to turn that vision into reality. The Steering Group feels privileged to have enjoyed such support from so many individuals who have ventured out in all sorts of weather to help us reach this point.

At its meeting on 21st July 2014, Great Boughton Parish Council at its meeting unanimously agreed to “**Endorse and adopt the Parish Plan in principle**”, and welcomed the opportunity given for tabling a “*manifesto for change*”.

Our Plan sets out what needs to be done to maintain and improve the quality of Parish life, and deals with the issues raised in public consultations and surveys. The Parish Plan Steering Group will work with partner organisations to address the issues that have been identified.

I would like to take this opportunity on your behalf to publicly thank all of the volunteers for everything they have done. Without their hard work, this project would not have come to fruition. I would also like to thank all our sponsors who have funded our work.

Most of all, we are grateful to our local community for the positive reception our efforts have received, for taking part in surveys, for their helpful comments and suggestions since this project began in March 2012. We could not have done it without you !

We sincerely hope that many of you will continue to be actively involved during the implementation of the plan, turning aspirations into real changes. If you feel that you would like to help to improve our Parish, the Parish Plan Steering Group would like to hear from you.

Many thanks

Peter Bulmer

Chair, Great Boughton Parish Plan Steering Group, October 2014

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Introduction

The Parish Plan for Great Boughton has been prepared in consultation with the people who live, work or go to school in the Parish, and with organisations with a stake in the community.

During the consultation process, we referred to “Great Boughton and Vicars Cross” to give people an idea of the area covered by the plan. In reality, it takes in parts of the communities of Piper Ash, Vicars Cross, Boughton Heath, Dee Banks and Caldley Valley as shown on the aerial photograph and map . Note that the boundaries of this and many other Parishes are currently under review by Cheshire West and Chester Council (the Borough Council, CWAC) and their exact positions may change as a result.

Each parish plan is a community led plan based on a detailed survey of the community undertaken by volunteers. All the members of our Steering Group live in the local community, and include two members of Great Boughton Parish Council, Nigel Haslock and Keith Scargill.

Cheshire Community Action says in its guidance that a Parish Plan...

‘provides an opportunity for people to take stock of their community and to decide which aspects of it they like and wish to preserve and perhaps enhance and which aspects they do not like and want to change. The idea is for the community to develop its own voice and to use this to create a shared vision for the future and an action plan for turning that vision into reality’.



This Parish Plan is an independently produced document reflecting the views and aspirations of the whole community. It is based on:

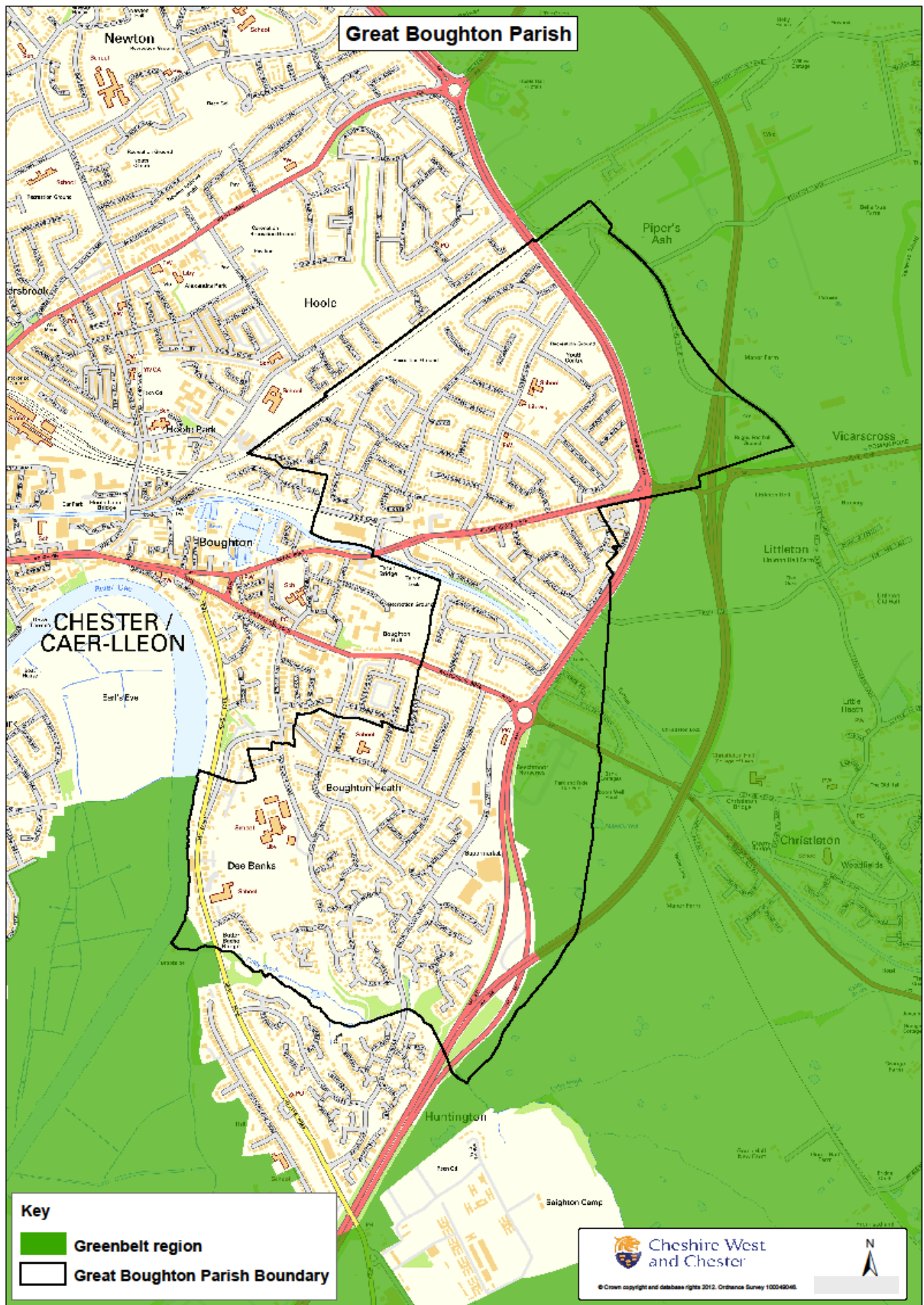
- **The views and concerns of those who live and work in the Parish, expressed through questionnaires and surveys.**
- **Survey and research work conducted by members of the Steering Group**

Our plan offers a **vision** of how aspects of parish life and our local environment should be maintained and improved in the future. It sets out objectives of what should be done to achieve this vision. These **objectives** will be met by carrying out the various projects and actions set out in the Action Plan, found in the Appendix to this document.





