

CHRISTLETON VILLAGE UPDATE

Parish Council Meetings

Parish council meetings are usually held in a public space to allow villagers to attend a public forum, and input into issues raised at the meetings. This is not possible while social distancing measures are required, and we will continue to hold virtual meetings throughout the pandemic. Here, we update you on progress and we would appreciate your input on any of the issues raised.

Please send feedback and questions to Sue Thwaite, the Clerk of the Parish Council:

clerk@christleton-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council publishes information and meeting minutes on noticeboards in the village, and we put these on our website. There, you can view this newsletter and find out more about the work we do:

www.christleton-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please write to the Clerk at the email address above. Please include some information about yourself or a short resumé.

Thank you

A number of residents volunteer their time to assist us on specific projects and we are very grateful for their efforts. If you'd like to be involved, please get in touch.

Traffic

The Traffic Working Group (TWG) observed traffic in the village in May 2019, recording the busiest times on Village Road. The majority of pavement mountings and gridlocks occur during school drop off and pick up times, and the roads remain busy into the evening after the working day. At peak times, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) have measured that there are over 300 vehicles in both directions in one hour, travelling through the village. This occurs against a background of cut through traffic between the A41 and the A51.

The TWG completed further investigations, and made the following recommendations, which were approved by the Parish Council:

- Gateways and build-outs on Birch Heath Lane and Plough Lane to reduce traffic flow and speeding, and emphasise the entrance to residential areas.
- A vehicle activated speed sign on Rowton Bridge Road.
- To paint H-Bars across the front of driveways and dropped kerbs on Village Road to indicate where cars should not be parked. This will allow for passing places at busy times.
- The painting of a hatched area on the bend next to the Ring O'Bells to prevent parking across the junction.
- Relaunch of Park and Stride for the High School, where parents will drop children on the periphery of the village.
- "Speedwatch" group to observe speeds through the village.

Upon investigation of the quality of the roads, the **Asset Improvement Group** has persuaded CWAC to replace sections of Pepper Street and Little Heath Road. At time of printing, these works are about to begin, expected to be completed around 10th July.

High School Start and Finish Times

In response to the pandemic, the High School plans to stagger school attendance times to allow for social distancing at school. The Parish Council has requested that the High School consider implementing this on an ongoing basis to ease congestion, improve air quality and allow for social distancing in the village.

Little Heath Play Area

We regret that the play area will remain closed until further notice until such time we can make it compliant with Covid-19 government guidelines.

Air Quality

The Air Quality Working Group carried out measurements of particulates (NO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}) on the following routes to school:

- The centre of the village
- The A41 cycle/pedestrian footpath and across the hamburger
- Little Heath Road to the A51
- Littleton Little Heath Road to Vicars Cross Golf Club

Exposure levels of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are above WHO guidelines, and these can have serious long term health implications. These results have been shared with CWAC and the MP, who have been asked to support:

- Continuous monitoring of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀
- A reduction in DEFRA guidelines for PM₁₀ and particularly PM_{2.5} particles to the WHO guidelines
- Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) status and plans for the A41 and A51
- Signage to direct traffic via M56/M6 rather than A41/A51
- Increased priority for building of a link road to bypass Littleton
- An increase in capacity of the Hamburger and the roundabout on the A41/A51
- A delay in the upgrade to the A51 until there is a clear understanding of the effects on air quality
- Alternative cyclist and pedestrian routes to school.

Planning

The University of Law

The UOL site was purchased by Bridgemere Land, who are planning to restore the listed building, Christleton Hall, for use by the Steve Morgan Foundation. They intend to knock down the remaining buildings and build housing on that land and on the location of the car parks.

The developer undertook an online consultation in March 2020. The Parish Council has met with representatives of the developer and raised many of the same concerns as the residents. One of the main concerns that the village raised about any development of the site was access for construction traffic. Rather than accessing the site through the busy and narrow roads of the village, the Parish Council suggested that the developer looks to gain access for construction traffic at the rear of the site across the fields from either Pearl Lane or Little Heath Road. We are informed that private discussions between the developers and the land owner has resulted in Little Heath Road being the option they are pursuing. When finalised, this will form part of their planning application.

The developer has not yet submitted a planning application for the site, when they do, there will be a formal planning consultation. The Parish Council will seek the views of the village to form a response to this.

Beechmoor Nurseries Site

There is existing planning permission for the site to be redeveloped for use as a retirement village, and the new owners wish to make changes to these plans.

A virtual presentation was made to the Parish Council by the new developers of the site, Retirement Villages, setting out ambitions to submit a new planning application. A number of issues were raised by councillors, including the height of the buildings, a 40% increase in the proposed population, the proximity to the hamburger roundabout and the associated volume of traffic and air quality issues.

Civic Architect

The Parish Council commissioned Planit-IE, a civic architect firm, to produce proposals to improve air quality and pedestrian and cyclist safety by reducing traffic flow through the village. Following the implementation of traffic measures listed overleaf, they propose:

- Discourage discretionary traffic.
- Install a roundel at the junction of Village road and Rowton Bridge Road to reduce vehicle speeds near High School.
- Investigate additional parking options in the village.
- Modify the Village Green and roads around, to address parking provision with the option of green space or a paved surface for village events.
- Pedestrian / cyclist entrance to High School on Village Road.