

Eaton Parish Council Annual Report 2019

Welcome to Eaton Parish Council 2019 Annual Newsletter.

The Parish Council is made up of local residents of the parish, who volunteer their free time unpaid of course, that meet once every 2 months to debate issues concerning the parish. This could be footpaths, planning, traffic, speed and many other topics that arise.

At our meetings we are able to communicate our thoughts with our Cheshire East Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham, who provides us with valuable advice, contacts, guidance and information. Our thanks go to Lesley.

I would also like to thank our local PCSO Julia Short who mostly attends our meetings with any police issues within our parish.

I would like to welcome Stuart Cannon who was co-opted on to the Parish Council in the autumn of 2018.

Stuart lives in Havannah and he is a great asset to the villages and your Parish Council team.

I would like to personally like to thank all of our Councillors for supporting not only myself and the parish during my first year as Eaton Parish Chair and for all the hard work commitment they all afford to the Parish Council.

All of our Parish Councillors have been re-elected enbloc and we are looking forward to the forthcoming year.

Our accounts this year are completed and have been sent to the internal audit and will be openly visible on the village website www.eatoncheshire.co.uk towards the middle of May or you can request a paper copy from the clerk.

Our sincerest thanks go to our Clerk, Dorothy Waite who continues to work for the benefit of the village. The Parish Council would not function efficiently as it does without her.

Thank you to all who help our village and parish from Park Inspections, Website maintenance, Speed-watch, Neighbourhood Plan, Kate and her gardening team who take care of the banks between the Plough and the park. Our village would not be the same without you all.

Another thanks go to Tarmac who have agreed and taken on all the grass cuttings within the Millennium Park and the Church Hall grounds.

Please take a look at the Eaton Village website it has lots of information on the Parish Council, along with minutes, agenda etc plus interesting articles related to village life, it can be found at www.eatoncheshire.co.uk.

In this annual report you will find information on some of the topics we are currently working on.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us on any matter you feel is within our remit, or please let us know your views generally on our Parish.

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Eaton Parish Council meetings for the remainder of 2019 will take place on the following dates at the Parish Hall at 7pm,

Tuesday 7th May

Tuesday 2nd July

Tuesday 3rd September

Tuesday 5th November

Please feel free to contact the clerk of the Parish 7 days prior to any meeting to add an item to our agenda on eatonmaccclerk@aol.com or please feel free to attend our meeting with any questions from residents for a later reply.

I would just like to finish by extending to you all on behalf of your Parish Council our sincere best wishes for the remaining of 2019.

Susy Evans

Chairman of Eaton Parish Council.

GLADMAN DEVELOPMENTS APPLICATION FOR 150 HOMES

In February 2019, Gladman Developments Ltd submitted a planning application (19/0562M) to build up to 150 new homes on land to the West of Macclesfield Road between Congleton and Eaton village. Soon after, Eaton Parish Council prepared a letter to all residents in the villages of Eaton and Havannah making everyone aware of the application and encouraging people to submit their views on the Cheshire East Council planning website. Eaton PC has objected to the application on the grounds that the site is not included the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy, the proposal is not compliant with planning policy PG6 which deals with development in Open Countryside, its potential for causing environmental harm to Cranberry Moss and the fact that the houses are not required because currently Cheshire East can demonstrate a 5-year supply of new housing.

The application is currently being considered by Cheshire East's planning department and a decision is expected soon. All details relating to the application can be found on Cheshire East Council's planning website:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/view_a_planning_application/view_a_planning_application.aspx

SPATIAL PLANNING UPDATE

The centre piece of Cheshire East Council's approach to planning is something called the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy which was adopted in 2017. During September and October 2018, Cheshire East planning department carried out a public consultation on a new, second document called the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document ("SADPD"). This document is important because it will replace the detailed planning policies from the former local borough plans including Congleton and Macclesfield and it will contain further site allocations for housing across Cheshire East. In future, all planning applications

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in the Parish will be determined by reference to the Local Plan Strategy, the SADPD, and also to the new Neighbourhood Plan for Eaton once it has been adopted.

As part of the consultation exercise, Eaton Parish Councillors, together with our Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham, met with senior planning officers from Cheshire East to present our concerns. Our particular focus was on the excessive amount of new housing being built on the North and North East sides of Congleton, the long-term impact that the Congleton Link Road will have on land allocation once it has been completed and the continuing erosion of the green gap between Congleton and Eaton.

A revised draft of the SADPD is due to be issued for a further 6 weeks of public consultation later this summer, and Eaton Parish Council will again review the document in due course. All details relating to the SADPD and the Local Plan Strategy can be found on Cheshire East Council's planning website:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/spatial_planning.aspx

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan for the village is progressing well, with a 51 Page draft copy of our plan having now been submitted to the Cheshire East Neighbourhood Planning Manager. This will enable him to commence the Environmental Assessment Process and also provide us with some feedback regarding the direction we are taking.

Residents and landowners will then have the opportunity to provide their own comments during a 6 week Regulation 14 consultation period and we will advise everyone when and how this will happen shortly.

There are then a couple of further documents that we need to produce before formal submission to Cheshire East.

This is followed in Approx 6 Months time with a referendum of all the village residents to formally vote on the plan.

It is vitally important that when this referendum happens as many residents as possible cast their vote. Without the support of the residents there can be no plan.

The neighbourhood Plan is an extremely important document for the future of the village, and in association with the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy, and the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document ("SADPD"). will shape and influence any future development.

Further information and supporting documents relating to the Neighbourhood plan can be viewed on the village website.

<http://www.eatoncheshire.co.uk/index.php/neighbourhood-plan/>

Finally the Parish Council would like to express their sincere thanks to the volunteer residents for all their hard work carried out on the plan to date, and for their continued commitment in seeing the plan to its conclusion.

Congleton Link Road

As you are all very much aware by now construction of the link road has started and has an anticipated completion date of late next year.

The Parish council have held further discussions with senior highways officers from Cheshire East Council regarding measures to be taken to help mitigate the impact of the anticipated increase in traffic through the village.

It was a very important condition of the planning decision that agreed mitigation measures on the A536 through Eaton need to be in place prior to the link road opening to traffic, and we on the Parish Council are committed to ensure that this condition is upheld.

We have also had meetings Graham Civil Engineering who are the Main Contractor tasked with delivering the road. This was generally to get an insight into their strategy for the construction of the road, and also to give us the opportunity to identify any possible problems within our particular area.

If anyone has any particular concerns during the construction period they can contact the appointed Stakeholder & Communications officer for Graham Civil Engineering, Dan Cawthra at the following email address.

daniel.cawthra@graham.co.uk

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.