"October 2010 Cheshire aerial survey. Aerial photography imagery copyright GeoPerspectives, supplied by Bluesky International Ltd. The digital Imagery is supplied to the Council under licence and must only be used in connection with work carried out as part of the Council's business. Any imagery supplied to third parties will be in relation to a specific project and must be either returned to the Council or destroyed at the end of that project."



A Profile of Great Boughton Parish

This profile summarises data for the Parish to help decide which actions and activities to prioritise for the local area. It is taken from the *Rural Community Profile for Great Boughton* published by the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) rural evidence project (January 2012). A fuller analysis of the data in the parish profile is posted on our website (www.gbvxpathishplan.org.uk).

The area makes up the civil Parish of Great Boughton, comprising parts of the communities of Pipers Ash, Vicars Cross, Boughton Heath, Dee Banks and Caldý Valley. Situated on the eastern edge of the built up area of Chester, our Parish is criss-crossed by the routes of roads, railways and the Shropshire Union Canal that link to the city centre. The A41 bypass is a busy trunk road that runs through the Parish from north to south and acts as a barrier for easy access to the open countryside beyond. The Parish is predominantly residential in character. It does include some agricultural and other open land uses to the east protected by Green Belt planning policy, so some parts of the Parish have a more rural character.



In the 18th and 19th centuries, there were only a few houses in the Parish, mainly along the roads leading to the centre of Chester. Most land was fields used for horticulture, or orchards. In the 20th century, this changed completely through suburban developments to create the largely urban community we know today. Most residents live in traditional low density housing with private gardens, interspersed with schools and local shopping centres. There are also many open green spaces, including the informal parkland along Caldý Brook, playing fields, children's playgrounds and allotments. The canal provides a pleasant green corridor through the middle of our Parish.

There are two neighbourhood centres with local shops and services at Green Lane and Caldý Valley Retail Park (which includes Sainsbury's). Recently, Aldi and Home Bargains stores have opened on the old Focus site beside the canal at Tarvin Bridge. There are also two primary schools (a third is just outside the Parish which a considerable number of local children attend), a special school and a secondary school. The secondary school in Christleton attracts roughly a quarter of its pupils from our Parish.

The Shropshire Union Canal connects the Parish to the city centre to the west and the open countryside to the east. The canal is an important wildlife, recreation, cycling and walking corridor.



8,450

people

3,665

households

- Population was only 500 in 1851, but 8,450 living in 3,665 households in 2011 (Census data)
- Percentage of lone parent families and people from black or minority ethnic groups (6%) are below the national average
- Number of children under 16 about average
- Number of single pensioner households is slightly above average
- Number of people aged over 65 (21.6%) is significantly above the average for England (16.5%)

The Parish benefits for being situated on the edge of the City of Chester, which offers good access to employment, education, shopping and other services. Statistics in the Parish profile suggest that overall the Parish does not exhibit widespread indicators of deprivation such as poverty, unemployment, or crime. Indeed, judged from many social and economic indicators, the Parish fares considerably better than either England or Cheshire West as a whole. However, the Parish does have a higher than average winter excess death rate, reflecting its higher proportion of older people.

The relative lack of affordable housing in the Parish makes it difficult for young people to move here unless they have higher than average qualifications and skills leading to better paid jobs. The quality and choice of housing is more skewed towards larger detached and semi detached properties designed for families.

In the Parish, there is a lower than average stock of properties to rent, creating another barrier to younger people wishing to move here. There are few places where new affordable properties could be built, and the opportunities for redevelopment or conversion are limited. There is also a lack of affordable housing for the children of local families who wish to remain living in the Parish.

There is also a relative lack of accommodation tailored for older people, so they will tend to continue to live in their own houses if they wish to remain in the Parish.

The increasing number of elderly people will require better access to services by public transport, or by additional provision of these services within the community. This particularly applies to health services, post office, pharmacy, library and local shops. Similarly, increasing numbers of young families will require good facilities for children, including children's play, sport, indoor facilities for youth activities, library and community centres.

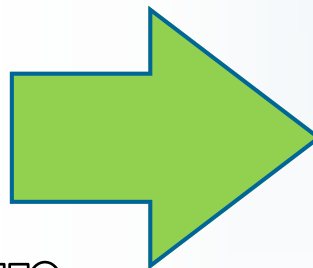


How the Parish

The beginning

Early in 2012, Great Boughton Parish Council decided it needed a plan prepared by the community, for the community, to guide its decisions and future investment plans. This Plan should also be used to influence other organisations that have an impact on the quality of the environment and life in the Parish, such as the Borough Council (CWAC) and government agencies. It should guide spending and investment decisions by these organisations.

To launch the Parish Plan, the Parish Council organised a community workshop in March 2012, which produced an initial list of issues and problems that should be tackled.



Steering Group

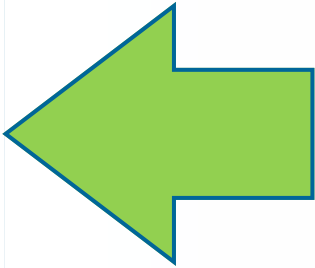
Survey work

A Steering Group, consisting of local volunteers and two representatives of the Parish Council, was set up, and a constitution and code of conduct were agreed. The Steering Group created its own website:

www.gbvxparishplan.org.uk

Initially, work centred on collecting evidence about the Parish from published documents, and by carrying out a detailed survey of all the streets in the Parish. The aim was to establish a baseline and discover more about the general condition and character of the locality: its housing, streets and open spaces. The results were written up and published on the website, including many photographs.

