



Holmes Chapel Partnership

Working for the whole Community

Newsletter No. 2

October 2011

Welcome to our Newsletter



I'd like to welcome you to the latest Holmes Chapel Partnership Newsletter. In this issue we are bringing you up to date on our current projects and activities, our forthcoming AGM, and planned projects. We hope you find it both interesting and informative.

The Partnership would love to hear from you if you have any comments, suggestions, and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help with one of our projects – details at the end of this letter.

Stuart Gammon, Chairman

Annual General Meeting

Our first Annual General Meeting will take place at the Victoria Club on Wednesday 26th October, starting at 7:30 pm.

As well as going through the formal business we will use the meeting to bring you up to date on what we have been doing and plan to do. We also hope to have a couple of guest speakers to talk about community projects in Holmes Chapel and elsewhere.

Everyone is welcome – please join us!

Christmas Fayre - Cancelled

For many years there has been a series of seasonal and festive events leading up to Christmas, including carol singing, dancing displays, mulled wine, late night shop opening, a visit from Father Christmas for the children, and of course church services.

This year, the Partnership had been planning to organise a Christmas Fayre, to take place in the middle of the village on the afternoon and early evening of Saturday 17th December. To make it as big and welcoming as possible we had planned to temporarily close off London Road between the mini roundabouts and Church Walk, and filling the street and immediate neighbouring areas (Church Walk, Church Mews) with:



- 'Market' Stalls
 - Shop stalls
 - Local organisations / charities
 - Crafts
 - Food & Drink
- Entertainment
 - Stage for singers/dancers
 - Carol singers
 - Children's rides
 - Live bands / music

Unfortunately Cheshire East Highways have refused permission to close this part of London Road on the grounds of safety; we believe we can, given time, overcome these objections (using the 2009 closure for repaving as a precedent).

So, reluctantly we have had to cancel the plans for this year; HOWEVER we will continue to work on plans for a flagship event in 2012.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact us by email (info@hcupartnership.org.uk) or call Stuart Gammon on HC 534394

Visit our website at www.hcupartnership.org.uk

Current Projects

❖ [Holmes Chapel Cycling Village](#)



There has been a steady uptake of the new cycling maps that we issued in August to local businesses. There are a few people who venture into the village with their bikes and pannier bags to do their shopping; we are hoping that more will see the advantages of easy access to the shops, with no worries about finding a parking space.

From the list of signatures we collected at the Village Fair on May 1st and from twisting the arms of acquaintances, we contacted a few interested people to form a sub-committee to move the project forward.

Six of us met in mid-September to discuss and exchange ideas. It was decided to:

- visit all three schools before half-term, to make them aware of the existence of the cycle map and seek the potential involvement of the schools in the project
- re-launch the project by an event in the vicinity of the precinct where we would hand out the maps, give extra explanations and ask people to fill in a short questionnaire.

At this event we will publicise a mass cycle ride round the village – probably on a Sunday a week later.

- put together our own web page to publicise what we are doing
- investigate improvement of cycle access to the station
- investigate the possibilities for reducing the restrictions on the narrow parts of the cycle routes.

In addition we are hoping that we will be able to erect a cycle shelter adjacent to the Public Library in the next couple of months. This will allow both shoppers and users of the Library to lock their cycles in a sheltered position – very useful on rainy days!

❖ [Play Area Improvements Project](#)

The Partnership has been working with the Parish Council on a project to improve the facilities at the various Play Areas in and around the village.

The initial focus is to redesign the play area next to Holmes Chapel Primary School. We showed an outline plan for the area at the Village Fair and Holmes Chapel Today exhibition – both in May.



Since then the plans have been shown to parents and children at various venues in the village, in order to get feedback on how the plans should be refined.

The next stage of the project is to work with potential developers to work out how much these improvements are likely to cost. With this information we can assess how we might raise sufficient funds to finance the changes. The Parish Council has put some funding aside but we are likely to need a lot more!

❖ [Love Local Life](#)

We are working with local traders to see whether a loyalty card (Love Local Life) – which is already being used in other Cheshire towns – is viable in Holmes Chapel.

The card entitles shoppers to loyalty offers if they spend their money locally, rather than travelling out of town to shop. Each shop would devise their own offer, which could be free gifts or money off when a shopper spends above a certain amount.

❖ [Dane Valley Project](#)

We have been helping the Parish Council raise funds for the improvement of the Dane Valley leisure area.

The project includes improving access from Bramhall Drive, as well as updating the facilities available.

Other Activities

❖ Traffic Management



In July we attended the Public Meeting called by Cheshire East Highways in the Library. Along with other speakers we presented our ideas on what might be done to ease traffic issues. This was followed by a very useful open session when anyone present could make their own views known.

Cheshire East gave the opportunity for further comments to be submitted, up to the end of August, and promised to report back – through the Partnership and Parish Council – on what they feel should be done next.

❖ Village Clean-up Day

On Sunday 10th July a team from the Partnership were pleased to join many others in the village clean-up day organised by the Village Volunteers. A good time was had by all, and for one day at least the village was clear of litter.

We understand that there will be another clean-up day next year, tentatively planned for Sunday 13th May.

The team are also considering a 'Balsam Bash' along the River Dane in June.

❖ Litter Bins

The Village Volunteers' Litter Bin project continues to be a great success, with new bins appearing throughout the village.

Can you help us?

We want to embark on as many community projects as we can, but to do this we need help! You can put in as little or as much time as you like, depending on your own personal circumstances.

If you think you can help us on a project, please either email us at info@hpartnership.org.uk or write to Stuart Gammon at 41 Portree Drive, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7JB.

❖ Redevelopment of the Sanofi-Aventis (ex Fisons) Site

The Partnership put forward a submission to Cheshire East's Planning Department, on behalf of the community, regarding the proposed developments at the Sanofi-Aventis (ex Fisons) site off London Road.

The main suggestions were that:

- cycle routes must be provided to give adults and children safe access to key facilities in Holmes Chapel, such as the shops, health centre, and schools.
- the design must include provision for the safe crossing of both London Road and Station Road by pedestrians and cyclists.
- there should be no 'rat run' through the new development – allowing vehicles to take a short cut between London Road and Station Road
- the development should have regard to reducing carbon emissions and be designed to use current environmental technology – including but not limited to solar heating and power, ground source heating, and rainwater collection systems.
- it would be better to improve existing play areas in the village rather than create large new ones, and allow for the creation of allotments on the site.
- where there is opportunity to allow the development to offset some of its targets through off site contributions, the Partnership would prefer contributions towards community infrastructure projects, such as the development of a new Community Centre.