

EATON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT – 2017/18

Another busy year for the Parish Councillors who volunteer their free time to perform (but not limited to) reporting pot holes, fly tipping, reviewing planning applications, completing park inspections, installing defibrillators, working hard on mitigating the potential impact of the Link road on the village, and working with Cheshire Police/Cheshire East to try and make the A536 a safer road.

Below are the key areas that we are currently involved with on your behalf.



Congleton Link Road

The Congleton link road remains a focus of the Parish Council's attention and will continue to do so for a while yet. To be honest, not much has changed from last year regarding our position – but for completeness, here is a refresh - We understand that any future mitigating actions to minimise the impact on the village will be included as 'conditions' within the Link Road planning permission, and the road should not be opened to traffic until these conditions have been met. However, these mitigating conditions have not yet been agreed with Cheshire East, and the budget to implement them is not yet known. Now that the plan for the road has been approved, we expect this topic to 'rear its ugly head again this year!'



Speeding and safety on the A536

With the support of our local Police Community Support Officer, we have successfully set up a 'speed watch' team from volunteers within the village. With training now completed, designated 'spots' agreed, and high visibility jackets and speed gun purchased, we have been out and about at different times of the day and in designated locations within the village. It isn't surprising to see how many cars slow down as soon as they spot the 'high viz' jackets (unfortunately they are a mandatory requirement when performing speed checks).

Those caught over the speed limit threshold will receive a letter from Cheshire Police – it's at least a start and hopefully our visibility will make people think a bit more about the speed they are going through our village on the A536. A BIG thank you to those volunteers who have already joined the 'speed watch' team and have given up their time to support this initiative.



Broadband

Work is already underway to improve things for Eaton. Principally this will be a new cabinet served by the Congleton exchange and reach around 70 premises nearer to the village. This will be fibre to the cabinet though not FTTP. Openreach expect the work to be completed later in the spring probably during May. Watch this space.....



Defibrillator

Hopefully you will have noticed by now that the defibrillator has been installed and we perform weekly checks to ensure it remains in full working order. Thank you to Steve Waltho for seeing this installation through to completion. I hope that no-one ever has the need to use it, but if you do – don't worry about wondering how to use it should the time come, the machine itself talks you through exactly what needs to be done.



Neighbourhood Plan

A big THANK YOU to John Bradburn, Neil Thorpe, Andy Mitchell, Tamsin McCormack and Steve Waltho for their continued commitment in producing our village plan.

The team have recently employed the services of e*Scape urbanists to draw up our landscape and village character assessment document, which the team are currently analysing to assist with the development of our policies for incorporation into the plan.

The next steps will be to employ the services of Cheshire Community Action who will assist with the writing of the draft plan, before this goes through a period of consultation and examinations by the residents and the local authority.

Cheshire East will then organise a formal referendum of the residents to approve the plan, which will hopefully be later this year or early 2019.

Again, when that time comes, please register your vote, as without your support we will not be able to complete the plan.

You can view the latest information regarding the Neighbourhood Plan on our Village Website at www.eatoncheshire.co.uk and if any residents would like to help create the plan then please email us at plan.eaton@gmail.com.



Village Website

Please use the village website, it will inform you of events within the village, interesting articles related to village life, and keep you updated with council issues. It can be found at www.eatoncheshire.co.uk

Please remember that all Parish Councillors perform this role voluntarily, and often face undue criticism for the role we perform and the actions undertaken.

In most cases our actions are as a direct result of feedback, comments or concerns raised to us by residents in the village, if we make mistakes in how these concerns are brought to your attention – before you think about shooting the messenger, please ask yourself why these concerns were brought to our attention in the first place, we are only doing what has been asked of us in the first place.

On a lighter note, I am stepping down as Chair this year, so would like to pass on a heartfelt thank you to the Parish Councillors for supporting me during my time as Chair, and sincerest thanks go to our clerk, Dorothy, who continues to work hard for the benefit of the village. The Parish Council would not function as efficiently as it does without her, and to our Cheshire East Ward Councillor, Lesley Smetham, who provides us with valuable advice, contacts, information and guidance, without which we could not manage.

Julie Lyne Chair – Eaton Parish Council.

April 2018