Plan was prepared



A **Community Profile** summarises published data for the Parish, things like its population and housing. It helps to compare the Parish with other areas, and reveals some problems that could be addressed by the Parish Plan.

The **Planning Context** describes how policies contained in the Chester District Local Plan are currently being used to:

- Determine planning applications for new development in the Parish.
- Protect important places, such as the open spaces, from development
- Improve the transport network.

The **Scoping Report**, prepared at the beginning of the process, sets out our stall about what topics are appropriate for inclusion in the Plan. This guided the survey work required to prepare the Plan, and helped define the areas that should form part of public consultation.

The **Street Survey Report** provides a 'Domesday Book' of information that helps to identify current problems affecting the Parish in a range of issues relating to our environment. This material provides a measure against which subsequent actions can be judged.

Documents published

Budget and resources

The Parish Plan Steering Group has been fortunate in getting technical and financial support from Cheshire Community Action. The cost of preparing the Parish Plan has also partly been met by an allocation from Great Boughton Parish Council, and through grants from the Ward Councillors' budgets.

There has also been an enormous contribution in kind through the large amount of time and expertise of the Steering Group volunteers, all given freely.

Consultation on the issues and problems to be tackled by the Plan

Following the street surveys and searches through published documents, the Steering Group developed an initial list of problems and issues that needed to be considered and shared with the Parish community to discover their views.

First stage of consultation

To test whether the initial list of problems and issues was appropriate, a short questionnaire was distributed in February 2013, asking people to indicate what they liked and disliked about the Parish. The same questionnaire was presented at meetings with various local groups and was posted on the Parish Plan website, inviting responses from members of the community.

Second stage of consultation

From our research and responses to the short questionnaire, we developed a definitive list of problems and issues for detailed consultations. A small team created more extensive questionnaires aimed at specific sections of the local community: businesses; schoolchildren; and households.

Business Questionnaire (April 2013)

- A short written questionnaire was distributed to and later collected from retail outlets and business premises in the Parish.
- The overall response rate was 50%.



General Household Survey (June / September 2013)

We delivered a leaflet to every household in the Parish inviting residents to fill in a questionnaire online. Printed questionnaire were available from the libraries and were also delivered to the large sheltered housing units. Later on, we asked local schools to invite parents to participate, and we also targeted local clubs and societies. All the paper responses were input online for early analysis.

- About 10% of households responded
- Geographic coverage across the Parish was patchy but acceptable
- The pattern of responses was in line with the demographic profile of the Parish
- We published summaries of the responses to all three questionnaires on our website.

We presented the results of all our surveys and questionnaires to the Parish Council on 18th November 2013. In January 2014, a short summary of progress on the Parish Plan was delivered to all households in the Parish.

Summaries of surveys

Across all the surveys, there is a general consensus that our Parish is a pleasant area to live and work. However, while there are problems relating to specific aspects, there is an overwhelming desire to ensure that the quality of the existing social and physical environment of our community is at least maintained, and improved where possible.

Young Persons Questionnaire (May / June 2013)

- We asked both local secondary schools to participate in a survey of their pupils, with a prize awarded for participation in each school (Bishops and Christleton High School).
- The questionnaire was also available on our website, allowing pupils who go to other schools to participate.
- Primary/special schools in the Parish were asked to help us obtain the views and opinions of their pupils about living in the Parish. How best to obtain views of pupils was left to the judgement of staff, with prizes awarded to pupils for their participation. Examples of their drawings and writing are on our website.

Street Survey

In most areas, there are individual examples of over-grown trees or shrubs from public as well as private land intruding on the pavement, reducing its width and sometimes causing problems.

Most areas are close to local shops and some medical services, although there is no GP practice in the Parish. There are regular bus services on weekdays, and bus stops within reasonable walking distance for most residents. However, most bus stops do not have a shelter or

Car parking is an issue in most areas because of narrow streets. Parking on pavements or grass verges causes damage.

Dog fouling and litter were not generally observed except in hedges on public highways and the canal towpath where there is also a fair level of wind-blown litter as well as cans; plastic bottles; plastic coffee cups and similar throw away items.

Access to a children's play area or a playing field or open space is generally within a reasonable walking distance for most (younger) people.

On publicly maintained grass verges and hedgerows by public highways, maintenance is kept to a minimum. The general standard of maintenance is not very high, with badly slashed hedges often not fully cut back to the boundary, leading over time to a reduction in the width of the pavement.

The streets and pavements are generally in a reasonable state of repair, but there are increasing signs of poor maintenance: weeds in gutters; pavements with cracked paving stones; damaged tarmac with uneven surfaces and potholes.

General Household Survey

In a Parish with a stable and settled population, where the majority of the residents have lived here for 15+ years, it must cause some concern to the Parish Council that:

Fewer than 30% of household thought they were kept well informed by the Parish Council

A majority believed that the Parish Council needs to do much more to keep the community informed about local developments.

Only 50% know how to contact the Parish Council.

The majority of residents consider the Parish a pleasant, safe area in which to live, but key problems are:

Litter and dog mess:

Widely perceived as problems by residents and local businesses.

Householders proposed solutions including: designated dog walking areas; more waste bins; more frequent emptying of waste bins; a local anti-litter campaign.

Speed humps:

These are generally disliked and seen as ineffective.

The state of pavements:

Solutions proposed are: better maintenance/repair; more frequent/effective weeding; better hedge and tree trimming (both public and private); more layered hedges.

Speeding:

General complaint that limits are not effectively enforced; suggested controls include use of speed indicator signs on through routes like Caldry Valley Road and Green Lane; general desire for a 20mph limit on all residential roads.

Parking on pavements:

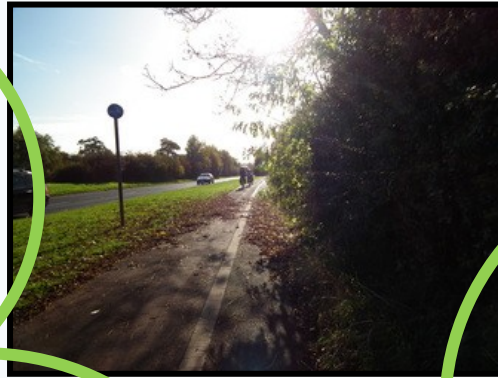
Solutions proposed are: action to restrict parking on pavements and verges; action to prevent damage to kerb edges, paving slabs and grass verges.

Potholes in streets:

Solutions proposed are: better and more effective repair needed. Few residents seemed aware of CWAC's online problem reporting system.

Public transport:

Concern with high cost of fares; frequency of service; need for more/better shelters with seating.

**Congestion:**

The 'hamburger' junction of the A41 and A55 is universally disliked and considered a major safety issue. Queens Road is seen as congested.

Road Safety:

Cycling seen as least safe method of transport and the overwhelming majority of school pupils have a bicycle but don't regularly cycle to school. Widespread support for more cycle-ways and separation of cycles from cars.

Clubs and societies:

Concern about lack of information – should be on Parish Council website.
General need for more activities in the community.
Existing clubs would like easier ways to publicise their activities, and better/cheaper access to meeting venues.

Shops:

Residents would like more independent shops locally such as green grocer; butcher; fishmonger. Also a post office.

**Proper Café:**

Most older residents would like somewhere local such as a café or similar place to meet.

Vicars Cross Community Centre**(formerly Square 1):**

General support for further development of Square 1 as a community centre.

**Facilities for teenagers:**

Generally seen as inadequate. There is also a requirement to improve playground facilities for younger children.

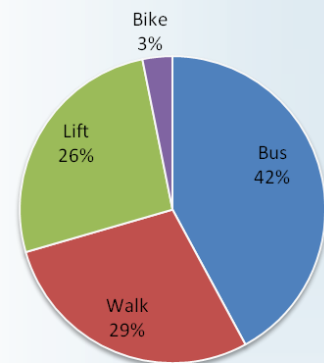
School facilities:

Support for more use of school facilities by the wider community, for example for clubs and society meetings.

Young Persons Questionnaire

Transport to school / recreation

Young people travelling to school



Almost 40% travel by bus and another 27% walk with 25% being brought to school by car. This reflects both the wide catchment area of the school and pupils' reluctance to use bicycles (regularly used by only 3%) largely because of safety or distance.

Students would be more likely to use bicycles for school and general transport needs if there was less traffic on the roads, and separate, safer cycle lanes.

For recreational trips, 75% claimed that they never or rarely used public transport largely because of cost (55%) but also because it was not convenient in terms of routes or proximity to bus

Transport use for recreation/shopping is similar with almost 60% being taken by car and 40% walking. This reflects their use of shops, clubs and societies outside the Parish, the cost or availability of public transport, and concern over the safety of cycling.

69% regard the Parish as a pleasant area to live

Social activities

Out of school activities dominated by sports. The most popular school clubs were arts, dance, music and sports.

A wide range of clubs and societies are available to pupils either in school or with a group such as youth club/guides/scouts. 56% of respondents attended one or more club or society.

The most widely used places to meet friends were at a friend's house (80%); Chester City centre (70%); local playing field area or local shops (both 37%). Meeting or playing in the streets was only mentioned by 18%, perhaps reflecting safety issues and the volume of traffic in residential areas noted in the street and household surveys.

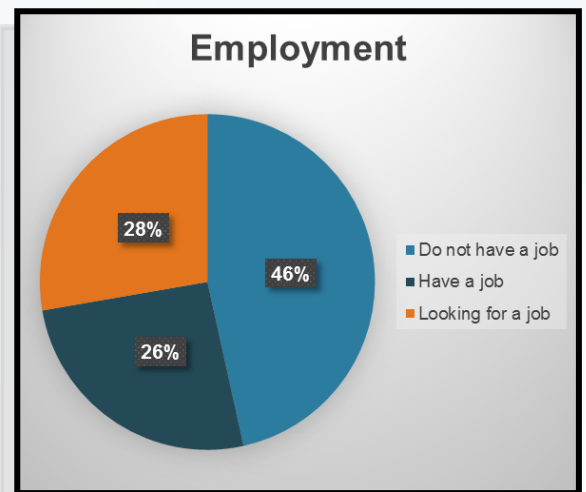
Just over 50% of respondents would like somewhere local to meet up with friends.

Young people are familiar with local playing fields and indicated that they were used regularly.

Part-time work

Most respondents worked in retail outlets of various kinds and catering, reflecting the nature of the local economy and part time employment opportunities. Other employment included babysitting, gardening, and hair-dressing. Only one respondent had a paper round.

It is rather concerning that about 30% report they regularly work 10 hours or more per



20% of respondents worked within the Parish and 25% in Chester City centre. The wide range of other places probably reflects the catchment area of the schools, and the opportunities for employment.

Police and safety issues

The vast majority of respondents do not feel safety is an issue, with only 15% being concerned. Only a tiny number said they did not regard the Parish as a safe area.

There was a general feeling that more should be done by police to promote and give advice on safety issues (66%).

The biggest safety concerns were strangers, bullying by other pupils, and road safety.

Students were not aware of official data suggesting the Parish is a safe area, with a lower than average levels of crime or anti-social behaviour.

82% of respondents claimed they had not been a victim of anti-social behavior, only 18% claimed they had.

The areas giving youngsters concern about their safety include the subways in the city centre, Blacon and the Lache. Within the Parish, their concerns centre on open spaces such as sport fields and Caldý Valley Nature Park. On the canal towpath, youngsters worry about rowdy behavior and “encountering strangers”.

Local environment

Suggestions for improvement focused on litter bins and campaigns to clean up litter/dog mess.

Generally, young people regard the Parish as a clean, tidy, safe, friendly area - 69% positive. Only 7% said it was not a pleasant place to live.

Business questionnaire

Too much general litter and general untidiness on streets.

Streets require better general maintenance with prompter action on potholes.

In some areas, there is inadequate space for parking – Green Lane and Queens Road were highlighted.

Crime is not perceived as a major issue, although there have been some historic problems at Caldby Valley with cars vandalised. Most seem satisfied with local police and actions taken to deal with children being rowdy, joyriding in local car parks, and their use by learner drivers.

Traffic problems associated with Sainsbury's roundabout continue to have impact on premises close to the new traffic light system, which is universally regarded as confusing and dangerous.

Some businesses reported problems from high rents and poor maintenance by landlords.

Vision

The results of all the research survey and consultation work has lead to this vision for the future.

Overall aim:

To maintain and improve the quality of our Parish as a place to live.

The Parish of Great Boughton is home to around eight and a half thousand people - our Parish, our community. It is where we live and spend much of our lives. The quality of our Parish affects the quality of all our lives. Maintaining and improving the quality of 'parish life' is really what our Parish Plan is all about.

To write this plan, we have looked at different aspects of life in our Parish. For each topic, we have identified particular outcomes that the Parish Plan should aim to achieve. The success of the Plan will be measured by the extent to which these aspirations are met. There will inevitably be overlaps between some of the topics - real life is complicated, and hard to compartmentalise.

Street Life

The streets of our Parish take up most of the space outside our houses beyond the garden gate. It's where we walk, use pushchairs, wheelchairs, wait for the bus, drive and park our cars.

The results of the surveys and consultation have shown that people are concerned about the safety of some roads due to speeding traffic and car parking on the pavements. This reduces safety for pedestrians and puts people off cycling, especially school children.

The general state of repair and maintenance of some streets causes concern. Although the majority of people thought the area where they live is generally clean and tidy, litter and dog mess are widely perceived to be problems. Crime is not perceived as a major issue, but continued patrols by the local PCSO are considered important.

Aim:

To ensure that our streets are:

- ***Safe for all the people who use them***
- ***Attractive, clean and well maintained***
- ***Free from crime and anti social behaviour***

Recreation Life

We all spend some of our free time in the neighbourhood around our houses. We use the streets, open spaces, countryside, canal and footpaths for exercise, play and sport.

Our surveys have shown that the Parish has a reasonable amount of outdoor space for sports, children's play and informal recreation. They do highlight the need to increase and improve facilities, particularly for teenagers and children's play.



Aim:

To ensure that the recreation spaces and paths in the Parish are attractive, of high quality, well maintained, accessible, and provide opportunities for informal exercise, play and sport for all residents, and where possible for nature conservation. In particular, to improve:

- ***Quality of sports pitches***
- ***Accessibility and quality of childrens' play areas***
- ***Opportunities for informal recreation***
- ***Quality of footpaths and the canal towpath***
- ***Quality of landscaping and nature conservation***
- ***Provision of allotments for local residents***

Social Life



We all spend some of our social and leisure time outside our homes on activities within our Parish. You may be a member of one of the clubs and societies that meet locally, or you may attend one of the local churches. You may use the local library, church hall or community centre, or patronise a local public house or restaurant.

The results of the surveys and consultation indicate there is a desire for more places to meet, more clubs and societies, and more suitable venues to accommodate them. There is support for increased and improved community facilities at the Vicars Cross Community Centre (formerly called 'Square One') on Thackeray Drive, and if possible, for school facilities to be made available for local clubs and societies. The need for better and more easily available information on local clubs and societies

Aim:

To maintain and increase the availability of indoor meeting places for social and recreation activities in our Parish to meet the existing and future needs of the community. In particular, to improve the:

- ***Availability of meeting places for community activities***
- ***Accommodation for clubs and societies***
- ***School's community facilities***
- ***Facilities for young people to meet***
- ***Quality and capacity of community centres and libraries, and extend their roles in community life***

Travel Life

Transport, for access to local facilities and for journeys beyond the Parish for shopping, leisure and work, is an important aspect of parish life.

Our surveys looked at how residents travel to the city centre, to work, and to schools and shops. The evidence shows that good use is made of public transport. Much of the daily shopping is done on foot at local shops.

Adults and school pupils want improvements to bus services, safer cycling and walking routes, plus 20 mph zones in residential areas. Speeding is seen as a problem on local roads and more anti-speeding measures on local roads were requested. Congestion problems were mentioned less often than speeding, but the 'hamburger junction' of the A41/ A55 and the A51 Tarvin Road into Chester both have congestion problems. These are a significant safety issues both for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Aim:

To maintain and improve the various means of transport for shopping, leisure, work and education, both within our Parish and to places beyond its boundaries. In particular, to improve:

- ***Provision, routes and frequency and affordability of public transport***
- ***Road traffic management***
- ***Road safety***
- ***Parking***
- ***Pedestrian routes and access***
- ***Access for all those with mobility problems***
- ***Cycle routes, cycling safety and bicycle parking***
- ***Links to facilities in surrounding areas and to the town centre***

Domestic Life

The quality and suitability of the homes in which we live has a big impact on the quality of domestic life. The types and affordability of homes - be they houses, flats, or apartments - must meet the changing needs of the community. Our Parish Plan can only have a limited influence on this very important aspect of Parish life, but it is important to recognise our community's concerns.

Information gathered for the plan in published documents and the 'Parish Profile' shows that there is an emerging problem of affordability for new households. There is also a growing need for housing more suited to the needs of an ageing population.

The most important factors are:

- The types, mix and tenure of housing
- Affordability
- Availability of shared accommodation
- Adaptability for an ageing population
- Sustainability for energy, heating and cooling needs
- Frequency and efficiency of refuse collection
- Improving rates of recycling



Aim:

To support the improvement of the quality, affordability, adaptability, energy efficiency and overall mix of housing types available in our Parish.

Education and Working Life



Our Parish includes primary, secondary and special schools that make all very important contributions to the life of our community. Parts of our Parish also lie within the catchment areas for other schools close to our Parish which many of our children attend.

There are a number of businesses in our Parish providing jobs for local people. The availability of local employment affects job opportunities and incomes, and influences people's choices of places to live.

Our surveys have shown that businesses commented on broadly the same issues as local residents did in the household survey. The business community emphasised the problems of litter, street maintenance, and traffic congestion. They were concerned about the availability of parking space, although residents did not raise the issue. Businesses did not perceive crime to be a major issue.

The Young Persons' questionnaire highlighted the importance of part time working for pupils to earn money and gain work experience.

Aims:

To ensure that the schools our children attend, meet their educational needs, and contribute to the community facilities available to local residents.

To support local businesses in our Parish, to encourage employment opportunities for local people, and to provide job training opportunities for our young people.

Local shops and services

The availability and quality of local shops, commercial and health services all influence the quality of Parish life, especially for those who do not have easy access to a car. They are important for food shopping, medicines, post office services, and personal care such as hairdressing, dentistry and podiatry. The local library also plays an important role in the community.

Our surveys have shown that the majority of residents agreed that the local shops did mainly meet their requirements. However, residents would like to see more independent shops including a greengrocer, butcher, and post office. Much daily shopping is done on foot at local shops. Most were satisfied with car parking at local shops, although some respondents identified safe parking for bicycles as needing improvement.

Aim:

To maintain and improve the availability and range of local shops and services, and improve access to them.

Healthy Life

Many of the aims already set out to improve the quality of Parish life should help contribute to improved health for our residents. Access to attractive open spaces and recreation activities should encourage and support exercise. Access to local shops selling fresh food, and to local health and personal care services, will also be beneficial. It is important that actions arising from the Parish Plan should be designed so the impact they will have on the overall health of the community will be positive. A nearby GP Practice suggested regular liaison with the Parish Council could be helpful.

Aim:

To help maintain and if possible improve the health of people living in or spending significant time in our Parish.

Delivering and Monitoring the Action Plan

How we deliver the Plan

Now the Parish Plan has been finalised, an Implementation Group will need to be set up to take responsibility for the overall control of all actions. This Group will need to co-operate closely with the Parish Council to ensure good liaison between the organisations .

Actions from the Plan are grouped into categories such as open space, community facilities, street quality, traffic and transport, crime and vandalism and communication. We propose for each of these specific categories there will be an 'action group' . Each 'action group' acts under the general direction of the Parish Plan Implementation Steering Group , but takes responsibilities for putting the Plan into effect along with monitoring and reporting of progress.

Parish Plan Delivery Model

It is strongly recommended that a Parish Councillor is allocated to each 'Action Group', and relevant community groups plus individuals are asked to participate. This will provide expertise and ensure a good flow of information between participants. This is especially important where external groups or organisations are involved, or we seeking funding from external agencies.

New community groups could be set up to augment and support the role of the Parish Council, and to act as links between the Parish Council and local people. Examples of such additional groups might be the 'Friends of Queens Road Field' or a 'local business group'. Similarly, residents might be encouraged to establish local '*street wardens*' who could be used to report any problems in locality, such as road maintenance.

The 'community action groups' will need to be co-ordinated by the 'Parish Plan Implementation Steering group' to prioritise the actions and oversee progress. To be effective, this model requires a strong two-way flow of information and ideas to modify the action plan as circumstances change and progress is made. The Parish Council and the Implementation Steering Group should meet regularly to discuss and monitor delivery.

Monitoring delivery of the Parish Plan

Monitoring the progress of the Parish Plan will be through a number of measures:

- The draft action plan sets out proposals for **annual surveys** to monitor the state of the environment. For example, the street survey carried out as a baseline survey should be repeated regularly communally to measure the impact of the Parish Plan actions on the quality of our streets. The responsibility for doing this survey will lie with the Implementation Steering Group, calling on volunteers from the community action groups and local people who may have volunteered to be 'street wardens'.
- An **annual monitoring report** will be prepared by the Implementation Steering Group and presented to the Parish Council. This will then be widely reported to the whole community through leaflets, notices and the Parish Council website. The Parish Council should take Parish Plan progress reports into account when planning its annual plans and setting its budgets.



Appendix :

Parish Plan Action Plan:

- . Communications and Facilities
- . Green spaces
- . Transport
- . Policing
- . Health
- . Schools
- . Employment
- . Waste
- . Housing

Draft Parish Plan Action Plan Matrix.

Communications and Facilities

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Communication: Parish	Adequacy of the Parish Council as means of providing information and communication to residents	Improve the role of the Parish Council as a communicator and source of relevant local information about the parish environment, activities and plan. Improved opportunities for local parishioners to have dialogue with council via website blog.	<p>C1 - Improve and regularly update the parish website as a source of community information and portal to other information.</p> <p>C2 - Prepare a regular monthly newsletter for each household/email address.</p> <p>C3 - Prepare an annual household survey on parish matters based on the content of the parish plan.</p> <p>C4 - Parish Directory to be published every two years, Welcome Pack for new residents to the area.</p>	Parish Council Annual parish survey
Facilities: Shops	Lack of choice and variety of local shops	Increase the variety and choice of local shops within walking or cycling distance of parishioners.	<p>F1- Planning policy to restrict change of use of local shops to non-retail uses.</p> <p>F2 - Investigate the feasibility of creating a community shop with post office.</p>	Local Planning authority (CWAC) Parish Council
F: Access	Adequacy of access to facilities at local shops and community facilities	Improve accessibility to local shops and community facilities for people with disabilities and adults with young children.	<p>F3 - Contact landlords and tenants and highway authority to Increase and improve cycle parking at shops.</p> <p>F4 - Improve wheelchair and pushchair access to and into shops and community facilities.</p>	CWAC, Highways Parish Council

Communications and Facilities (continued)

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
F: teenagers	The adequacy of facilities for teenagers	Improve the current facilities for teenagers	F5 - Implement the refurbishment of Vicars Cross Community Centre and associated facilities for teenagers and young people and all members of the community.	Parish Council
F: Children	The adequacy of facilities for children	Improve the quality, accessibility and use of children's play areas.	F6 - Increased funding for maintenance and improvement of play areas. F7 - Raise community awareness of the variety of play areas.	Parish Council CWAC
F: Clubs	Local clubs and societies	Provide a variety of clubs and societies to meet the needs of the parish residents that are well run with good facilities.	F8 - Make information on clubs and societies more widely accessible e.g. notices in the library, parish notice boards, information on Parish Council website. F9 - Encourage school and church facilities to be opened up to more use by clubs and societies.	Parish Council CWAC Friends of Groups
F: Community	Community facilities	To improve the quality and availability of community facilities.	(F5) - Implement the refurbishment of Vicars Cross Community Centre and associated facilities for teenagers and young people and all members of the community). F10 - Provide a wide choice of evening classes, adult education, and a cafe at Square One Community centre F12 - Increase use of school and church facilities by opening them up for more community activities.	Parish Council
F: Elderly	Facilities for elderly people	Ensure elderly people have an equal opportunity to share and participate in Parish social and recreational activities.	F13 - Evaluate all decisions in the implementation of the Parish Plan actions to measure and evaluate their impact on elderly people. Report in parish plan annual monitoring report.	Parish Council Residential Homes

Communications and Facilities (continued)

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
F: Play	Access to play areas and open spaces	Improved accessibility to play areas and open spaces. Reduce the number of families driving to other areas of Chester to use their playground facilities.	F14 - Evaluate the adequacy of access to play areas and open spaces by a 'Users Survey' and look at funding sources to update /improve playgrounds	Parish Council Friends of Groups
F: Allotments	Allotments	Ensure full utilisation of existing allotments. Maintain and improve the quality and availability of allotments for the use of the local residents and promotion of healthy eating campaign.	F15 - Increase liaison with community action groups (e.g. Blacon Project). F16 - Parish Council to prepare and promote a healthy eating campaign. F17 - Promotion of Boughton Health and Whitchurch Road allotments, web-links (Best Allotment included in Great Boughton in Bloom).	Parish Council Appropriate experienced community groups
F: Libraries	Libraries	Increase the use of local libraries.	F18 - Maintain and enhance service provision of local libraries and increase community involvement.	Parish Council Library service

Greenspaces

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Greenspaces: hedges	Overgrown shrubs and low level branches on the public thoroughfares	Reduction in number of places where overgrown vegetation obstructs pavements and reduces highway visibility.	<p>GS1 - Encourage more frequent hedge trimming by private owners through a public education campaign: general through Newsletter, but also direct to individual home owners.</p> <p>GS2 - Action to persuade householders to trim hedges and trees and effective enforcement where necessary: Roll out CWAC reporting procedures. Provide help and support for people unable to do it themselves.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Local volunteer street wardens</p> <p>Report to Highways</p>
G: Trees 1 G: Biodiversity	Conserving the natural and built environment	<p>To maintain habitat for local wildlife.</p> <p>To protect trees in the parish.</p> <p>Preservation/conservation of historic environment/buildings</p>	<p>GS3 - Publicise a way for residents to report maintenance and condition issues to the council.</p> <p>GS4 - Conduct a parish tree and wildlife survey.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Appropriate conservation agencies</p>
G: Trees 2	Maintenance of trees/tree cover	<p>Ensure that trees in the Parish are well maintained and covered by TPOs where appropriate.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for additional planting/shrubs etc.</p>	<p>GS5 - Publicise way for residents to report poorly maintained trees to the council: Roll out CWAC reporting procedures.</p> <p>GS6 - Survey of trees conducted by Parish Council every six months to safeguard and enhance existing tree cover.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Appropriate conservation bodies</p>

Greenspaces (continued)

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
G: Verges	Maintenance of grass verges, hedgerows and general greenspaces.	<p>Ensure that grass verges are well maintained and environmentally friendly.</p> <p>Ensure grass cutting across area is appropriate to the area.</p>	<p>GS7 - Publicise way for residents to report poorly maintained grass verges to the council. Roll out CWAC reporting procedures.</p> <p>GS8 - Survey of grass verges conducted by parish council every six months: Parish Council, feed into Environmental Services standards etc. Link into Friends of Groups to check appropriate standards.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Street wardens</p> <p>Appropriate conservation agencies</p>
G: Routes 1	Quality of green spaces, sports facilities and linear routes	To maintain the quality of green spaces, sports facilities and linear routes and increase their use.	<p>GS9 - Increase investment to improve quality and range of facilities and promotion of these facilities.</p> <p>GS10 - Publicise a way for residents to report maintenance issues to council. Roll out CWAC reporting procedures.</p>	<p>CWAC</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Appropriate conservation agencies</p> <p>Friends of Groups, Volunteer Force</p>
G: Routes 2	Canal towpaths	Improve the maintenance of verges and towpaths.	<p>GS11 - Publicise a way for residents to report maintenance issues to the council and Rivers and Canal Trust.</p> <p>GS12 - A survey of conditions conducted by Parish Council every six months.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>CWAC</p> <p>Canal Trust</p>

Transport

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Transport: Lighting	Street lighting	Ensure that there is no area of the parish where people would feel unsafe at night due to lack of lighting.	<p>T1 - Parish to conduct a survey on where people would like more/ better lighting.</p> <p>T2 - Advertise system for reporting street lighting problems. Roll out CWAC reporting procedures</p> <p>T3 - Prepare policy on timing of lighting provision.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>CWAC (Street Lighting)</p> <p>Police, PSCOs</p>
Transport: Parking	Parking and obstruction of roads and pavements by vehicles.	Reduction in number of parked vehicles causing obstruction to other road vehicles and users of pavements.	<p>T4 - More effective enforcement of laws and bye-laws where an obstruction is caused.</p> <p>T5 - Public education campaign to encourage safe parking.</p> <p>T6 - Consideration of appropriate and more effective on street measures locally.</p> <p>T7 - Advertise where to complain about parking on footpaths. Roll out CWAC reporting procedures.</p> <p>T8 - Annual transport walkabout with Highways/ Traffic Wardens</p>	<p>Police</p> <p>CWAC</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Traffic Wardens</p> <p>Local volunteer street wardens</p>

Transport (continued)

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
T: Bus	How can increased transport by bus be encouraged?	Increased use of public transport. Increased satisfaction with the local bus service.	T9 - Improve timetables and services in order to better meet needs of the community more effectively. T10 - Promote more use of buses through better and improved access to information via Parish Council website, maps and timetable links, and investigate lower bus fares for school age children.	CWAC Bus Operators Input to Chester Transport Strategy
T: Speeding	Excessive speeding of vehicles on local roads	Reduce incidents of speeding and accident rate.	T11 - Implement a 20mph speed limits on predominantly residential roads throughout the Parish. T12 - Use of Speed Indicators Display (SIDs) units, Hand held speed cameras.	CWAC Local Highway authority Input to Chester Transport strategy
T: Congestion 1	Vehicle congestion on local roads	Reduction in congestion and problems associated with congestion.	T13 - Implement improved control of on street parking by road traffic orders and enforcement. Roll out CWAC reporting procedures. T14 - implement a 20mph speed limit on predominantly residential roads.	Local highway authority (CWAC) Input to Chester Transport Strategy
T: Congestion 2	Congestion at the new junction A41/A55	Improvement to the safety capacity and legibility of signage at A41/A55 junction.	T15 - Advocate a survey of the users of this junction by the highway authority.	Parish Council CWAC Highways Agency

Transport (continued)

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
T: Parking 2	Provision of parking for local facilities	Improve the condition of parking facilities.	T16 - Investigate and work with parking area owners to upgrade parking facilities.	Parish council CWAC Highways and Planning
T: Local road conditions	Ensure road conditions are maintained	Ensure prompt repair of pot holes.	T17 - Encourage the Highway Authority and landowners to provide more funding for the repair of pot holes and maintenance. T18 - Advvertise pothole-reporting system. Roll out CWAC reporting procedures.	CWAC Highways Parish Council
T: Cycling 1	Encourage more cycling and walking Make cycling safer	Increased use of cycles and the number of trips by walking to local shops etc.	T19 - 20mph speed limit on predominantly residential roads. T20 - Increase the number and improve existing cycle lanes. T21 - Provide more information on safer routes to cycle and walking within the parish. Link to CWAC cycle and walking webpages, including Public rights of Way (PROW) with leaflets available in local shops and libraries. T22 - Include question on this issue in annual parish survey. T23 - Increase cycle parking facilities.	CWAC Parish Council Chester 20 is Plenty organisation Chester Cycle Campaign
T: Cycling 2	Limited use by school pupils of their cycles and public transport when travelling to school	Encourage school pupils to travel by cycle or public transport rather than being taken by car.	T24 - Provide more Lets Bike It training. T25 - Provide Bikeability training in the Parish for adults. T26 - Advvertise Sustran's route planning advice and facilities.	CWAC Highways School Governors Parish Council
T: Walking	Ensure safe crossings across major roads	Improve safety for pedestrians crossing trunk roads/ through routes.	T27 - Annual Highways Walkabout.	CWAC Highways Parish Council
T: Routes	Footpaths	Improve condition and maintenance of pavements.	T28 - Publicise how residents report maintenance issues to the Borough Council. Roll out CWAC reporting procedures.	CWAC Parish Council

Policing

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Policing: Crime	Policing issues	Effective crime prevention and active community policing.	P1 - Increase effective collaboration between police and local community/parish council and schools.	Police Parish Council
Policing: Vandalism	Vandalism and graffiti	Reduce level of vandalism and graffiti in public spaces.	P2 - Publicise a way for residents to report vandalism to the police/council. P3 - Conduct an education campaign in schools.	Parish council Police CWAC

Health

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Health: Participation	People on low incomes and those with poor health or disability	Ensure equal opportunity to share and participate in parish social and recreational activities and facilities.	H1 - Evaluate all decisions in the implementation of the Parish Plan actions to measure and evaluate their impact on these vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Report in parish plan annual monitoring report.	Parish council Annual Parish Survey Disability organisations Clinical Commissioning Group CWAC Public Health
Health: Facilities	Public health and healthcare facilities	Maintain and improve the quality of health of parishioners.	H2 - Prepare information and campaign to promote parks, open spaces, sport facilities and linear routes for cycling and walking to increase opportunities for community fitness e.g. Walking Football	Parish Council
Health: Activities		Increase number of people walking regularly.	H3 - Introduce a range of Healthy Walks through local trained walk leaders using PROWs, Caldley Valley Canal etc.	Public Health at CWAC

Schools

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Schools: Places	Do local schools have adequate places and facilities for pupils and for wider community activities?	Ensure that schools within the parish meet the education needs of parish children and contribute to the community facilities available to local residents.	S1 - Parish to meet with school governors and local education authority S2 - Ensure that a Parish Councillors is on each School Governing Body to provide link	Parish Council School Governors CWAC

Employment

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Employment	Local employment	Increase opportunities for the creation and expansion of local businesses.	E1 - Parish Council to conduct a survey of local businesses to discover how it can assist and remove constraints to business expansion and creation within its sphere of powers and influence.	Parish Council
Employment: Youth	Local employment opportunities.	Improve the local employment opportunities in the Parish to improve local prosperity and sustainability.	E2 - Consider opportunities for local homes to be used in part for business purposes to encourage home working. E3 - Encourage local businesses contribution to help young people gain work experience and help others to retrain.	Local Planning Authority (CWAC) Parish Council

Waste

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
W: Recycling	Refuse collection and recycling.	Maintain and improve the quality and frequency of refuse collection and recycling.	W1 - Lobby for introduction of a more effective recycling collection system. W2 - Prepare a public education scheme for recycling	CWAC Parish Council
W: Composting	Limited amount of home composting.	Increase home composting to reduce the amount collected.	W3 - Recruit Composting Champions, advertise composting bins via CWAC website. Arrange composting road show with sample bins etc.	CWAC Parish Council Friends of Groups
Waste: Litter	The appearance and condition of streets.	Improve the condition, maintenance and appearance of streets in the Parish.	W4 - Annual street survey to monitor progress on improving maintenance and condition of streets. W5 - Campaign with CWAC for more frequent street cleaning. W6 - Prepare a local litter campaign, Newsletters, Articles. W7 - Establish effective local byelaws for litter, dog fouling, etc. W8 - Increase Dog Warden visits/visibility.	Parish Council CWAC, Ward Councillors Local volunteer street wardens

Housing

Topic	Issue	Objectives	Actions	Agents
Housing: Variety	Type and tenure of housing	Increase the variety of type and tenure of housing.	H1 - Monitor housing supply, allocations in the Parish.	CWAC Parish Council
Housing: Affordable:	Affordable housing	Increase the amount of affordable housing.	H2 - Monitor housing supply, allocations in the Parish via monitoring of Planning Applications.	CWAC Parish Council
Housing: HMOs	Houses in multiple occupation	Ensure that Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are compatible with the residential character and quality of the neighbourhood.	H3 - Monitor the number and impact on the neighbourhood of HMOs in the Parish.	CWAC Parish Council



Created by the Great Boughton and
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